

BOUNCERS

1990

TEDDINGTON THEATRE CLUB

Anonymous cast

JUDGING by its heavy graphics and tight layout, the eight-page programme for Richard Eliot's production of **Bouncers** at Hampton Court Theatre last week was a product of desk-top publishing.

Crammed with information, its twenty detailed CVs were a useful reminder that even for a 90-minute four hander it needs four times that many backstage helpers to get the show on the road; and that's without crediting box office, admin, car park, bar staff, and all those other unsung heroes who keep Teddington Theatre Club ticking over.

And yet the programme, making no acknowledgement of the Richmond Festival under whose publicity banner this production sailed, had to be twice 'slipped' with additional information. More surprisingly, the cast list managed not to mention the names of the actors, only the umpteen roles they played.

John Godber's comedy, set to a throbbing disco beat with moments of slow strobe lighting, is not for the squeamish. Its quartet of pleasure-hating hard men in black bow ties literally get their kicks from a bit of GBH at the expense of oafish punters tanked up on beer, or snatching up white PVC handbags - offer sneering portraits of the Top Shop set.

A fine TTC cast, brilliantly served by Pete Foxley's lighting and sound by Paul Greenhalgh, kept the laughs as well as the adrenalin flowing, but occasionally allowed their familiarity with friends in the front row to undermine the intended savagery.

For the record, I sussed out that Chris Ivey was the one with the cropped hair and glittering eye, Karim Peermohamed doubled as the sleazy DJ, fair-haired David Brickwood had mastered the art of snapping on a deadpan glare, while the smaller more compassionate bouncer was played by Alan Jamieson.

John Thaxter