

EDUCATING RITA

Amateur Players of Sherborne

Sherborne Studio Theatre

23rd March 2022

Director Graham Smith

Sherborne Studio Theatre performances never disappoint. In this little gem of a theatre, some excellent and memorable productions have been presented.

Educating Rita was certainly among that number; the set was impressive, with the Professor's room lined with books and shelves full to bursting, neatly hiding a variety of bottles, which, it transpired, helped him get through the day. The desk, like its owner was untidy and scruffy and the window was excellent, lighting at its best!

Martin Williams as Frank gave a wonderful performance with a range of emotions from resigned boredom to great passion for his subject, he showed wit, anger, amusement, bewilderment and sadness with empathy, subtlety, and skill. Sadly, his wig (ill-fitting and obvious) occasionally

distracted from the performance, one's eye being drawn to it however one tried to ignore it. A pity when everything else was so good.

Sarah Nias played Rita perfectly. She had the stance, the attitude, the accent, and the clothes. Her initial brashness, with moments of insight, interspersed with a sudden vulnerability was superbly portrayed.

In the second act (a year later) the change in her behaviour and attitude, the way she dressed and her greatly increased confidence, whilst retaining her freshness and individuality was beautifully executed.

This was a tour de force by two experienced and gifted actors who worked so well together, the subtle interaction, the mutual admiration and affection at precisely the right level was admirable

They held the audience in their hands right through the performance. A great production and thoroughly enjoyable evening.

My congratulations to the director Graham Smith and all concerned with this fine production.

Graham Liverton

Regional Councillor NODA Southwest