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### **LORD ARTHUR SAVILE'S CRIME**

**Therry Dramatic Society**  
**Arts Theatre, 54 Angas Street**  
Until March 5

Review by Andy Ahrens

There is something adorable about farce, with its twists and turns, unexpected mishaps and witty dialogue. "Lord Arthur Savile's Crime", based on an Oscar Wilde story, has all this to offer but in the new century struggles to capture the modern theatre audience.

Therry's performance lacked a degree of pace on opening night but as with most comedies should only take a performance or two in front of an audience to quicken up. It was noticeable that the cast began to bounce off the audience and 'nail' the comic moments as the play progressed.

The script was catchy enough to ensure that there were times of compelling action. It didn't disappoint with its satire and comment on English politics and marriage.

Lord Arthur (Nicholas Ely) carried a huge weight on his young shoulders to carry the show. Ely was ably supported by his loyal butler Baines (Kerry Hailstone). The pair showed great dynamics between them as they concocted and plotted their way to produce the perfect murder.

Despite some wasted opportunities with their dialogue, their performances were mostly consistent and added much needed life to the show. Ely in particular grew in confidence and showed he had the potential to combine expression and voice in well executed comic timing.

All the cast did well to maintain their accents. Of the supporting cast, Lady Beauchamp (Penelope Hamilton-Smith) and the small role of Nellie (Kimberly Williams) were highlights. Sybil's (Allison Scharber) performance was also a highlight but why look so grumpy in the curtain call? Smile – it's theatre!

The set was beautiful and along with the lovely Victorian costumes captured the period well. Lord Arthur Savile's Crime just managed to convince us that the best comedy still belongs on the stage.