

QUARTET
2003

RICHMOND DRAMA AWARDS

Reviewing past glories

ISPENT a most enjoyable afternoon at the performance of Ronald Harwood's play *Quartet* presented by a veteran cast of Teddington Theatre Club actors in the Coward Room of the Hampton Hill Playhouse.

All the players were most accomplished in their roles of retired opera singers living out their lives in a retirement home for elderly musicians.

The play exactly conveyed the atmosphere of places where retired professionals spend their time reminiscing about their past glories.

Richard Matthiae was impressive as the rather aristocratic Reginald Paget who dreads the thought that his wife of an extremely brief marriage is about to arrive in the home. He brought out all the nervousness of the character in his gestures and inflections extremely well.

When she does arrive,

Jean Horton played by Jackie Barrett does not scare him as much as he feared. The chemistry between the two actors was very well conveyed.

In the other two roles of this four-hander were Michael J Smith as Wilfred Bond and Jean Keay as Cecily Robson.

Michael was in excellent form as the supposedly lecherous old star and was witty, very licentious and yet charming.

Jean Keay, whom he had always fancied, gave an excellent study of a somewhat dotty old lady, who in her hey-day had often gone for a bit of rough but now is prone to senior moments.

The direction of Moira Edwards - like the lighting and scene changes - was very well done. My only criticism would be that on the penultimate performance of the run, there were a number of prompts. **George Hillier**