



13th - 23rd July 1994

7.30pm

Run for your Wife

by Ray Cooney

Directed by Denzil Pugh



Hilarious fast-moving comedy



RUN FOR YOUR WIFE

by Ray Cooney
Director: Denzil Pugh
Lighting Designer: Steve Goodyear

CAST

MARY SMITH Marlene Penn
BARBARA SMITH Liz Compton
JOHN SMITH Emmanuel Toutsoungi
DETECTIVE SERGEANT TROUGHTON Trevor Murliey
STANLEY GARDNER John Fenner
NEWSPAPER REPORTER John Wehner
DETECTIVE SERGEANT PORTERHOUSE Doug Watson
BOBBY FRANKLYN Jason Harris

THE SETTING

The action takes place in the Wimbledon flat of John and Mary Smith and, simultaneously, in the Streatham flat of John and Barbara Smith.

ACT 1 - One sunny summer morning.
ACT 11 - Immediately following.
TIME - The present.

THERE WILL BE AN INTERVAL BETWEEN ACT 1 AND ACT 11

PRODUCTION STAFF

STAGE MANAGER Jack Lawrence
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER Pat Huckvale
WARDROBE MISTRESS Mary MacDonald
WARDROBE Margaret Shepherd
PROPERTY MISTRESSES Tricia Spelman, Elspeth Dalos
PROPERTIES Tricia Spelman
LIGHTING & SOUND OPERATORS Pete Bartley, Ben Ashmore, Steve Goodyear, Richard Corfield
SET CONSTRUCTION Loft Construction Team
THEATRE TECHNICIAN C Moore
PHOTOGRAPHS Christopher Bradbury
PROGRAMME COVER & POSTER DESIGN Gus MacDonald and Tim Meacock



LINES CROSSED: Liz Compton and John Fenner Picture: RICHARD HELMES

Taxi ride is full of twists

FIN FOR YOUR WIFE - Loft Theatre, Leamington, until July 23. Running Time: 2hrs.

WHAT have you got if you take a London cabbie who has two wives, two homes, two police forces on his trail and two sunny neighbours? The answer is a very funny, slick farce.

The Loft Theatre's production of *Run For Your Wife*, is as frustrating, complex and confusing as any good farce should be.

An eight-strong cast move with lightning speed as the lion told by taxi driver John Smith, played by Emmanuel Toutsoungi, get more inventive and ludicrous.

Mr Smith is desperate that his wives, played by Marlene Penn and Liz Compton, who live 47 minutes away by taxi, do not find out about each other.

As the show progressed members of the audience were sitting on the edge of their seats almost begging Mr Smith to confide.

The plot has more twists and turns than a roller coaster ride and builds to a chaotic climax.

Samantha Brankin

FIRST NIGHT verdicts

Plenty of laughs

A classic end-of-season romp had the somewhat overheated audience at the Loft giggling in the aisles.

Run for your Wife, an unabashed Whitehall farce entirely free of political correctness, flowed enthusiastically in a stylish performance marred only by a few memory lapses.

Strong individual performances from bigamist John Smith (Emmanuel Toutsoungi) and his wives (Marlene Penn and Liz Compton) were weakened by an absence of convincing affection, leaving me wondering whether the harried husband would rather be running from his wives.

John Fenner delighted as next-door-neighbour Stanley Gardner, while Jason Harris, camped up to the

eyeballs, carried off a tricky part.

The Loft Theatre's notoriously inventive stage design team was not stretched by the single set which simultaneously represented two London flats.

This theatrical trick worked perfectly in all but one instance, when a character appeared to be able to see two people in different areas of the city!

Slick repurée, so vital in successful farce, seldom deserted the cast and the action rarely slowed below a crackling pace.

From the master of farce Ray Cooney, this play is a great night out.

Rebecca Milham

Loft goes back to basic humour

Run For Your Wife by Ray Cooney

Runs at the Loft Theatre until Saturday July 23

FOLLOWING a series of extremely adventurous productions, the Loft Theatre has gone back to basics with its latest venture, Ray Cooney's classic farce, *Run For Your Wife*.

This tale of South London taxi driver John Smith, his two wives, his two flats, his two 'neighbours from upstairs', and two less than gifted members of Her Majesty's Police Force is guaranteed to raise a laugh or three, as the hapless Mr Smith's increasingly desperate attempts to conceal his guilty secret lead to the inevitable chaos and confusion.

However, despite good performances from Emmanuel Toutsoungi as the conniving cabbie, Marlene Penn and Liz Compton as his wives, John Fenner as his out-of-work but ever resourceful neighbour Stanley, and Jason Harris as the outrageously camp Bobby, the opening night fell a little flat.

Plays such as this have to be slick to succeed, and although the wheels didn't quite come off, they certainly needed a little oiling. There were a couple of prompts, a few missed lines, and a hint of self-consciousness in some of the exchanges, both verbal and physical.

Still, with over a week of the run yet to come, there's time to put things right. Which is more than can be said for John Smith and his entourage! — Phil Appleby.

Tickets are available from the box office. Call 426341 for details.



Emmanuel Toutsoungi, Marlene Penn, John Fenner and Trevor Murliey in a scene from *Run For Your Wife*. 1296

