

# Curtain up on comedy

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The play, which had its dress rehearsal on Monday night, is a comedy concerning a group of people trapped in a one-bedroomed London flat with a maintenance man.

Taking a leading role in the show is Clitheroe amateur actress Dorothy Cushing — as its producer!

Mrs Cushing, of Waddington Road, said: "Being the producer involves everything from the selection of actors to the building of the set. I am enjoying producing very much; it's much different from acting."

New to the group is actor Wayne Howarth (pictured left), who plays the part of Desmond Mayne. Other parts are played by Julia Haworth, Gerald Hood, Rachel Scholes, Pat Hargreaves, Bob Cleeve, David King and Theresa Alty.

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# Laughs galore in bachelor Bob's flat!

"THE Other Fellow's Oats," a comedy farce by James Pattinson and Peter Clapham, proved a successful romp for Stage Two Downham.

Tribute for the extremely high overall standard must go to Dorothy Cushing, who swapped her usual leading lady role for the job of producer. The play was full of movement and fun and bowled along at a cracking pace throughout.

The action took place in a bachelor flat in London, with the inevitable mix-ups between married couples, a gorgeous girl and bachelor Charles Spence, superbly played by Bob Cleeves.

The three-act play spans the time between the start of a foggy afternoon in late autumn through to the following morning — and there were bouts of laughter from the audience throughout the action.

Desmond Mayne arrived at friend Charles's flat with Mrs Helen Winter for what they hoped would be a fortnight of bliss. These parts were played by Wayne and Julia Howarth with great gusto — and clear diction. Understandably, Desmond and Helen were keen to make the most of their secret holiday, but their plans were soon interrupted by Pearce, the Cockney plumber (Gerald Hood), who was constantly in and out of the kitchen bodging a tap washer. The actor obviously took great delight in what must have presented him with a refreshingly different part.

Also, Miss Jacaranda Jones was radiantly played by Rachel Scholes and Miss Lowry, the elderly spinster from the flat below, was portrayed with just the right amount of suppressed fun by Pat Hargreaves. David King took the role of George Winter, a staid, traditional type of businessman, who was so convincing that the audience was left in no doubt why his wife was feeling slightly.

The comedy reached its zaniest when the lovely Jacaranda massaged Winter's back as he lay sprawled across the settee. The situations were compounded by them all having to stay in the flat overnight and, when Pearce disappeared through the floor into Miss Lowry's flat, the sound effects man really came into his own.

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Claudia Wayne, admirably portrayed by Theresa Alty, gently smiled her way back into her husband's heart. Helen and George felt they were on the road to something new after Jacaranda's generous attentions. Charles whisked Jacaranda off to the airport, Pearce, the incompetent, was dismissed and dear old Miss Lowry was left with a hole in her ceiling.

It was great fun — enjoyed by actors, backstage staff and audience alike.

M. S. S.