

Brave departure is a hit

WORKINGTON Playgoers tackled a production with a difference last night and came up trumps.

Their latest performance, *The Roses of Eyam*, by Don Taylor, proved to be captivating and producers Dudley Evans and Christine Jackson — who herself played a prominent part — are to be highly commended as are the 55-strong cast.

Coronation Street or even Dallas faded into insignificance against such a gripping and compelling drama.

In a complete departure from their usual shows, the society travelled back in time to 1665 when the Black Death reached a little village in Derbyshire.

Plight

The plague arrived innocently in a large black box containing materials. Fifteen hours later the first victim fell and many more quickly followed until the churchyard was overflowing and resting places had to be found in fields.

There are a few light-hearted moments when we see the bantering between two old men and our heart strings are pulled at the plight of some young lovers.

The cast was headed by Ian Mitchell who, as the Rector of Eyam, was flawless throughout. He gave a convincing and

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moving performance with great depth of feeling.

It was apparent he had put a great deal of work into the role.

An equally outstanding performance came from Ron Dickens, who gave an excellent portrayal of the village simpleton with his twisted, broken body and his ramblings which, though ignored, proved all to prophetic.

The Roses of Eyam is essentially a true and remarkable story and was well re-enacted on the stage of the Theatre Royal.

Costumes are excellent, there are minimal scene changes and it is well worth seeing.

It continues through until Tuesday and the curtain goes up at 7.30 p.m. prompt.



Service in the Dell. Mompesson, played by Ian Mitchell (left) blesses the remaining villagers.