

# Waddington whodunnit

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"WHO killed Santa Claus?" is the question Waddington Drama Group will be solving in their forthcoming production.

The thriller, by Terence Feely, set on Christmas Eve, will be staged in St Helen's Sunday School in the village from March 13th to 16th.

It tells the story of a television personality and her team and the

relationships within the group. The producer is Barbara Scattergood.

Tickets are available from secretary Janet Hulme or any member of the cast.

Pictured at a rehearsal are, from the left: back — Mel Scolah, Bob Cleeve, Barbara Price, Carmel Donald, Barry Phillips; front — Dermot Finch, John Collingridge, Derek Green.

## Comedy-thriller time at Waddington

IT doesn't say on the programme that "Who Killed Santa Claus" is a comedy thriller, but Waddington Drama Group's latest offering could be so described.

These mongrel-type plays are very difficult for the players but also slightly confusing for the audience, its laugh one minute; scream the next.

The play opens very professionally — a good interesting set, a real TV showing the small screen star Barbara Love who appears live on the stage two minutes later. The pace was good but we must remember keeping the pace going doesn't necessarily mean always speaking quickly.

Like some better plays, most of the characters are described in the dialogue and generally they all keep to their description.

Connie Bell (Carmel Donald) was "very devious," perhaps Campbell Barnes (Derek Green) could have been a bit more "military" although there didn't seem much opportunity to be "aggressive and dominant." Paul Restar (Barry Phillips) certainly showed the "quick temper" and probably would have "attracted bitches."

Don Lewis (Bob Cleeve) was said to be a "ravaged Peter Pan," which is a bit much for any actor, but showed the actions of a "threatened man," always aggressive.

Ray Lacey was beautifully acted by John Collingridge, a newcomer to the

group; not overplayed which is the danger of many a "make-up-queen"! Perhaps he could have picked up cues a bit quicker at times. Another newcomer Dermot Finch showed great potential as Dave Ogden. For one so young he handled the emotional character very well.

The two main parts were both well played. Barbara Price was excellent as the self-assured and dominant Barbara Love, and the scream at the end of act one was quite hair-raising. If there is a criticism, perhaps she could have shown a little more light and shade in the dialogue, but what diction! Finally, Mel Scolah underplayed Chris Moore beautifully. He kept the tension and regulated the tempo perfectly.

The play was very well produced, as usual, by Barbara Scattergood, but here a small point. Action off stage should follow the dialogue on stage. "A super party" says Campbell Barnes. We didn't hear enough of the jollity and laughter in the background, and the row between Barbara and Paul was remarked on, but hardly heard.

Very well done everyone, but I do think there are better thrillers.

JAW