

## The Talented Mr Ripley – Wimborne Drama, Tivoli Theatre

NEVER afraid of tackling a challenging play, Wimborne Drama's choice of The Talented Mr Ripley gives a number of young actors a golden opportunity to show their burgeoning skills. Based on a novel by Patricia Highsmith, and twice made into a film, this adaptation to the stage works well, because although there are four diverse locations, an innovative set ensures there is no need for scene changes.

It's a deep, dark story - the sort that pulls you up by your bootstraps. In late 1950s New York, Tom Ripley, a young under-achiever, is sent to Europe to retrieve a rich and spoiled millionaire playboy, named Dickie Greenleaf. What ensues is chilling, and as the play runs until the end of this week, I won't give away any more of the plot.

Making his debut on the stage of the Tivoli, Rob Cording as Mr Ripley proves that he can do sinister in spades. Another newcomer is Greg Verver in his second production for Wimborne Drama as Dickie Greenleaf. Two young men set to become regulars with this group which celebrates its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

Despite being just 15 years of age, Alfie Tyson-Brown has been involved with Wimborne Drama for nine years, and is a confident young performer who puts in a convincing performance as servant boy Fausto.

Other parts were played convincingly by Paul Dodman Jackie Lawson, Ryan Clements, Penny Pearson, Boo Feltham, Michaela Slatford, Paul Oliver and Andy Cragg. This is a play which will hold your attention. You can catch it tonight (Friday) or tomorrow (Saturday). **MB**