

# THE REVIEWERS CLUB

## Theatre Review

Review: Orphans Galore

Venue: Studio Theatre

Date: 23 February 2011

Reviewer: Charlotte Hawkins



Orphans Galore was originally written by Bill Wilkinson for the Young Peoples Theatre in Newcastle, 1968. The plot is easy to follow; everyone over the age of 17 vanishes and the children are left to run the world—havoc you would imagine, but is this so? Orphans Galore is being performed at Studio Theatre in Salisbury from the 23rd—26th February by Studio Youth Theatre. The play has been updated for the 21st century and has been directed by Peter Kelly. This is the first production by SYT.

The play starts off with a slow pace but this picks up throughout. The set is simple with a tree, fairy lights and little staging. The beginning is repetitive but engaging—I liked how it made you want to know what was going to happen next; in the second scene there is a lot of humour and a good balance between comedy/romance/drama overall. The piece grabs at all your emotions, making you feel embarrassed and joyful. I liked how the play was very clichéd, this made it humorous but I felt that the acting lacked energy, it seemed over rehearsed. The first act was thought provoking and kicked started your imagination.

Act two began better than act one. It got you straight back into the play, it was very funny and laughs were coming from the audience at all the right moments. The acting, even in the background never stopped even though those characters weren't in the spotlight, the quality was constant.

The play had a good ending, I felt that this was the climax of the piece and it was my favourite bit because of the droll humour. The last scene produced a great audience reaction and everyone went out saying it was really good.

Overall I think this was a good performance from Studio Youth Theatre as their first production. It gave you a good feeling coming out but I wouldn't necessarily go again.

*The Young Reviewers Club is run by The Unit,  
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