

## Flesh & Blood

Tivoli Theatre, Wimborne

9a - 12a February 2005.

WHERE was the audience on the first night of this superb production? It deserved so much better than just two or three rows of people.

Philip Osment's drama is set on a Devon farm where three siblings who have just buried their father must now manage things as best they can.

But the years of being under their father's thumb has had a lasting effect, and when one of them wants to marry and move out, the others close ranks to stop him - with horribly unforeseen consequences.

The play is set in both the 1950s and the 1980s, with different actors playing the characters as their younger and older selves.

This, in itself, presented no prob-

lem, although the occasional appearance of both the character and his/her older/younger self at the same time was initially confusing and seemed unnecessary.

Thanks to excellent direction by Paul Hewitt, the claustrophobic atmosphere of their existence and the sense of impending tragedy was palpably conveyed and there were fine performances from all - Jennifer Stacey and Chrissie Neal (Rose), Mark Ellen and David Pile (William), Paul Dodman and Chris Brown (Charles) and Yvonne Henley and Fiona Sinclair (Shirley).

Full marks too for great accents, a well-designed set and super props.

Linda Kirkman

Bournemouth Echo - 12/02/05.