

**TEDDINGTON
THEATRE CLUB**

Perfect show for a summer evening

NEXT production by the Teddington Theatre Club is to be *The School For Scandal*. This beloved classic of the stage, in a full, costumed production is the next presentation at the club's temporary venue at The Vera Fletcher Hall in Emberbrook Road, Thames Ditton.

This famous Sheridan comedy mixes well-tryed dramatic ingredients including mistaken identity, lovers kept apart and in the end, rewarded and finally, hypocrisy exposed.

It is a perfect summer evening's entertainment with its sparkling dialogue and delicious mockery of the pretensions of the 'polite world' of fashionable London.

Included in the cast are many of TTC's most experienced performers and the play is directed by Stephen Oliver. Performances are each evening at 7.45 from Tuesday June 17th to Saturday June 21st.

Tickets are £6 each, available from the box office on 979 9499 or, if still available, on the door.

THE SCHOOL
FOR SCANDAL
1997

ENTERTAINMENT

RICHMOND DRAMA AWARDS

Tongue-in-cheek morality

SATIRE in detraction and hypocrisy is Sheridan's theme in *The School for Scandal* given a lively production by Stephen Oliver for Teddington Theatre Club at the Vera Fletcher Hall last week.

In this stylish comedy of manners, the titillating pastime of 18th century fashionable society is spiteful gossip and speculation, thinly glossed over by wit and elegance.

Presided over by Lady Sneerwell, played with waspish haughtiness by Lyn Randall, her acolytes proceed to destroy the vestiges of good and bad reputations.

Barry Rocard was truly serpentine as one of her accomplices, Snake, oozing oily complaisance as he forked out his envenomed

tongue, while her other ally, Joseph Surface was portrayed by John Riley as not so much cold and calculating, but a man lacking character, whose spotless reputation springs from an excessive desire to please.

Cynthia Carss's Mrs Candour relayed her scandalous titbits with marvellous relish, pointing up the hypocrisy of the character as she simultaneously proclaimed her innocent intentions, and Jill Schaverien as Lady Teazle made the most of some of the wittiest lines in the play. She also conveyed a convincing repentance as she renounced her membership of the 'school'.

Completing the venomous crew were Matthew Davey's effete Sir Benjamin Backbite with Jack Smerdon's Crabtree

constantly trying to cap each other's bitchy stories.

On the side of the victims, Jim Tickle gave a delightful performance as Sir Peter Teazle, justifiably peeved at his young wife's extravagant excesses, and won the ready sympathy of the audience, especially with his humorously rueful, though indulgent, soliloquy on her follies.

Joseph's deservedly maligned brother, Charles, a man of easy charm, had a jaunty Bryan O'Flynn, wearing the garb of the period to the manner born, and winning his uncle's favour for his amiable, good natured, if somewhat misguided principles.

But the whole company made strong contributions to this zestful production which came to its tongue-in-cheek conclusion with a joyful dance.

Jenny Scott