

Ktynchewyke '89 - The 50th Anniversary

The Jugular Book

or Tarzan and The Apex

David Grahame-Smith

This year was the Jubilee of the Tingewick (alias Ktynchewycke) Society, the 50th Anniversary.

A World War came and went, a National Health Service was born, grew up, outgrew its clothes, and was wrapped up in white paper. The genetic code was broken (the bits are everywhere), feminism triumphed (Tingewick became heterosexual in 1969) and as if to celebrate this 50th Anniversary, the Iron Curtain was drawn back. Did Mr. Gorachov know? Thanks Gorby, complimentary tickets for you and Riesa next year!

Through all these upheavals Tingewick stood fast, an unshakeable pillar of Oxford Medicine (pace, the OTM). How has it lasted? Is it as fresh as it was? Is it as piquant? Is it.....resoundingly "YES".

This year's production was written by Will McConnell and Derek Roskell without apologies to Rudyard. The storyline in its detail is very complicated. If anyone wants to read it, left-over Jubilee Programmes are still

available, price £500 from our charming producer and famous Versatility, Wendy Tyler, who is also our favourite cute little furry animal, Wiggly-Woggly-Woo Wendy. Suffice it to say that the show was about the triumph of good over evil (just), at least I think it was that way round, though I do get confused because most of the baddies seem to repent and end up as 6 out of 10 goodies these days.

Divinely proportioned, Diviner Portions (Lisa Webber), was obviously marked out for trouble from some "Old Nick", and like any real heroine, was sublimely unaware of the threat. Not surprisingly really, because she was totally protected throughout by all the goodies. Quietly, as behooves a dignified Professor, did Charlie Bond enter the skin of Professor Headington (the Ghost of Pickering is after you, Charlie). Anthony Chalmers' portrayal of Basoo was a snip. "Tone", where did you learn to dance like that? In Basoo's tutorials? Beats viewing radiographs. Done-ably, eat your heart out at the torso of Ian Comaish. Macule, did you do the voice-over?





But then into the land of the Goody Goodies strides Killitwell and everything changes, and immediately you know he is a surgeon. Not only that, but each of Jon Pollock's movements and vocal nuances had Killitwell to a "T". Planning on skins, Jon?

Dear Sophie Hambleton had quite a week. As Lady Sloane Growl she was, for some strange but convenient reason, married to Sir Gin Warden, and at the same time she was the Musical Director. Were the hiking boots or the tight skirt the conductor's dress? Loved them both, and the hat at the Tea Party?

It must be very difficult to choose a Psychiatrist to parody in Tingewick. How did you go about it, Will and Derek? Just pull one out of a hat? What a nice, gentle creature Wavered Meany was. Absolutely like the real thing.

Anatomy is everything if you want to be a dancer. Suzy Cleator has Anatomy and so 'Jane, a Clerk' moved in several directions at once, all to great effect. Everybody loved you anyway, 'cos you won the Golden Stethoscope and the same everybody "Nose" your boyfriend Seaman Grinner was played beautifully Bright and Excited by James Calvert.

Rachel Lunney was a wow as Dead Trite. Throw away the stick Rachel, give us a turn and make us laugh. You certainly brought tears of laughter to my eyes and not just through the medium of Dead Trite, which is funny enough.

When Tingewick started, it was an all-male cast. So drag was the norm.. Now we have the amazing phenomenon of the women playing men, and for the life of me I can't

think of one word to describe that. Rachel Lunney dressed up in a bunny/hyena skin, but Naz Rahman's serpent skin did nothing to masculinise her. What a shame that would have been. Naz also choreographed the whole thing (must have been fun with Basoo), and her singing had us changing gear. As they say, "She sure struts her stuff."

I liked gentle Mrs Flashflood. I can imagine you doing that professionally, Susannah. If Bewell-Bo-Biggins needs a locum, Ian Pope's the man. The patients will never tell the difference.

No Tingewick would never be complete without King Wherewithall, the grand, round Orang-Utan (I am enjoying writing this!) Brian Murray did his best with this daunting part. The accent Brian: do you come from Watford? Andrew Kelion, as Dim Vitro, did an excellent impersonation of Rowan Atkinson. Well done, Andy!

I savoured the vultures. Beth Harrison was amazingly recognisable, Rob Buttery had a super voice, and I shall always stand two steps away from Liesl Eldridge and Rob Haddon.

Rita was as always her demure, delectable self. Once more in the pink (both front and back. Give up the curry, Rob (says Jason)).

As the clinical School, we should applaud the whole cast, the Orchestra, the Stage Management, and everyone involved, for a wonderful Tingewick in its 50th year. 2039 will be the 100th Anniversary. Wish I could be there.....