

UK

CONTRIBUTED REVIEWS

It's a disaster... and a real hit

CHIDEOCK PLAYERS

Chideock
Village Hall

Review:
Nicola Cornick

THE Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's guild Dramatic Society's production of Macbeth was an absolute disaster. Everything that could go wrong did. Luckily, that was precisely the idea of the production and the Players carried it off with energy and aplomb.

The ill-fated play was hampered by mishaps throughout including a sound team that may as well have been in another village.

The comic timing was fantastic however with flying heads, falling props and confused townswomen stumbling across the stage.

Sali Douglas-Watson's Mrs Reece was great fun to watch, particularly in her interludes with the ever brilliant Chris Lambert as Mr Peach.

However the show was stolen by the straight performances by Jim Pettifer and Nick Baker.

Baker's Lady Macbeth raised a smile throughout, as it is difficult to ignore a tragic female



APLOMB: Chideock Players in full swing that features a play within a play

figure with a halcyon chest.

Jim Pettifer also provided some laughs in the wheelchair scene during the witches dance routine.

The witches were great, switching between cackling hags and bored townswomen with ease.

Jess Lambert was particularly good showing a perfect grasp of comic timing.

The play within a play theme worked well in the production because every player knew their various parts so well so the only mistakes were intentional.

Producer Natalie Williams was pleased with the show, she said: "The cast did extremely well, it is a huge technical chal-

lenge, particularly because it is a Shakespeare play."

The Shakespeare was not lost in the translation; in fact the audience knew what to expect which only made the confusion and mishaps funnier.

After only two months of rehearsal the production flowed well.

There were some good comic ideas such as Nick Baker playing all eight kings in the procession, and a Macbeth with some serious thespian qualities including standing directly in front of any other actors.

All in all the production was a real success and was polished to imperfection through hard work and some talented players.