



Full Length Play Festival

ADJUDICATOR'S MARK SHEET

Team FINTRY AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Play Agatha Crusty and the Village Hall Murders - Webb

DIVISIONAL

FESTIVAL at Menzies Hall, Fintry on 17 May 2018

MARKS

Acting

	40
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Direction

	35
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Stage

Presentation

	15
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General

Achievement

	10
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Total

Marks

	100
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Signed Ron Nicol Adjudicator

Comments:

An effective open set, suitably furnished and dressed for a village hall, offering a large acting area. The angle of the lines of chairs for certain scenes sometimes led to some awkward positioning, with upstage sitting characters being masked by downstage ones, but in general the stage was well used throughout, with well motivated movement and appropriate business. The stage was well lit – occasional flickering of lighting, perhaps indicating the church hall's faulty wiring system – with effective lighting changes for scene drops. Well selected costumes and costume changes suitable for the characters. Good properties. Well chosen music throughout.

An enjoyable start, with the radio announcement and the Janitor's business with the table generating laughter; this became an entertaining feature of the smoothly handled scene changes, avoiding delays and keeping the audience involved. An excellent pace was set by Harry and Agatha's opening exchanges and maintained by the Twigg and Eleanor encounter. An additional lift was given with every character's appearance, maintaining an excellent impetus throughout every subsequent scene, with plenty of activity and movement in each. There were spirited exchanges and well judged interplay between the characters in every sequence, with excellent projection, expressive delivery and good timing. A few prompts, but supportive playing kept everything flowing smoothly. Good reactions from everybody, although over-elaborate background business risked taking the focus away from the speaker at times. An effective end to the act with a dead body falling impressively from the cupboard.

The fast-moving pace was re-established and maintained throughout the second act, with many fast-moving sequences. Although the customary detective-story elucidation to the gathered suspects can tend to inhibit much substantial activity in the final scene, opportunities for movement were found and the performance ended strongly.

The curtain call tableau was an entertaining final touch.

continued

Scottish Community Drama Association

Each of the distinctive characters was interpreted well and enthusiastically and impressively played, with every performer managing to get under the skin of their roles to bring something individual to each interpretation. Very supportive playing throughout.

Harry/Lockett: very natural playing, with a great sense of humour conveyed in both roles. Agatha: good attack and delivery; a confident, secure and impressive portrayal. Alice: lively and expressive; excellent reactions and support. Olivia/Oliver: convincing in both roles, carrying the duplication off well. Twigg: an entertaining interpretation; a blend of Mr Bean and Inspector Clouseau, with a manic touch of his own. Eleanor: positive, authoritative playing; lovely timing and delivery. Maisie: a very natural and enjoyable characterisation. Toby: great attack; solid and positive playing; a great assortment of jackets! Isabella: delightfully eager; sympathetic and supportive playing. Mandy: a lively, expressive, enjoyable performance. Mortimer Gascoyne/Janitor: effective, entertaining and loads of fun. Radio Announcer: an enjoyably humorous addition to the scene changes which kept everything flowing smoothly.

A well planned, well executed and most enjoyable production which deservedly generated an enthusiastic audience reception.