

THE
ANTE-ROOM
-1995

INTERIOR
DESIGNS
-1995

RICHMOND DRAMA AWARDS

A smattering of Sartre

THERE was a hint of the Jean Paul Sartre's in *The Ante-Room*, written and directed for Teddington Theatre Club by Joan Scarrott as part of a double bill at Hampton Court Theatre last week. But in case you come across a future production of the play, I won't give the plot away.

Sarah, a clearly distraught receptionist of sorts (Win Couchman) is impatient with a man who arrives at her desk. He doesn't know where he is, or why, and has to consult the tailor's label on his suit to find out who he is.

Edward Jeffroy gives this character a bluff credibility as he gradually learns the purpose of his visit to this particular limbo.

As Opal the tea lady, Doris Winborrow lends an air of normality and humour to the mysterious circumstances and Rita Smidman as the white-coated Anna, who is also not quite what she seems, has all the confidence of a professional, but what?

All is finally revealed and its author gives the puzzle quite a neat twist at the end.

Second play of the evening directed by Martin Thomas, was Jimmie Chinn's entertaining comedy, *Interior Designs*, one of his many short plays so immensely popular with amdram groups.

Minimal props of three chairs, a stepladder and a paintbrush were employed for this production to suggest the separate domestic settings of three women whose existences are enlivened by an amoral, obliging handyman, Him.

Mike Waters brought the right degree of insouciance to the man with a penchant for Primrose Blush paint, who loves 'em and leaves 'em.

As the ladies in need of something more than a spot of home improvements to brighten their lives, who did their best to pin down the elusive odd job man, Laurie Coombs as deserted wife and mother of two, Amy; Jenny Laughlin as Holly, the glamorous TV newsreader and Catherine Early as timorous teacher Irene, made the most of the comedy potential and rounded out their characters convincingly.

Jenny Scott