

LARGE  
AS LIFE

2002

## Exciting journey

**T**EDDINGTON Theatre Club has eschewed the traditional pantomime this year in favour of a nativity with a difference. *Large as Life* is a new musical of five couples and one woman who embark on an exciting journey... pregnancy!

Richard Harris has written a delightful play about the ups and downs of forthcoming parenthood from both the male and female perspectives. Each of the expectant families faces a different future, the result being sometimes hilarious, sometimes poignant, but always true to life.

Keith Strachan, the prolific composer of many successful musicals has contributed to a score that enhances the mood of excitement and provides opportunities for actors to show off their singing and dancing skills. Vocal chords and pelvic girdles have been exercising for weeks under the careful tutelage of director Ken Mason and musical director Will Williams.

The production continues until Saturday December 14th at Hampton Hill Playhouse.

### RICHMOND DRAMA AWARDS

## An unusual subject for musical theatre



*Members of Teddington Theatre Club presented the first amateur production of Large As Life.*

**R**ECENTLY Teddington Theatre Club presented *Large As Life* by Richard Harris and Keith Strachan

The company presented the first amateur production of this musical at the Hampton Hill Playhouse.

The musical-come-play or play-come-musical is a treatise on perhaps that last taboo, pregnancy - from conception through gestation to birth.

The mothers and fathers ranged across the gambit of society, for the pre-menopausal mistress to the

teenage mother, whose partner has no prospects and faces a bleak future with the birth of twins.

The piece was played against a stark, somewhat minimalist set, which was enhanced by the excellent lighting, which the theatre has at its disposal.

The cast coped with the rather uninspired, predictable dialogue remarkably well.

The interactions between the couples was good.

The score, redolent of a fifties musical was interpreted by the band, Will

Williams (MD) Jim Tickle - keyboards and Gordon Edwards percussion, who made it very tuneful.

Vickie, a working class mum - Linda Sirker and her frequently incarcerated husband, Stuart-David Blackburn, released, it would seem, just long enough to impregnate his wife, had some of the best lines and were well received by the appreciative audience.

There were some pleasing duets by Liz - Carolyn Williams and Lorraine- Geraldine Taylor,

as well as by Jan-Tracy Frankson and Patrick - Marc Batten.

The best songs were given to Helen - Maudy Stenhouse - and Don - Charles A Halford, both of whom have fine voices and a good presence on stage.

The other members of the cast Naomh Scullin, Mark Bradford and Steven Peters complemented their fellow artistes in the dancing and singing numbers and made much of the lack lustre roles which they had been allotted.

**George Hillier**