



Be inspired by amateur theatre

The Ladykillers

By Graham Linehan

The Trowbridge Players

Wednesday 8th May 2019

Reviewed by Delia Lee, District 10 Representative, South West Region

Thank you for your kind invitation to review your production of *The Ladykillers*.

Based on the famous Ealing comedy film of 1955 starring great names such as Alec Guinness and Peter Sellers, this stage version of *The Ladykillers* works surprisingly well. As usual for the Trowbridge Players, there was an excellent set, with plenty of doors to suggest other rooms in the house and a staircase up to the bedroom on a higher level to one side. Furniture and props were all in keeping and plentiful, to suggest the old ladies home of many years where the play is set. Luckily there weren't many changes needed between scenes but, when needed, they were very well handled by the stage crew who moved quickly and quietly.

The homeowner, Mrs Louisa Wilberforce, was beautifully played by **Angela Giddings**. Her dialogue was clear and at a good pace, but she also managed to capture this sweet and eccentric old lady.

Alan Rutland took on the very demanding role of 'Professor' Marcus. Although his dialogue was a little slower than I would have liked, he delivered it with a very sinister edge, which suited the part.

The conman, Major Courtney, was played by **Tim Knott** with just the right level of naivety and cowardice for this unlikely conman.

Andrew Morrison did a good job as the OCD pill popping cockney spiv, Harry Robinson. His frantic cleaning and easy manner was a nice contrast to the brooding, dangerous character of Louis Harvey played by **David Easton**, who captured the ruthless gang member well.

Mike Holden as One-Round gave a very convincing performance as the slow witted former boxer, who's ham-fisted attempts to carry out his cello case full of money results in Mrs Wilberforce realising she has been duped by the gang, as the money spills out.

Appearances from **Maxson Bailey** as the hapless Constable MacDonald and **Alice Gosney** as the easily impressed Mrs Tromleyton were well played. Along with the additional guests of Mrs Wilberforce, they completed this very likeable cast.

National Operatic and Dramatic Association

15 The Metro Centre, Peterborough PE2 7UH

Tel 01733 374790 Fax 01733 237286 Email info@noda.org.uk Web www.noda.org.uk

Twitter @NODAtweets Facebook NationalOperaticDramaticAssociation

Registered charity number 254640 Registered company number 241572 Registered in England and Wales at the above address.

Patrons: **The Lord Lloyd Webber and Connie Fisher**



Be inspired by amateur theatre

Direction by **Tony Giddings** was effective, creating a sense of ease between the gang members but also very distinctive characterisation that worked well. The excellent set allowed him to use different parts of the stage to great effect and gave the suggestion of a much bigger house. The sliding panel at the back to show the untimely death of Major Courtney worked particularly well.

Costumes were all excellent and in keeping and I enjoyed the music used at different points through the play to suggest the era.

This was a very enjoyable play and my congratulations to the cast and crew.

Delia Lee

NB The comments above solely form the view of the representative attending and only reflect the performance seen.

National Operatic and Dramatic Association

15 The Metro Centre, Peterborough PE2 7UH

Tel 01733 374790 **Fax** 01733 237286 **Email** info@noda.org.uk **Web** www.noda.org.uk

Twitter @NODAtweets **Facebook** NationalOperaticDramaticAssociation

Registered charity number 254640 Registered company number 241572 Registered in England and Wales at the above address.

Patrons: The Lord Lloyd Webber and Connie Fisher