

Actor Roy Oldroyd playing the P.M. produced vocal and facial expressions which started the evening's romp and never slackened, teasing his audience and generally enjoying this splendid vehicle to show off his acting skills

Mel Scolah, as he P.R. Rodney Campbell, exuded calm confidence and was a perfect foil to the frantic activity.

As the Rt. Hon Hector Crammond, the sanctimonious, penny-pinching Scottish Chancellor, Graham Mitchell was thoroughly in his element, his rich Caledonian burr adding an extra dimension of humour. His hands fluttered and quivered with determination and then shock - very competent!

One of the small character roles, Miss Frobisher, was excellently portrayed by Glenys Wood, whose timing and body language was a treat. Dear old Sybil Venables, the PM's wife was portrayed by Pat Hargreaves, who gave us another of her lovely cameos, her acting pace showed the frenzy all around her, as she calmly added more problems.

Julia Howarth tackled the part of 'newly found' daughter Shirley Springer, acting convincingly in her physically challenging part, while Theresa Alty played Jane Rotherbrook, an upper class magazine reporter taking every chance to snoop around the PM's study and looking very sophisticated in her 'scanties'.

One of the strongest contrasts among the cast of characters was Dora Springer, played by Barbara Price, whose verve and vitality brought the play to its resolution most convincingly. Bill Holden as 'a man' helped to conclude the happy play.

'Pudsey Bear' collected money during the intervals and it is hoped that about £500 for the collections and raffle will be donated to Children in Need.

M.S.S.

NO. 10 FARCE IS WARMING CHOICE FOR A DARK NIGHT

'Pardon me, Prime Minister' by Edward Taylor and John Graham, was a warming choice for a dark November night ... and left an ecstatic audience congratulating director Barbara Taylor on Stage Two Downham's autumn production last week, saying they had not laughed as much for ages. Stage manager David King transformed Downham Village Hall's stage into a grand, spacious study at Number 10 Downing Street and with clever use of a dais and four doors allowed the many comings and goings of scantily clad beauties and eavesdroppers demanded by any farce.

The story centres around preparations for Budget Day, with the Chancellor aiming to tax the nation's vices and 'Make Morality Matter'. The director has chosen a well balanced cast who complemented each other in every way and 'made hilarity happen!'