

RUN FOR YOUR WIFE
2002



RICHMOND DRAMA AWARDS

A theatrical night to remember

THERE are occasions in the theatre when live drama is so alive that it crackles.

Such an occasion was the last night of Teddington Theatre Club's production of the Ray Cooney farce *Run For Your Wife* at the Hampton Hill Playhouse.

A particular reason for the extra tension in the theatre was the fact that the actor playing the second male lead had not appeared at starting time and urgent arrangements had to be made for a replacement. The unenviable task of performing such a role at short notice fell to the director, Bill Compton, who had the sympathy and support of everyone in the theatre.

The story concerns the bigamous double life of a taxi driver, John Smith, who has

one wife in Wimbledon and another in Streatham. He manages to keep both wives and lives separate until he is assaulted and hospitalised. The police become involved and he has to call upon his friend, Stanley Gardner, to assist him in maintaining the deception.

The hapless John Smith was impeccably played by David Hannigan. Great contrast was achieved by the two wives: Sarah Hooper was the placid Mary and Sophie Compton the feisty Barbara.

The intense Detective Sergeant Troughton was ably played by Steven Peters and Allen Dickens was the plodding Detective Sergeant Porterhouse.

A splendidly camp cameo was achieved by David R Blackburn as the Streatham

neighbour, Bobby Franklin, and the split-second timing of his several entrances was a joy.

The pace of the play was well judged and sustained throughout. The humour was well realised and the 'business' pleasingly inventive. Director Bill Compton is to be congratulated on a splendid production and an heroic stage appearance.

The set, which included modernistic paintings, was tasteful in strong tones of green, orange and blue. Its practicality added greatly to the success of the production. Lighting was expertly and sympathetically handled.

This was indeed a theatrical night to remember.

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