



Society : Beaufort Players
Production : The Kitchen Sink
Date : 20th July 2022
Venue : Church of Ascension Ealing
Report by : Mike Smith

[Show Report](#)

It was nice to be back again having missed your last production due to a bout of Covid. The Kitchen Sink?

The name itself plays with notions of what to expect from the term when applied to plays of a certain vintage. In this case it happens to have a very literal reference to the kitchen sink in the household in question. Rather clever really!

Emma O'Toole and her daughter **Scarlett**, together with **Julia Josephson** had clearly invested a good deal of time, effort and energy into making the play very much their own.

Putting their own stamp on the piece and creating something different. This was a production which had obviously benefitted from first time Directors who had clearly inspired the cast to give of their best – no mean achievement!

The set and overall presentation of the Kitchen was another Beaufort triumph and helped to set the right tone – well done **Ana, Thomas** and the **Builders**.

The sound and lighting adding to each scene, the musical interludes gave the audience an appreciation of the passing of time – nice work from **Roger, Scarlett** and **Pete**. Not that the main set changed, but the small changes that were made during the show were managed very smoothly – lovely stage management from **Ana** and **Rachel**. **Krystyna** – I think the role of prompt was redundant for this performance! But I'm sure the cast were grateful knowing that you were on hand, particularly with such lengthy dialogue in places.

One interesting technique the play used to highlight the inner workings of each of the characters was the use of a monologue, where everyone on stage could tell us how they really felt at various intervals. These were superbly done by each cast member.

Kath and Martin, the harried heads of the household, played by Kate Martin and Martin Roe – both brought a down to earth charm to their characters which suited the feel of the piece.

Kate Martin gave the affectionate matriarch (who has plenty on her plate along with a blocked sink) a caring and sympathetic portrayal, her frustrations never coming between the obvious love she has for those around her.

The all-powerful, long-suffering Mum! A gritty performance with boundless energy, showcasing the talent of this cast member.

Martin Roe may have had a ten-year break since last performing with the Players, but as the Milkman who has issues with his milk float and the prospect of becoming obsolete – he gave a straightforward and naturalistic character portrayal which suited the dynamic of the piece.

The brain cells are obviously still in good working order!!

The “Children”, Billy and Sophie, have very different issues of their own to grapple with.

Billy’s artistic urges in the direction of Dolly Parton and Sophie’s struggle with anger management issues.

Both are played with an understated realism by **Thomas Parker** and **Jemma Amachree-Broad**.

As Billy, Thomas gave an impressive performance. The decision to play the character as a fully rounded individual who just happened to be gay, rather than a flouncing, effeminate stereotype, was refreshing. After all, his issues were about leaving home to study rather than his sexuality, which neither he nor anyone else had a problem with. Thomas captured Billy’s anxieties and sensitivity extremely well.

Completing the family unit is Sophie – a potential Black Belt in Karate.

This may have been Jemma’s first production with the Players, but she certainly made her mark. As Sophie, Jemma matched her body language to suit the character beautifully.

She cleverly adopted elements of a “stropky teenager” to her role and brought Sophie to life as a result. Her various problems and issues all the more recognisable and affecting because of it. She handled the characters oscillating emotions with real nuance. Nice performance.

I was surprised at the casting of the fifth member of the group. The original script has a male cast member in the role of Pete the Plumber. Yet here we have the delightful **Danae Brandon** as a female plumber, renamed as Piper (very apt!!).

Danae was a real tonic. Burdened with as many problems as the rest of the household put together, Danae managed to successfully bring out the best of both the comical and tragic elements of the character throwing in a modern love interest twist. A cheerful and upbeat performance.

There were many stand-out scenes. Mad Karaoke, Split smoking, wild hammering of a malfunction sink (not sure if the props will have survived the run!!) to mention a few.

It is to the credit of Beaufort Players having managed to create such an entertaining evening with a production that once again highlighted the wealth of talent that exists within the group.

My thanks to everyone involved for another gold-plated production and your friendly welcome which always accompanies a visit to Beaufort Players.

Thank you all.

Mike Smith – District 2 NODA Representative - London