

VINTAGE HITCHCOCK

The Windlesham Drama Group's production at the end of June was 'Vintage Hitchcock', a live radio play by Joe Landry --- well two plays actually --- first 'The Lodger', followed by 'The 39 Steps'. Both took a bit of getting used to, but were fun and took me back to the years of Dick Barton, Special Agent, and Paul Temple with all their sound effects.

The plays were set in the late 1940's in the recording studios of Playhouse of the Air in New York City, and the stage set reflected this with microphones from that era for the actors and sound effect crew (Foley Artists). Foley Artists are the people who create and often record the sound effects.



In this production the Drama Group had gathered an impressive variety of artefacts to create the sounds needed that were typical of the 40's. Our Foley Artists were Jan Rook, Jane Young, Sue Williams, Linda Kennedy and Lisa Judd.



In the first play 'The Lodger', an announcer, voiced by David Kennedy introduced us to Ellen (Sue White) and Robert Bunting (Kevin Benstead) who were keen to take in a lodger so that they could afford to

ask their daughter Daisy (Natalie White) to return home. They welcomed Mr. Sleuth (Colin Grady), although it was obvious he had behavioural problems. The increasing number of reports of 'fallen women' being murdered led to Mr. Sleuth disappearing forever into a thick London fog, so no surprises there then!

After the interval came 'The 39 Steps', the Hitchcock radio Version of John Buchan's thriller ---



a story of intrigue and drama involving train journeys to Scotland and back, with lots of dining room clatter, rushing about on the moors, car chases, gun shots – you name it - and the Foley Artists coped brilliantly.



At one stage I found it better to close my eyes and to listen to it all, as to watch was a bit distracting ---actors on one side, or sound effects team on the other! Colin Brady voiced Richard Hannay, and one other, while David Kennedy was the voice of the

announcer, Mr. Memory and many others--- most with different accents and appropriate hats. Kevin Benstead was the voice of several others including a policeman with noisy handcuffs !

Sue White voiced Pamela Stewart, the unwilling companion of Richard Hannay, (but sadly there was no romance), Leigh Dent was the voice of the innkeeper, waitress etc., and Natalie White was Annabella.



The audience had a lot to absorb and were quite worn out by the end of the performance. Of course, being in New York, there was a sponsor, so every now and then the Jingle Singers (Emma Beard, Talitha Laws, Leigh Dent and Natalie White) directed by Margaret Brady, came on stage and sang a little ditty.



The show was directed by Maggie Kwaan and produced by Toni Lewendon with other members of the Drama Group responsible for back stage and front of house tasks.

New members are always welcome, so why not check out the Drama Group website at <http://www.windleshamdramagroup.com/>

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