

# REVIEWS

## Dazzling razzle of a comedy

**On The Razzle, Wimborne Drama, Tivoli Theatre, Wimborne**

ANYONE straying unawares into the Tivoli these past few days might have been forgiven for thinking the silly season had come early, given the presence of a talking parrot, a pantomime horse and a girl playing the part of a boy.

However, this was Tom Stoppard's superb comedy, performed to near perfection by a first-class cast under the excellent direction of Richard Neal.

The story, which follows the events that occur when shop clerks Weinberl (Mark Ellen) and Christopher (Yvonne Henley) decide to have an illicit afternoon of freedom in Vienna, is brilliantly written. The Spoonerisms that trip so easily from shop owner Zangler's mouth are hilarious – and would have been even more so had Dave Williams' blustering delivery not occasionally muffled his words. There were strong characterisations all round, not least from Paul Dodman (Sonders), Tracey Nicholls (Marie), Jan Stevenson (Gertrude), Colin Pile (Melchior), Carolyn Hewitt (Frau Fischer), Chrissie Neal (Madame Knorr) and Jan Bursby (Fraulein Blumenblatt), while Barry Baynton brought the house down as a wonderfully lascivious whip-wielding coachman.

Full marks too for an ingenious set, excellent costumes and fine lighting. A dazzling razzle, without a doubt.

Linda Kirkman

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