

PLENTY OF LAUGHS PRESENTED IN A SKILFUL WAY

The latest Stage Two Downham, production, 'Key for Two, by John Chapman and Dave Freeman, proved a very skilful and most enjoyable comedy.

As with all comedies, good pace, timing and action are essential and the director, Barbara Taylor, certainly achieved all of these with her strong cast.

The action of the play takes place in the sitting room and bedroom of a flat in Brighton, A cleverly constructed set, by stage design managers David King and Dave Scott, showed both rooms, plus an entrance hall. Harriet, the owner of the flat, was played most successfully by Fran Osborne in her first leading role with the group. The part of Gordon, as businessman and the first of Harriet's two suitors, was in the capable hands of Bill Hemmingway, a newcomer to the group. One stage for most of the play, he timed his lines and actions to perfection.

Mel Scolah, a stalwart of the group, took the role of the other suitor, Alex, a down-to-earth Yorkshireman who owns of fleet of fishing trawlers.

Into the action arrives Anne, a friend of Harriet's, played by Lesley Knight, who obviously enjoyed the role and all it entailed. The difficult role of Anne's drunken husband, Richard, was skilfully portrayed by Bob Cleeve.

The two wives of the philanderers, who appear towards the end of the comedy, were well played by Margaret Harrison, a newcomer and Pat Hargreaves, another stalwart.

Lighting, sound and continuity were competently covered by Geoff Barkess, Michael O'Hagan and Gerry Hood, respectively. The director and cast are to be complimented on an excellent production, which proved a real tonic to all who were fortunate enough to see this play.

I understand that people had to be turned away on the last two night, as the house was full. I can but advise to book early to enjoy this talented group's next production, from November 22nd to 25th.

CLITHEROE ADVERTISER AND TIMES

30th March 1995

R.W.