

# The ladies go on a trip to Oz

## REVIEW – Ladies Down Under, Theatre Royal, Workington

LADIES Down Under sees the return of the four lasses from the fish-filleting factory in the heartwarming sequel to Ladies Day, which was performed at the Theatre Royal in 2010.

Directing both performances, Pat Brinicombe has enabled a flawless continuity of the characters who, having amassed a small fortune by being successful on a six-horse accumulator bet at Ascot, want

to celebrate with a trip to Australia.

Little do they know that the trip to the Gold Coast, Ayers Rock and vibrant carnival atmosphere of Sydney will lead to more than a suntan for them as they embark on a life-changing journey of self-discovery.

Jenni Rushton reprises her role as Pearl, the motherly one of the group, wanting to live life to the full, yet carrying a secret, which will be shared in an emotional scene to the audience and group.

Brand obsessed, aspiring model Shelley, played by Rosie Sweeney, finds there's more to life than shopping and spa

treatments.

Anne Bowmer successfully conveys the pessimism of complainer Jan, whose life choices are curtailed by the number of available toilet facilities.

Linda, possibly the most complex of the characters, is performed by Jane Douglas, who has done an outstanding job of stepping in to do this role and owns the character.

Linda struggles internally with the consequences of having a windfall, feeling guilty that she has money when others do not and tries on several occasions to give the lot away.

Stuart Evans and Craig Norendal do excellent work as

supporting actors, both conveying humour, energy and for Stuart, the ability to carry off an Australian accent.

Between them, Stuart and Craig fulfil nine separate roles, their timing works well together, especially when playing Bill and Ben the British Airways flight attendants and their most flamboyant characters are saved until the end, culminating in a most entertaining finale to the travellers' trip.

Ladies Down Under is on at the Theatre Royal, Workington, until tomorrow. Tickets are £8 from the box office on 01900 602122.

LYNNE WILD