

THRILLING PERFORMANCE

'It made the hairs stand up on the back of my neck!' commented one member of the audience. People sat on the edge of their seats! The psychological drama 'In Two Minds' by Richard Harris, was performed by Downham Stage Two.

Just four actors held the audience throughout the tense and intriguing story of Annie, David, Gina and the mysterious Anthony Hewlett. The pace was fast, but varied, skilfully building the tension between the young couple and their eccentric neighbour, whose odd behaviour caused suspicion.

This successful and entertaining production depended entirely upon good teamwork. The action was broken up into short time sequences, which relied upon exact lighting and sound, unobtrusive stage management, quick entrances and exits and snappy costume changes. What could have been disjointed was, in fact, very smoothly and effectively executed.

Lucy Scott, who played Annie, portrayed a caring, sympathetic young woman, who became increasingly worried by the strange events. This was a very natural and believable performance. The energetic performance of Ashley Williams, as David, was a pleasure to watch. His good timing and humour blended beautifully with his rising frustration and anticipation of danger. It was good to see Ashley back 'on the boards' after a long holiday!

Gerry Purchase sustained the military cool of Anthony Hewlett throughout, but gradually and cleverly let us see the more vulnerable side of his character.

Gina, the cheeky cleaner, was played by Deborah Tudisco. She was confident, but defensive and her excellent facial expressions led us to believe that there was more to Gina than met the eye.

An interesting and clever set, with hidden cupboard, was built by Dan Bradbury. Effective props, furniture and stage management was provided by Stephanie and Aled Brewerton, an excellent choice of atmospheric music was made by David Scott, who also controlled the lighting, and interesting sound effects were produced by David King.

All this combined to confirm the teamwork which made this such a good production, but the audience's enjoyment of this play would not have been possible without the commitment and hard work of Rachel Scott, the director.

This was her first production for Downham Stage Two and it was an accomplished achievement.

I, for one, hope we see many more!

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