

**OTTERSHAW PLAYERS
DRAMA ON A SUMMER NIGHT – JULY 2009**

Thank you for inviting me to see the evening of one act plays.

‘Caught On The Hop’ was well presented and directed by Lisel Slark. The performers were some of your most experienced ones and the pace was good.

A small point on the direction front would be that Thomasina could have lain down full length to sleep at the end of the play which would have perhaps been a more definite and final move.

The colourful and suitably furnished set brought the small stage to life and all the actors played their characters strongly in this very amusing farce.

Nicky was very good as always, but the white nail varnish wasn’t appropriate for the period of the play.

Graham gave another excellent performance and Thomasina was every inch the long-suffering maid, apart from the sparkling earrings.

Matthew was brilliant as the Porter and very funny.

Jean tended towards overplaying the role of Esmeralda but I’m sure the audience didn’t pick up on any of the small negatives I’ve mentioned.

Congratulations, it really was a most entertaining play.

‘Sparkleshark’

Clare Groome and Mark Holton taxed the youngsters with what I thought was a very difficult piece. They had to play not only the named characters but then adapt into another persona for the story telling. It was an ambitious choice and some of the young people appeared a little awkward.

Devon was great and made a relaxed and natural Jake, and Grace too gave a very good performance as Polly. Her diction was first rate.

Faith and Zoe had a good stab at their roles but Faith perhaps delivered her lines rather too quickly on occasion.

The two sidekicks, Russell and Bud, were nicely depicted by James and Amelia.

Merlyn played a confident Shane and Eathan and Sorcha played their smaller roles adequately.

The set gave the right atmosphere for the play.

There was rather a lot of swearing and whilst they might do it amongst their peers they didn’t seem altogether too comfortable with it on stage.

This was a challenging play but well done for tackling it, and the young people who were less experienced will have no doubt enjoyed taking part and be looking forward to the next time.

Sound and lighting were fine and the props were suitable for both plays.

Thank you for the hospitality shown to my guest and I on the evening. It was much appreciated.

E. Gloria Smith
NODA Regional Representative- District 12