

MY MOTHER
SAID I
NEVER
SHOULD

2002

TEDDINGTON THEATRE CLUB

Female relationships



Teddington Theatre Club in rehearsal

THE relationship of mother and daughter is one not often explored in dramatic terms.

This fascinating play, *My Mother Said I Never Should* being presented by Teddington Theatre Club examines the complex and often difficult relationships of four women, mothers and daughters, through the generations. As times have changed, so have their expectations and the demands placed on them.

At 87, Doris can look back on a life devoted to her home and family. Maybe if she'd had the chance she could have ended her days with a sense of greater achievement.

Her daughter, Margaret, combined a demanding job with bringing up a family, and Jackie, her grand-daughter, opted for artistic and business success.

Sixteen-year-old great-granddaughter, Rosie, has her life ahead of her but must still come to terms with her unorthodox upbringing.

This fascinating and insightful play is directed by Barry Hill, who won a Cygnet award for his studio production of Dennis Potter's *Blue Remembered Hills* in May. It features real-life mother and daughter Sue and Jo Viney playing mother Margaret and daughter Jackie repeating a very successful similar double-act in *Amy's View* last year.

Completing the cast is Val Wilding as Doris, last seen at TTC in *Night of the Iguana* and new and talented member Lucy Savage who plays the youngest daughter, Rosie.

My Mother Said I Never Should runs at the Hampton Hill Playhouse, 90 High Street, Hampton Hill from Sat Feb 2nd to Saturday February 9th. See listing.

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RICHMOND DRAMA AWARDS

Thought-provoking

PERHAPS Charlotte Keatley had Philip Larkin's much-quoted poem in mind when she wrote *My Mother Said I Never Should* which was staged by Teddington Theatre Club at the Hampton Hill Playhouse.

This thought-provoking play is demanding of the players and also calls for strong audience commitment.

It follows, sometimes using flashback, the lives and relationships of four generations of mothers and daughters in the same family, each an only child.

Each mother tries to do her best for her child according to the customs and mores of the time, in the period between 1940 and 1987, but this often results in

child as her own, releasing her daughter Jackie, played with conviction by her own daughter, Jo Viney, to achieve her ambition of a career and independence. This is a factor in the painful break-up of Margaret's own marriage.

The child, Rosie, inherits her mother's artistic talent and rebellious streak, but after her grandmother's death and aged 15 achieves a happy relationship with her widowed great-grandmother Doris. Their mutual affection served to bridge the 72 years age gap between them. Bitterness disappears and peace and harmony reign.

The part of Doris was played with stoicism and understanding by Val



In rehearsal for *My Mother Said I Never Should*.

frustration and anger on the part of the mother and resentment and bitterness on the part of the child.

The grandmother, Margaret, is the pivotal character. She was played with great sensitivity and skill by Sue Viney. Her relationship with her gifted but rebellious daughter is a difficult one.

When a grand-daughter is born out of wedlock she undertakes to bring up the

Wilding. Lucy Savage's diction was very clear as the boisterous Rosie.

The set was attractive and designed to allow fluid changes in time and place. Costumes were well in period but did not always flatter the actors, and some body make-up would not have gone amiss.

Congratulations to the cast for a splendid ensemble performance of a difficult play.

JM