

# Début Performance of "Accidents and Guarding Angels" Review

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The collective cast of Accidents and Guarding Angels

## Comments (0)

"ACCIDENTS and Guarding Angels" premiered last night to the sound of raucous laughter and applause. The play, written by Jack Williams, was carried out by the Tiverton Dramatics Society at the New Hall, Tiverton.

Set at the Reeper Family Funeral Directors, the play takes place over two days and chronicles a tale of death, betrayal, lies and good old black humour.

When I arrived, I was astounded by the sheer crowd that had gathered in anticipation for Jack's latest show. Spying Jack across the hall as he greeted the audience, it was easy to see the glimmer in his eye which belied the sheer joy he must have felt in attracting such a wealth of viewers.

Settling into my seat the production began, Vera Reeper took to the stage and delivered an impassioned speech which doubled as an explanation of the stories past. From there the curtains drew open and exposed the lovingly crafted dual set which would serve as the canvas for this theatrical masterwork.

Enter the endearingly hyper-energetic PC Angel and world-weary Mr. Reeper, who alongside Vera quickly expose the audience to the productions almost trademark sense of black humour. Now in my experience, black humour is always risky; you run the risk of offending your viewers and alienating others.

That, happily, was not the case here. During a brief cameo from the director himself, one of the cast is very unceremoniously dumped from sofa to stretcher with a single throw. A chorus of laughter was the

cast's response, as each member of the audience split a smile and roared in glee. It was not difficult to spot the directors smile at this reaction as he carried the "body" from the stage.

From this point on, the audience was treated to a spectacle of clever writing, impressive acting and a clear sense of enjoyment emanating from the cast, which was picked up on and reciprocated on by the audience throughout. Each character brought something new to the performance, from Normans (almost deceptively) amusingly foolish antics, to Sydney's lisp infused musical numbers, every joke found its mark. Even the sultry antics of Fenella come across with such comedic precession and delivery that you never once feel uncomfortable or out of place.

To quickly defend myself against the rest of the cast, that just because I have not mentioned a character, it does not mean I think they were not fantastically portrayed, it's just I only have so much space!

I cannot however write so much and neglect the actual storyline of the production, although a simple premise (man comes into money, others try to manipulate him to claim it as their own), Jack manages to stamp his own unique mark upon the tale.

Small twists here and there keep everything enthralling and there was not a moment wherein I found myself distracted or disinterested, I was captured from start to finish. This is due in no small part to actors riveting performance. But I shall say no more as I do not wish to spoil the plot for others, what I can say though, is trust no one.

As I write I notice there is a group I have not even mentioned, lurking in the shadows as they are. But the backstage crew were clearly busy at work throughout, managing costume changes and special effects that added another layer to an already fantastic performance. On a personal note I always feel the crew tend to be under-represented in reviews, so it falls to me to say the obvious. Congratulations on such brilliant work, you have my thanks for such an unforgettable show.

As the final act came to climax, I was treated to a truly emotional finale. I have no intent of spoiling the ending, but I can say that there were tears within the audience, a remarkable feat for any production. Of course though, one cannot expect tears and melancholy joy to hold sway for long and humour was re-inserted to bring the act home.

That was until the final reveal of the show shot a wave of fear through my soul as a dramatic reveal showed the true nature of one of the characters. And no, I am not saying who, if you want to know then go and enjoy the show, you may work it out before the reveal.

After the final curtain I had the pleasure of stepping back stage and meeting the cast, each and every one of them with a wide smile plastered across their features. "The Audience was great" they said "As soon as we heard that first laugh we knew that it was going to be a great night."

"We've all had lots of fun and this has been the most professional cast I've ever worked with." Said another member of the cast, "The backstage crew have been fantastic, the best around".

Come the end of the night, I had a moment to speak with Jack one final time, with a celebratory drink clutched firmly in hand. "It was fantastic, better than I could have hoped." He said, "I knew we had a great audience from the beginning."

If you cannot already tell from the way I am essentially fawning over the production thus far, I am recommending that any even remotely interested in theatre, comedy, or in fact entertainment take at least a single night this week to go and enjoy the show.

As I type this the following morning, I can reflect upon the show with hindsight, normally my critical mind-set would start dissecting the performance and finding faults to pick upon. But for once, I cannot find anything; even very minor slip ups with lines were so seamlessly laughed off by audience and cast alike, that I cannot fault them.

It was a masterful performance, from the first line to the final bow I was impressed, enthralled and at times, struggling to breathe.

In the end I suppose I have only one final thought and this is it. Well done to each and every one of you, keep an eye out, I may come back for seconds.

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