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Professional support
for amateur theatre

HENFIELD THEATRE COMPANY.
"THE ROSES OF EYAM"
DIRECTOR - ANGELA REID.
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - DI NORMAN.

What it is to enjoy a first class evening of dramatic theatre! The Directors and, indeed, the entire company are to be congratulated on a remarkably successful presentation. The sad story of Eyam in the 1660s was most effectively told in your delightful church which, thanks to most imaginative direction, proved to be the perfect setting. The atmosphere created made the use of any theatrical artifice quite unnecessary. The story was so well related that your audiences knew exactly the location of any scene and the circumstances prevailing at any given time. The admirable costumes added greatly to the occasion.

The unhappy Reverend Mompesson and his bitter predecessor were convincingly played by John Pugslove and Kenneth Jones. How the audience wanted them to be reconciled following the success of their singular agreement on the plan of self-imposed quarantine for their village. Peter Ingledew was a very believable character gradually bowing under the pressure of his grave-digging duties and showing almost paternal regard for "The Bedlam". Nigel Atkinson, in that role, gave a remarkably effective, moving performance.

Darcie Thomson-Fields and Connor McPhail played the delightful young couple from the Sydall and Torre families. Their affection was delicately portrayed and both were a pleasure to watch. John Coit and Richard Oswald, as two of the village elders maintained their characters well and together with Marshall Howe, kept the plot flowing. The remaining roles of the vicar's wife, the village shopkeeper, the Squire and his wife and the Carter were all played with real conviction.

The 'chorus' of villagers and children were extremely well drilled with many entrances and exits to be mastered. They reacted well to all the dialogue and conveyed well the horror of their situation.

This was an evening of real theatre: A well written emotive story, a perfect setting and a totally convincing cast.

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