

14 July

Studio Theatre,

God of Carnage

Studio Theatre, Salisbury

Directors Ann Acton & Jackie Pilkington

This was my first visit to Studio Theatre, a group who are in the enviable position on having their own purpose built venue on the edge of Salisbury City Centre.

God of Carnage is an award winning French play by Yasmina Reza, translated by Christopher Hampton.

With a running time of just ninety minutes and no interval, it was described in the programme as a “comedy of bad manners” and also “a very funny tragedy”.

The action takes place in the Paris apartment of Veronique and Michel Vallon. Their eleven year old son has been injured during a fight with a school friend and needs dental treatment. Veronique has invited Annette and Alain Reille, the parents of the other boy, to an informal meeting so that they can discuss the incident.

The couples are rather cool with each other to start with, there are long silences, but at the same time, there is lots of excellent non verbal communication is taking place. Veronique tries to get the other parents to accept responsibility for their sons’ actions, but events do not work as she might have hoped. As the play progresses, we begin to realise that both couples are creating a false image as they struggle to hold their respective marriages together

I thought that this was a very impressive and faultless play. The four cast members were simply excellent, their characterisation outstanding. The pace and timing was superb throughout. This could have been a professional production.

I certainly found it very funny and I was laughing out loud, but it also very moving and thought provoking.

I was convinced that the mobile phone, used by Alain, was real, until it went into the flower vase full of water and even then I still was expecting it to ring again. The set was simple but very effective.

An excellent production and I look forward to seeing more of Studio Theatre

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