



Audiences love *SEE HOW THEY RUN*

Audiences describe TNIM's fall production of Philip King's *See How They Run* as "hilarious"!

Although farces are frequently pooh-poohed by members of a theatre group which shall remain nameless, they do offer significant challenges to director and cast because of their demands of timing, coordination, and silliness. Andrea Howard's directorial talent was evident in her orchestration of her cast to give full rein to the humour in this tale of mistaken identities and capering clerics.

All of the cast members performed well in their roles. Some played familiar characters - Alison Reid as leading lady Penelope Toop, Annette Huton as Ida the cheeky maid, and Shirley Molloy as the town harridan—and as always, they gave strong performances. Shirley's Miss Skillon was a stand out for her excellent characterization and an unsuspected (by me, at least) talent for physical comedy.

Al Billiald (Clive), Martin Green (Bishop of Lax), Gerard Phillips (Rev. Humphrey), and Will Jenkins (Sergeant Towers) were well-suited to their roles (although I understand Will used an accent for the first time) and all turned in fine performances. Gerard's befuddled Rev. Humphrey seemed quite authentic and provided a delightful contrast to the sea of chaos and faux vicars that he found himself surrounded by.

Kris Kozolanka was cast somewhat against type as Rev. Toop, but he turned in as solid a performance as the staid vicar as he did as the club-wielding, underwear-clad madman of Act II. Newcomer Tom Sinclair's Intruder/Russian spy was entertainingly over the top, and Rod Fournier's Agent Steeple was silently menacing.

The physical comedy and general "stage business" were very well done - which is especially impressive, given that the TNIM stage is not available until the 11th hour. Overall, pacing was not bad, although the humour would have benefitted if the timing could have been a bit snappier (this is not a plot the audience should be given time to think about).

Andrea Howard's set design was stylish and well-designed for the action (especially important in this play), if not quite having the feel of an English vicarage (and it could perhaps have used draperies). The garden mural by Gordon Weber was lovely. Maureen Overy did a nice job with the costumes - managing to come up with enough dog collars, uniforms, and underwear to outfit her cast.

All in all, TNIM's *See How They Run* certainly deserves the praise it has received from its audiences!



Shirley Molloy is a hoot as Miss Skillon



"What's all this then?"

[L] Sergeant Towers (Will Jenkins) & [R] the Bishop of Lax (Martin Green) want answers.



Agent Steeple (Rod Fournier) [R] gets his man, Russian spy Tom Sinclair [L]

Penelope (Alison Reid) & Clive (Al Billiald) get up to some "funny business" as Miss Skillon looks on...



...and here they go again!



[L] Alison Reid (Penelope) & [R] Annette Huton (Ida) strut their stuff

Vicars Gone Wild!

[Top L] Clive (Al Billiald) takes out Miss Skillon; [Top R] Rev. Toop (Kris Kozolanka) on the rampage;

[Below] Russian Spy (Tom Sinclair) pulls a gun on Clive



...no wonder Rev. Humphrey (Gerard Phillips) [R] is so wary



- photos by John Chambers

More photos on TNIM's Website: www.merrickvilletheatre.org