

WELCOME BACK!

Brian Cutler reviews the latest production by Cuckfield Dramatic Society, *Anyone for Breakfast?* by Derek Benfield.

It is a joy to be able to report again on a production by Cuckfield Dramatic Society, CDS having had to miss their Autumn production last year. Wisely, they chose a lighted hearted farce from an experienced comedy writer, Derek Benfield, whose own acting career ensures that the script really works for the actors and therefore for the audience.

Anyone for Breakfast? is a farce with all the normal ingredients. A lot of doors, marital infidelity, intrigue, misunderstandings, scantily dressed women and men without trousers, but above all unfulfilled expectations and assignations falling flat on their face.

We are first introduced to Jane, Kirsty Bishopp, one of two newcomers to the stage and to CDS, who is borrowing her good friend Shirley's house to entertain Mark who has taken a liking to her at the local squash club. Shirley is played by Coline Denholm and Mark by Simon Perkins. The start of the evening may not have gone quite as well as Shirley had planned but things appear to be progressing reasonably well when Gilbert, Laurence Leng, and his Lufthansa air hostess girlfriend Helga, Samantha Oliver, the second relative newcomer to both stage and CDS, appear, their flight to Düsseldorf having been delayed by fog. Finally Roger, Paul Davey, arrives and we learn that this is Jane's husband, although he appears to be more interested in Shirley than he is in Jane.

After they all spend the night singularly in other peoples' beds, five in one house and one in another, they eventually meet over breakfast when most, although not quite all, the guilty secrets are exposed.

Farce does not pretend to be anything other than entertainment. It is light hearted comedy that makes no attempt to teach, moralise or explore meaningful issues from history, philosophy or the depths of human relationships. It simply entertains. And that is what CDS set out to do and achieved with their production, a very enjoyable evening's entertainment. Congratulations to Harriet Sheldon for her directing and to Martin Sheldon, who is not only the chairman of CDS but also the backstage guru!

The next production by Cuckfield Dramatic Society will be David Hare's 'Racing Demon'. To be directed by Jim Knight, this will be staged in Holy Trinity Church from Wednesday 12th to Saturday 15th November and will be a fund raising event towards the reordering.

Brian Cutler