

BIRDS ON THE WING

St Jude's Players Inc

St Jude's Hall, Brighton

Until April 23

Review by Nikki Gaertner

St Jude's have once again hit the nail on the head with their latest entertaining and humorous offering, "Birds on the Wing".

Featuring a small, talented and dynamic cast, the show portrays the lives of two female high-flying partners in crime, who con rich and gullible men for their source of income. Elizabeth (Bernadette Bycroft) and Samantha (Kay Saunders) have mastered their fraudulent moves and love every minute of life, until one of their victims, Charlie (Andrew Horwood) decides to join in on their game.

Both Bycroft and Saunders are superb in their roles, and complement each other nicely as their characters move through their many alter egos throughout the show.

Horwood too, excels and has plenty of fun with his mischievous character and has the audience eating out of his palm within moments.

Every one of the supporting cast also deserves a mention, from Rachel Brunsden as the cheeky maid, Barry Hill as a variety of waiter personalities, Dave Simms as the swindled Sir George Smith, Greg Janzow in dual roles of both a Frenchman and a Japanese detective, and Ken McGill as Mr Chotomate.

The set was a simple hotel room for each scene, which worked well and kept scene changes limited to a few props and the change of some beautiful painted scenic backdrops to illustrate location. The scene changes took some time, but luckily there weren't many required, and the quality of the show meant this was easily forgiven.

Director Jude Menz should be commended for her efforts with this show (her second time directing it for St Jude's).

"Birds on the Wing" is comic theatre at its best and a sure crowd pleaser for anyone wanting a feel good night out.