

Rustington Players

December 2022 Newsletter

November Show - Goodnight Mr Tom



Well, the November production was a rip-roaring success! It was sold out every night and we had to add more seats to accommodate the demand.

The play was enjoyed by so many people and brought laughs and maybe a few tears too, as it was a very moving production.

Well done to Claire, Vinny, Wendy, Jody and Richard along with the rest of the backstage crew for the hard work on this one!

The cast were excellent and we look forward to the Noda review and will announce it once it's been published.

Di Brown had her lovely letter recently published in the Littlehampton Gazette and Worthing Herald, saying how much she enjoyed the play. She wrote she had a memorable week, in part

"because of the amazing performance of Goodnight Mr Tom by the Rustington Players.



The young cast was brilliant, as were the adults – and the dog of course!". Thank you, Di.



The [Noda report](#), by Keith Smithers, says what a wonderful portrayal the cast and crew produced:

All I knew about this play when I was invited to this particular production was that it was about a chap called Tom and his relationship with an evacuee. I also never had the inclination to see the film of 1998. What I discovered was a brilliantly written play acted out equally brilliantly by the Rustington Players.

This sad story of wartime, child abuse, the evacuation of children and the death of one character and relatives of some of the others was, however sad, a wonderful portrayal of people supporting one another through the most difficult of times of war and coming out the other end.

Many years widowed Tom Oakley (John Shepherd) is the quiet village gentleman who is required by regulations to take in an evacuee from London. He does so, at first begrudgingly, and we meet that boy, William Beech (Harry Marshall). This was a tremendous partnership and as time went on we sense how we wish to see the happy outcome. These two were on stage for the majority of the performance and their acting was very good and convincing. The moment at the end when William calls Tom "Dad" is quite eye-watering. I am going to mention just two other cast members in the play - one human, one canine. Zach (Ziggy McCambridge) was the life and soul of the party and kept us amused while the plot had some sad moments. Sammy the dog (Kezier Croucher) seemed to understand everything that was happening and supporting his master through good and bad. (Well, dogs do - don't they?) There were many village characters and Londoners throughout the performance all of whom were believable and looking the part in their 1940's clothes. There was a few times when the children only were on stage. They provided some lovely moments for our delight.

Stage manager, Wendy Holloway, was in charge of the scenery and props for the ten different scenes. These were well in keeping for the time period. The technical side was also slick with fast lighting cues and sound effects of sirens and trains. The music chosen for the evening - including the scripted lyrics within the production itself - was very apposite. In all, the evening was an extremely entertaining time and congratulations go to director, Claire Cossins, cast and crew.

March Production

Unfortunately, our March 2023 production of Amadeus has been cancelled. Whilst initially deemed achievable, it was felt that due to the complexity of the production and casting the right people in the roles it wasn't able to go ahead. Director Jody Bull worked hard and with some passion for the play and his vision dates back to pre-covid days and it got postponed a number of times, so we share in Jody's disappointment and thank him for his hard work.

Therefore, Vinny Shepherd is going to co-ordinate a studio production and we shall announce the plan soon. Watch this space.



Special General Meeting & Christmas Social

Friday 9th December 2022 at 7.30pm

The Clock House

103-105 Sea Rd, East Preston, BN16 1NX



We look forward to meeting up for Christmas drinks and a good catch up and chat in East Preston this coming Friday.

The committee has been decided (announcement in the next newsletter) but we need a final vote to affirm the changes to the updated Constitution. Then we can have a few drinks together and enjoy a most successful 2022.