



Adelaide Theatre Guide

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FLAT SPIN

Daw Park Players

SPF Hall, Repatriation Hospital

Until 17 Apr 2010

Review by Brian Godfrey

Comedy is one of the hardest things to perform, especially when it relies on the correct delivery of intentionally bad puns and slapstick physicality - but under the direction of Robert Reid, Daw Park Players succeed very well with their production of Derek S. Royle's "Flat Spin".

Reid wisely keeps the piece firmly embedded in its 1961 origins, with suitable costuming from Violet Rowe, props supplied by Barbara Matsen and Clarke Staker and a great looking set realised by Clarke Staker and Dean Vice. All these elements combined with appropriate directing and acting styles give the impression that one is watching one of the early black and white Ealing Film classics, but in glorious technicolor.

The ensemble cast (Alexandra Gajewska, Joey Fatah, Marlon Dance-Hooi, Terry Crowe, Claire Sara, Pat Vice, Heather Crawford, John Matsen, Tim Taylor, Clarke Staker and Bryne Nickolls) work extremely well together and individually.

However, young Tony Curtis look-a-like Fatah wins the audience over with his cheekiness, while Heather Crawford catches the eye as a Joan Sims style inept photographer's assistant. But the stand-out comedy moment of the evening must go to Crowe (Mr. Drake) and Taylor (as Italian film director, Dino Giovanni) - their 'photographia' scene is absolutely hilarious.

Narration by Reid is an unusual but nice touch. But it is a puzzlement why some very easily achieved 'live' sounds are pre-recorded - the kettle dropping sounded like glass breaking.

All in all, this 'spin' is flat out good, old-fashioned, fun entertainment.