

Local Theatre Notes –A critique of the plays attended by members of Kenilworth U3A Theatre Group.

This season from January to June we have been very impressed by the range of plays offered by The Talisman and The Loft. From comedies to more serious subject matter ,we have been entertained and always amazed at the professionalism and acting abilities of these amateur performances.

Stand -out performances came from the actors in' King Charles III' ,a post –Elizabethan crisis ,which has an element of reality. Will Charles be a good king ,not interfering in the rule of government or will his principles get in the way?

Another excellent classic from The Talisman was that classic comedy,set in Ireland,'Playboy of the Western World'.The cast had to speak in thick Irish accents and keep them up throughout,which they did admirably.

The comedy continued at The Loft with 'Keeping our End Up' and at The Talisman ;Deckchairs' and 'The Weekend'. We agreed that having good scripts contributes to the success of the plays,which we agreed was not always the case.

'The Crucible', performed at The Loft was another outstanding play ,Arthur Miller's chilling reminder of how rumour and innuendo can lead to witch hunts ,which chimed with the times in which he was writing. This production was sinister , with a strong ensemble of actors recreating the terror of the 1600s .

Some of us attended the Understudy performance of 'The Taming of The Shrew' at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. Always innovative,The RSC presented a gender change of the characters. The Shrew was a man and the male characters were women.This production was also inclusive of actors with disabilities,including a wheelchair user with a fine sense of comedy .One of the scenes was conducted entirely in sign language by a deaf actor .Surprisingly,it was easy to follow,as the actor used facial expressions and body movement to convey the comedyand his fellow actor's response to his comments,

For a laugh –out –loud comedy,'The Play about A Bank Robbery That Went Wrong' could not be beaten. This young touring company appeared at The Belgrade Theatre in Coventry.It was silly, involving farce, slapstick and stupid jokes.

Our Theatre Group meets in January and in September after those Open Meetings.Here ,the local programme is agreed upon. Do join us if you are interested in attending any of next season's plays.

Linda Buckingham