

VALLEY ENTERTAINMENT

A taste of Big Apple comes to Downham

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"Barefoot in the Park" merits a place alongside "The Odd Couple" and "The Goodbye Girl" as one of Neil Simon's funniest and most successful comedies.

Now local drama group Stage Two Downham is presenting the play, which was also a 1967 film starring Jane Fonda and Robert Redford, from next Wednesday, March 25th, through to Saturday, the 28th.

Paul and Corrie Bratter, a newly-married couple move into a "cosy" New York top floor apartment and discover that the early days of living together do not always run smoothly.

Corrie's mother is a frequent visitor and the eccentric neighbours, especially Victor Velasco from the "attic", all add to the

colourful tapestry of their early days.

Will true love see them through?

Simon's sharply observed characters combined with witty dialogue should make for a very entertaining evening.

Stage Two's talented team combine an excellent set and lighting and fine comic acting to maintain their usual high standards.

Tickets are going fast and are available for £6 each on the hotline number 07833203495.

They can also be bought from the Tourist Information Office at the Platform Gallery in Clitheroe (Tel. 01200 425566).

The Assheton Arms in Downham is also offering a meal deal.

For £20 you will receive a two-course meal with a drink and a ticket for the show.

For this deal please ring the Assheton Arms direct on 01200 441227.



The cast of Stage Two Downham's production of 'Barefoot in the Park'.

Stage Two play a romp in the park, skilfully directed

Review: 'Barefoot in the Park', by Neil Simon. Performed by Stage Two Downham drama group.

What a wonderful production! Stage Two Downham selected "Barefoot In The Park", by Neil Simon, for their Spring play this year and what an excellent choice it was.

Skilfully directed by Kim Croydon, in his first directorial role, Barefoot In The Park is set on the fifth floor of a New York apartment building and this clever play is filled with snappy dialogue, witty one-liners and running gags, all extremely well delivered by a cast led by Katie Cowburn and Tim Martin as newlyweds Corrie and Paul Bratter.

Corrie is excellently portrayed as romantic, impulsive and enthusiastic, keen to set up their love nest after a six day honeymoon at a luxury hotel. In a hilarious contrast her new husband, Paul, is presented as a very proper, care-

ful, even stuffy young attorney and this contrast is brilliantly exploited by these two very talented actors.

Lesley Haworth plays the widowed mother of Corrie to perfect comic effect and when she is tricked into a blind date with eccentric neighbour Victor, a womanising but destitute adventurer played by Barney Cullen, the comedy potential is utilised to the full.

Brian Haworth as the telephone repair man and Trevor Lord as the delivery man both added the maximum of humour to their supporting roles.

My congratulations to the cast and to all who helped with this brilliant production.

E.B.

Pictured: The cast of Downham Stage Two's production of Barefoot in the Park, from the left, Barney Cullen and Lesley Haworth (seated), Katie Cowburn and Tim Martin and Brian Haworth.

