The Play That Goes Wrong

Programme Notes – Act Two – Audio Described Performance- Denise Reeves

Saturday 2nd July 2022

Good Afternoon Everyone and welcome back to the Theatre Royal Plymouth for Act 2 of The Play That Goes Wrong, where The cast of the ‘Cornley Polytechnic Drama Society’ continue their highly amusing and somewhat calamitous attempts at solving the “Murder at Haversham Manor”.

My name is Denise and I will be your audio describer for Act 2 which lasts for 40 minutes, finishing at 4.30.

The dramatic music played during the interval continues as the iron curtain is raised to reveal the red curtains. Chris then appears fumbling through the curtains to welcome the audience back. He is now dressed in a light brown suit, although without the jacket, as the character he now portrays, is that of Inspector Carter,

As the curtain rises, chaos continue as Annie, Max, Robert, Dennis, Jonathan and the Stage Crew are all rehanging the picture, voice pipe funnels, barometer and curtains etc., on the walls.

As they see the audience the set is quickly returned to that of Act 1, with everything now back in place.

However, as the play resumes, within seconds the cast continue to encounter disastrous mishaps with the wall hangings crashing to the floor at an alarming rate and the cast clearing everything away.

More disasters follow and we meet a couple of new characters.

Dennis opens the downstairs door revealing Max (who was the second murder victim in Act 1) now playing the part of Arthur the Gardener. He wears a big smile as he sees the audience, dressed now in overalls with mutton chops, carrying a watering can and holding a lead – without the dog, to which he continuously refers as if the dog is actually there.

Next, Sandra, who was killed off as Florence Colleymoore, bursts in through the swivel bookcase as The Vamp. She is dressed in her underwear, consisting of a very short bright red shoe-string strapped and low cut negligee, showing her cream silk spotted knickers, but still wearing her black high heeled shoes.

Meanwhile, the Stage Manager Annie Tweilloil, continues Sandra’s role as Florence Colleymoore. To retain the character, she now wears the sexy red dress over her blue jeans and trainers, and dons a rather untidy black wig cut in a bob. Inside a black folder she carries is the play’s script

Still wearing his black T shirt and jeans with a chain slung across his right hip, Trevor Watson, the lighting and sound operator, is now forced to take over the role of Florence, following the demise of Annie.

More twists and turns in this comedic play occur with the whole set falling into mayhem. This is reflected in the sounds of thunder and lightning, bell chimes, telephone ringing, a dog barking. At times the cast raise their voices in order to hide the noise of such calamities as the lift malfunctioning in a cloud of smoke, or the single post which props up the first floor to the study collapsing at an alarming rate. Indeed the whole set gets a complete makeover, but not in the way one would expect. The timing of which is of the essence.

As you have come to realise from Act 1, this play moves at a very fast pace, so I will endeavour to describe the action as quickly as it happens.