

## REVIEW

### BILLY LIAR - WATERBEACH COMMUNITY PLAYERS By Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall

On taking my seat for this production - the story of lying, day-dreaming Billy Fisher, an undertakers assistant who yearns to break out of his drab, middle-class North Country surroundings - I was convinced (open stage) I had entered a Yorkshire house in the early '60s, so convincing was the entire set, with ceramic tile fireplace, stair carpet, wall plaques, radio, television and the telephone directory (definitely 1960). Congratulations must go to the designer, Janet Crack and to properties, Ede Curtis and her assistants.

In Julie Petrucci's production we had a talented cast giving everything to this Waterhouse/Hall classic comedy. Highlights of this production were the excellent performances of Sue McDonald (Grandma Boothroyd), Chris Ghinn (Billy's father), Bernardine Orrock (Billy's mother), Catherine Perkins (Barbara) and Lynda Crack (Rita). Alex MacLaughlin as Billy's best mate, Arthur, gave a fine performance and in her cameo role, Jane Butcher (Liz) was making the most of her moment. A young, talented actor, Adam Penri Jones, took on the challenging role of Billy - lying his way in and out of every situation - very convincingly. He could have got more out of his "improbable daydreams" (another Walter Mitty).

My main criticism is that I found Act II tediously slow despite two joyous performances from Catherine Perkins (Barbara), complete with oranges - very funny - and Bernardine Orrock (Alice Fisher). In conclusion, excellent design, first-class lighting, and an excellent choice of incidental music (from the musical "Billy" - 1974 - starring Michael Crawford). I congratulate Julie Petrucci on a courageous challenge well faced - it is the stuff that theatre is made of.

Tom Farrell