



Society : Beaufort Players
Production : Romance and Riots
Date : 27th November 2021
Venue : Beaufort Road Ealing
Report by : Mike Smith

[Show Report](#)

Welcome Back!!

As usual I always look forward to my visit to the Players production. The colourful programme cover promised an evening of original drama – and I was not disappointed.

Three extremely different plays.

Day of the Rope – Henry VIII on Blind Date and The Importance of Being Brief.

The “in-house” ingenuity of your group never fails to amaze me.

The sets for all three offerings were plain and simple, but visually very effective – making good use of the small stage space.

Costumes for each play were well chosen and were completely appropriate for the very different characters portrayed – so well-done Thomas, Ana and Krystyna for setting and dressing so well.

Lighting and Sound were well managed by Peter and Roger. I was impressed by the use of interjecting projection and news clips, a really effective way of bringing realism to Day of the Rope.

Day of the Rope - Another very thought-provoking piece by Jane Quill, cleverly staging an event that most of us had only seen on our TV screens and in the National Press. Well Directed and well cast. Each and every cast member giving us very believable characters.

Commanding opening speeches, great accents and really good facial expressions when delivering lines.

Long speeches were delivered with depth of emotion. Great group co-ordination from both the Protesters and the Court characters.

I feel it would be unfair to single out individuals for special mention, as every member of the cast contributed an enormous amount to this performance.

Well done for tackling an unusual subject in such a professional and entertaining manner.

Blind Date – those of us who remember the original game show, hosted by Cilla Black, would probably be expecting a “Lorra Lorra Laughs”, and certainly this offering gave us a light-hearted peek into an out-of-the-box script from Kaiser Siddiqui.

Another well cast piece, show casing the talent of those taking part. For some, a complete change of mindset, costume and accent. Well done!

The thought of Henry making a choice of wife in such bizarre circumstances, the diverse choice of candidates and their idiosyncrasies (as Anne put it) was quite a revelation! The whole thing worked extremely well – lovely quick-fire banter. I think the audience reaction to this piece showed how much they enjoyed it. A worthy Directorial debut!

The Importance of Being Brief – an interesting take and twist on the original play by Oscar Wilde. It’s amazing that something originally performed in 1895 can still lend itself to a modern interpretation. Its high farce and witty dialogue have helped make it a most enduring popular play. Thomas Cobb, yet again, has produced a play from an original script and made it his own.

Harnessing the talent of current Beaufort members, together with some new faces. On that note, I must say how pleased I am for the group to have so many new members in the casts – reading the bi-ogs , you really have a wealth of talent to call on.

I applaud those who bravely took on the challenge of multiple roles. Thomas Parker – in all three plays, Emma O’Toole, Malissa Riedel, Jamie Stungo and Brian Coe in two and Kate Martin who – she said so herself, greedily took three roles in the same play!

Just because I have mentioned a few names, it by no way means that all of the other cast members do not deserve a mention – each and everyone was extremely worthy. A great team effort in all three productions. So please accept the praise where it is due.

As I said at the beginning of my report, Beaufort Players never fail to amaze me. This latest offering – a delightful trio – has been no exception.

It was a real pleasure to see the group back in action. Let’s hope amateur theatre is back where it belongs, having fun and entertaining audiences.

I very much look forward to my next visit.

Mike Smith – NODA London District 2