

Mister Tom's a good night

REVIEW: Goodnight Mister Tom, Workington Playgoers

THERE were tears flowing at the Theatre Royal in Workington for the premier of *Goodnight Mister Tom* on Tuesday evening.

The Workington Playgoers were joined by young talents from the Second Star Youth Theatre to stage David Wood's adaptation of Michelle Magorian's novel.

Definitely an uplifting story, but with many emotional parts that the actors on stage didn't hold back on in their delivery.

It was lovely to see the youth group working so well with the adult company and the packed-theatre definitely seemed impressed with the Christmas production.

Set during the build-up to World War Two, the actors brought to life something that many of us had forgotten.

In those days, children weren't allowed to be just children, many of them – including William Beech – were evacuated from London to the countryside and had to live with strangers. And that's how the uplifting story of the friendship between Mister Tom and William starts.

Despite a not-so-easy start and Mister Tom's reluctance to admit his love for the child, the tale ends as a Christmas show should – with a happy ending.

Morgan Sweeny gave a brilliant interpretation of Mister Tom. I particularly loved the way he held back on his emotions, despite clearly wanting to jump up and down with joy when he is reunited with his newly-found



UPLIFTING: Workington Players perform *Goodnight Mister Tom* Chris Lewis



DELIGHT: Mister Tom and William

friend William.

And the young actor playing William did a great job of showing all the emotions his character went through.

A mention must also go to the young actor who played Zak, another evacuee who befriends William. He was just a joy to watch on stage – bubbly and confident, he brought a smile to everyone in

the audience.

I must admit I also found the idea of using a puppet to impersonate Sammy, Mister Tom's dog, extremely cute. The young actor handling it showed some real talent.

Gwyneth Savage, director, and Nicola Woodier, assistant director, did a great job in making the scenes flow, with changes of sets and props being brought on stage while the actors were performing. I always think seeing the "behind the scene" work adds to that experience that is live theatre.

So if you fancy watching a heart-warming show and are prepared for a few tears, get yourself to the Theatre Royal this week.

Shows are performed daily until Saturday, at 7.30pm each evening.

Tickets are available from the venue and online via www.theatre-royal-workington.co.uk

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