

Nicholas Nickleby

The Garden Suburb Theatre undertook a mammoth task when they decided to tackle part one of David Edgar's adaptation of 'Nicholas Nickleby' by Charles Dickens. At over three hours it was a long haul. A pleasant evening but not without its longueurs.

One must marvel at the skill of the directors, Richard Kinder and Val Gregory that they managed to get the huge cast onto this small stage and keep the story line flowing so smoothly. It was a very busy production with especially in the London scenes, men and women extras dressing the stage to give the atmosphere. Walking on bare boards makes a noise and this, coupled with music does not help actors who have a problem with projection. Poor Kate Nickleby (Olivia Ashman) was almost completely inaudible in the early scenes, as was, surprisingly, Sonia Woolf as her mother.

Three sections stood out. Cavendish Square, Yorkshire and Portsmouth. Colin Gregory and Lynn Radnedge made a wonderfully droll pair as the Mantalins in Cavendish Square.

In Yorkshire, the Squeers of Dotheboys Hall were a truly gruesome lot. Terry Rogers, Paula Morris and Sarah Connell as their daughter, Fanny, obviously enjoyed playing these feeders on human misery. Sarah Connell read the ridiculous letter to Ralph Nickleby with just the right note of indignation. Lyndon Radnedge made a moving Smike.

Portsmouth saw us with that wonderful theatrical family the Crummles, struggling to make ends meet. Simon Ramsay and Sarah Falk brought out all the kindness and humour as Mr and Mrs Vincent Crummles, while the Infant Phenomenon was amusingly portrayed by Gail Sere.

Throughout all these adventures runs Nicholas himself. In the capable hands of Mark Overall he was a strong presence throughout.

The ingenious set, which allowed the action to flow so smoothly, was designed by David Rance and Jane Rogers. The costumes, as always, looked good and in period, thanks to Frances Musker and her team.

LEONIE STEPHEN

Not so traditional

Wow! Well, it started by candle-light with dancing girls in the palace of King Herod. But then this year's Nativity Play at St Jude's reverted to the traditional, even using the words of the King James Bible.

This production was by the children and young people of the church with Hannah Davidson, Emma Gregson, Jessica Honeyball and Ana Walker organising it. Just how much there is to

organise each year they soon found out. But with help from the St Jude's Choir, Linda Ayers and Lucrezia Walker and with Barbara Honeyball directing the music they pulled it off very well.

They managed to get good speaking from a cast that worked well together and the audience heard the loudest shepherds anyone can ever remember.

IAN DAVIDSON



Mimi Anderson - is this right?



Angelic



Lucy Blunden was Gabriel



The directors Ana Walker, Jessica Honeyball, Emma Gegson and Hannah Davidson

Wordsearch winner

It seems appropriate that the winner of the last WORDSEARCH on Suburb Trees should be Georgina Malcolm, who has been one of the leading lights in the recent developments aimed at improving Big Wood.

Georgina has lived in the Suburb for many years, and attended Garden Suburb School and the Henrietta Barnett Junior School. She then went to Westonbirt, and accredits her first interest in trees to the fine arboretum there. She has since followed a varied career, holding a number of interesting PA posts which have taken her into the art world. This probably accounts for her major interest in textiles, and her hobbies - needlework, patchwork and tapestry. By way of contrast, she is an avid reader of science fiction, and woe betide those who ring her up during Star Trek!

It was Spencer Hudson who recruited Georgina to the Trees and Open Spaces Committee of the RA, which led to her becoming a member of Big Wood Management Group and Tree Warden. She feels passionately about the replanting of species of one variety in the roads of the Suburb, as was originally the case. She has become increasingly



interested in Suburb affairs and is now a member of the Council of the RA, and is on its Executive Committee.

A keen traveller when circumstances permit, she loves visiting archeological sites and watching relevant programmes on television.

She will clearly have difficulty in deciding in which field to spend her prize book token!

SHEILA McMICHAEL

Linda's farewell

It has now been confirmed that WPC Linda Bailey, who has been our Home Beat Officer for more than ten years, will be moving to another job within the Metropolitan Police before the end of March.

Many of us have come to regard Linda as a much loved personal friend and so will want to have an opportunity to meet together with her and give her our best wishes for the future.

Consequently, Neighbourhood Watches on the Suburb and its adjacent areas are organising a

special party for her which will take place in The Institute Hall, Central Square on Thursday 25 March 1999 from 8pm to 10pm.

There will be no charge to those attending but, as the capacity of The Institute Hall is limited, numbers must be restricted to ticket holders only. Those who would like to be present should apply through their Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for tickets which will be issued strictly on a first come, first served basis.

PETER LOYD

Tell Tale Signs

In November pupils in Year 6 at Garden Suburb Junior school took part in a lively two-hour session that combined drama and discussion to encourage an exchange of ideas about drugs and young people.

The sessions were presented by the 'Caught in the Act' theatre company, with ten years' experience

of using drama to promote health awareness. Following the children's sessions parents were invited to an informative evening presented as a drama workshop 'Tell Tale Signs' designed to leave participants feeling confident to open a discussion with young people about drugs and to respond in a constructive helpful way.

WORDSEARCH

DOG BREEDS

Dog-lovers forward: Find and ring the names of 19 breeds of dog which are hidden in the box of letters below. The names may read forwards, backwards, up, down or diagonally. CORGI has been ringed to start you off: can you find 18 more? Answers may either be ringed on the box, or listed on a postcard.

Entries should be sent to 2 North Square NW11 7AA, and should give the name, address and telephone number of the sender. The closing date for entries is March 12. The first correct entry drawn after the closing date will receive a £20 book token.

A Q O X W I L E I N A P S N E
R F J O U N M A C D Q U O R Y
K A H E L G A E B N I G B A D
R C I W C P L T D R C P O L E
D P O O D L E I E M A N R J W
I N K R U E R V C P G D Z O Z
T R A M G N E S I O P M O F I
E O T I F I N L D F L I I R S
L Q S E R F L L O K A L H V O
A U M T H O L X I E R S I W R
D A E D N U H S H C A D R E N
E R C K B O S H E L D R X I N
R E P I U T C A U F P O O R B
I B K N O H X K N A B G I H O
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