

Cast stepped up for beautiful play

REVIEW

Stepping Out, Wimborne Drama, Tivoli Theatre, Wimborne

ON A suitably dowdy 'run-down church hall' set, complete with notice boards where the notices changed with each scene – a small but significant touch – this play, set around a weekly tap dance class, was beautifully played out.

Richard Harris' comedy concentrates as much on its participants' lives as on their ability to learn to dance, and in this production, directed by Stuart Glossop, the characters really came to life.

Tracey Nicholls scored highly with her moving portrayal of unhappy Andy, as did Clare Downs as common-as-muck Sylvia and Jan Bursby

as hygiene-obsessed Vera. Jen Stacey made the most of her role as Rose, although now political correctness demands that it can rarely be played as originally intended, the character loses much of its impetus.

Jolene Palmer was bright and bubbly as Maxine, as were Boo Feltham (Lynne) and Jean Dishington (Dorothy), while Colin Pile was suitably reticent as token male, Geoffrey.

Jackson Ellen was delightfully Bohemian as accompanist Mrs Fraser, and Kristin Williams caught the character of Mavis well, although I should have liked to see a much bigger portrayal.

Pity about the dodgy sound cues, which sometimes caused the piano to play by itself and the music player to continue after it had been 'stopped'.

Linda Kirkman