

For me, the last play, 'Last Tango in Little Grimley', was superb. The demise of a village drama group forced the remaining members to take the risky step of writing a play about sex.

The 'sordid revelations of an apparently respectable village' was designed to draw the crowds so that debts could be paid and the group wound up. There was Mel Scolah as Bernard, who builds sets mostly in the middle of rehearsals, but who shows considerable interest in being in the play.

There was Joyce, played by Glen Purchase whose Little Grimley acting talent seems to have been lost somewhere in the archives.

There was poor Gordon, the producer and playwright, played by Eddie Bootle, who abandons impossible rehearsals when he knows that people are flocking to see the cheeky production anyway.

Stella Barnes played busty Margaret, who loves to talk, nay shout, all the time.

All these parts were played with tremendous talent, pace and togetherness.

The challenging production would not have been possible without Gerry Purchase's vision as director and his zany sense of humour.

The set of 'Costa del Packet', built by Dan Bradbury, was clever in its details, as were the props, provided by Stephanie and Aled Brewerton. Effective lighting and sound were provided by David Scott and David King

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F.O.

READY TO HIT THE STAGE!

Rehearsals are well under way for the latest, eagerly awaited production by Stage Two Downham.

The theatrical group, who will present three short comedies, are ready to hit the stage on Wednesday.

The production, which is promised to have audiences rocking with laughter, will feature the plays 'Bus Stop', 'Costa del Packet!' and 'Last Tango in Little Grimley!'.

Rachel Scott, one of the cast members said that rehearsals were going well and the play was guaranteed to provide good entertainment. She added: 'We are all ready to go and it should be really good.'

Performances run nightly from next Wednesday to Saturday at Downham Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

Tickets are available from Clitheroe Tourist Information Centre (tel 01200 425566) priced at just £4.50

Our picture shows some of the cast members at their dress rehearsal for the forthcoming production.

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THREE PLAYS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE ON OFFER

If you didn't see Downham Stage Two's latest production, you missed a treat. Three plays for the price of one were on offer.

The group has specialised in full-length plays but decided to present three of one act each.

The first, 'Bus Stop', was a gentle comedy, a cameo of characterisations. As people gathered at the bus stop, we were introduced to a cross-section of society, young and old, rich and ordinary.

Pat Hargreaves was wonderful as the slightly acerbic, impatient older woman. She showed no sympathy for dowdy 'Modesty May' played convincingly by Liz Wrigley, and some disdain for Mrs. Hickery, played by newcomer to Downham, Brenda Jones, because she ate fish and chip out of newspaper.

Deborah Trudisco gave a light-hearted performance as three-times married Mrs. Finney. Then came a sparkling partnership of Anita and Fion, two rich ladies who had to 'sink' to bus travel. Glen Purchase and Rachel Scott mesmerised the queue, with their posh ascents.

Lucy Scott's 'bookwork' brought the play to a frustrating close when she told the queue that the bus drivers were on strike and their wait was in vain.

We hear of disastrous holiday - hotels half-built, the proverbial building site, all very different from the brochure.

'Costa Del Packet', written by Anthony Booth, was a comedy about just this. Four girls set off in high hopes of a break in the sun, but found their hotel had not been built.

Hump, the courier, played by Tom Garner, produced umpteen tins of spaghetti, four folding beds and a mini bottle of courtesy champagne to disguise the fact that accommodation was a workmen's hut on a building site.

Pat Hargreaves, Debora Trudisco, Stella Barnes and Liz Wrigley sustained their characters throughout.

Liz, as Alice, made the audience roar when she appeared in an extraordinary swimming costume.