

Loddon Players

Inspector Drake & the Perfekt Crime

Directed by Matthew J Stanley

David Tristram's "Inspector Drake" plays have a reputation for comedy that needs a comedy team able to keep straight faces within the "madness" of a very funny script. Mistaken identity, double entendres and a barrage of cheap jokes fill the play.

Key to the plot are *Inspector Drake* played to perfection by Gary Comerford. His physical comedy was a joy to behold but would have been for nought without an exceptional foil in Danny Spurrier's *Sergeant Plod*. Together, the inspector and his sidekick sergeant create a team of towering incompetence wreaking havoc on an unsuspecting audience, the props, fellow cast members and, on occasion, each other.

This dimly matched pair were joined by the cunning "*Dr Short*" artfully played by the urbane Peter Francis. He managed to parry all *Drake's* attempts at a sane resolution. There was good support from Jane Torr with Monica Konitzer and Denise Hobbs as the two *Miss Shorts*.

Mention must be made of the set, artfully splitting the action and stage crew whose labours helped make this production the success that it was. Congratulations to all.

Nick Williams

NODA (National Operatic and Dramatic Association)