

Perfect timing and six outstanding performances

REVIEW: How the Other Half Loves, Theatre Royal, Workington

TIMING is everything in Workington Playgoers' latest production of the Alan Ayckbourn comedy *How The Other Half Loves*.

Rehearsing regularly for the past three months to ensure all the cast remained fresh with their lines, while Jane Douglas recovered from a broken foot, has resulted in a polished, professional and outstanding performance by all six cast members.

Set in the 1970s, the production juggles time and space to present the lives and loves of three married couples, all different in class and aspirations, but all intertwined due to the duplicity of adultery.

The single set represents two separate but overlapping living rooms, which enables the audience to witness events simultaneously in the eyes of all three couples.

Carried out through hard work by the design crew and faultless timing by the cast, this works so well that the audience was audible in appreciation of how the couples can interact with both themselves and the other couples at the same time.

Ron Dickens gives an amusing performance as Frank, the employer of Bob and William, who had us laughing out loud at his mannerisms, and Jane Douglas is convincing as his long-suffering wife, trying to keep him on the straight and narrow but bored with her relationship.

Andy Greenwood admirably fulfils the role of philandering bully Bob with a sar-

castic sense of humour, and his fiery wife Theresa, played by Nicola Woodier, gave an amazing performance, especially as she had stepped in at the last minute as the original actor was not available for these dates.

The Featherstones, portrayed by Kelly Davis as the shy and reserved Mary, and new cast member Callum Taylor as William, the aspiring accountant with a penchant for DIY, are integral to the plot and both execute their parts with impeccable timing.

From avocado to alcoholic custard, prepare to be entertained.

The play, directed by Brian Young, runs until tomorrow and starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are £8 (£7 concessions). Call the box office on 01900 602122.

LYNNE WILD



HOW THE OTHER HALF LOVES: Callum Taylor as William Featherstone and Andy Greenwood as Bob Philips in Workington Playgoers' show Picture: Gordon Rushton