

KIPLING'S STORY MOVED TO YORKSHIRE!

One thing you can rely on in a North Country Theatre production is creativity, especially important when adapting a dialogue-based short story, and in this production of Rudyard Kipling's 'The Wish House' on 8th October, the Company did not disappoint. This was their second visit to Lanchester in their 20th Anniversary Year and both plays have been cleverly adapted from legends or stories by Nobby Dimon.



The Reverend Smith in a compromising position as Grace attempts some running repairs.

Kipling's Wish House is a strange and rather disturbing story based on reminiscences of two elderly Sussex ladies, but Nobby has transported it to the Yorkshire Dales, removed one lady and added new characters to make it a stage-worthy play. It is basically a sad love story which could easily have descended into pathos, but this was avoided by a good helping of Yorkshire humour and dialect and extra plot lines. The story deals with the lifelong love of Grace for Harry, who eventually rejects

her, but later becomes seriously ill. Grace then visits a 'Wish House', having been told that here one can ask a 'token', or spirit, to grant a wish to take on another's pain. This duly happens and she eventually becomes terminally ill whilst Harry is cured and leads a healthy life.

There was less scope for creative scenery changes in this play, but the use of background scenery printed on sheets suspended from a ceiling clothes rack was very effective and skillfully

blended into the actions of the central character. The standard of acting was superb, with only three actors playing all the parts - Ashley Christmas as Grace, Mark Cronfield as Harry and Vivienne Garnet as Nurse Fettlely. This play was also Vivienne's debut as Director and she can feel justifiably proud of this fine production.

The performance was well attended and enthusiastically received and we look forward to their next visit to Lanchester. NH



The cast of 'The Wish House' - Mark Cronfield, Ashley Christmas and Vivienne Garnett who also directed the play.

THE ADDAMS FAMILY COMES TO STANLEY

The Addams Family are leaving their creepy mansion beside the cemetery and coming to Stanley. Are the Addams Family the first Goths? I remember as a boy enjoying the black and white television show (that shows my age) but later generations will know this bunch of spooky characters on film, TV and animation. In fact they first appeared in the 1930s in a cartoon in a New York newspaper. Inevitably someone had to write a musical and what a superb job they have done of it. South Moor

Musical Theatre Group are over the moon about obtaining the performing rights to this great show (to get the full significance of that remark you need to see the show). The show is packed with great music from the 'knock 'em dead' opening piece to the ghoulish last number and has some beautiful love songs thrown in for good measure. However the writers have not forgotten that the essence of the Addams Family is comedy. So if you like a good laugh or you like good music, treat

yourself to the perfect post Halloween night out. For details see the What's On page.



Helen McKenry, a talented newcomer to the society and the ever popular Lindsay Kellegher, as Wednesday and Morticia Addams.

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