

Theatre & Arts Centre

Talisman

Monday 20th - Saturday 25th April at 7.30 p.m.

Terence Rattigan's

Separate Tables

The 'regulars' and the 'casuals' sit at the tables in the dining-room of the Beauregard Hotel in Bournemouth, the setting for one of Rattigan's best-known and best-loved plays.

Directed by Sue Teers

TALISMAN THEATRE & ARTS CENTRE, BARROW ROAD, KENILWORTH, WARWICKSHIRE
 Box Office: Kenilworth 856548 - Mon to Fri 7.00 to 8.00 p.m.
 week prior to show and show week,
 or telephone Kenilworth 857718 - most evenings.

Founded October, 1942
 Monday, 20th to Saturday, 25th April, 1998 at 7.30 p.m.

Talisman Theatre Company
 presents

Separate Tables

by Terence Rattigan

Cast:-

Mabel	Cynthia Anderson
Lady Matheson	Judy Murdoch
Mrs. Railton-Bell	Ann Brooks
Miss Meacham	Chris Rowe Margaret Brayshaw
Doreen	Maureen Jones
Mr. Fowler	John Fenner
Mrs. Shankland/Miss Railton-Bell	Pam Gresty
Miss Cooper	Lorna Spenser
Mr. Malcolm/Major Pollock	Jim Baker
Mr. Stratton	Phil Harrison
Miss Tanner/Mrs. Stratton	Kate O'Hare
Casuals	Louise Robertson, Bryan Ferriman

The action takes place at the Beauregard Private Hotel, Bournemouth

Table by the window	Table Number Seven
December, 1954	June, 1956
Scene 1: Dinner Time	Scene 1: After Tea
Scene 2: After Dinner	Scene 2: Dinner Time
Scene 3: The following morning	

There will be one interval of 15 minutes.

Director	John Entwistle Sue Teers
Designer	Bob Teers
Stage Manager	Ian Roberts
Lighting Design	Chris Hobson
Sound	Dik Thacker
Wardrobe	Margaret Kentisbeer
Properties	Audrey Jacques and Yvonne Shillington
Assistant Stage Manager	Joy Oliver

Quality acting in hard-going play

Separate Tables, The Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth

TERENCE Rattigan's Separate Tables is a challenging and often hard-going play which questions social constraints, eccentricities and acceptable behaviour.

The Talisman is never afraid to tackle a difficult play and it was obvious the actors enjoyed sinking their teeth into the demanding roles.

But sadly the theatre appeared to be less than half full.

A highly talented cast which included Pam Gesty, who played the vain manipulating Mrs Shankland and later the dominated and hysterical Miss Railton-Bell, Jim Baker in his roles as alcoholic journalist Mr Malcolm and the compulsive liar Major Pollock deserve praise, as does Lorna Spenser as the kind hearted hotelier Miss Cooper.

But each of the 11 strong team should be commended on the high quality of their acting and excellent portrayals of the hotel's odd birds.

And praise should also be given to set and costumes designers.

An evening of light entertainment it is not but the many moral musings and quirky characters make it reasonably enjoyable.

Vicki Gumbley

SEPARATE TABLES - Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth, until Saturday, Running time: 2hr 45min.

AN ALCOHOLIC journalist meets a face from the past at a seaside hotel in the 1950s in this play by Terence Rattigan.

Jim Baker is superb in the role of John Malcolm as he relives old tensions with his ex-wife, played by Pam Gresty.

The action largely takes place in the dining room of the Beauregard Private

Dramatic fare is too drawn out

Hotel in Bournemouth, with each of the resident guests having a distinct and comical character.

From the eccentric Miss Meacham to the shrill and

dominating Mrs Railton-Bell, they are all in their own little world and this becomes clear when the plot moves on two years, to 1956.

Nothing has changed but the journalist is replaced by a fraudulent major and, as they argue what to do about him, the personalities of the characters come to the fore.

The acting is good but the pace can be a little slow in places, turning the show into something of a marathon.

Antony Hopker

What Rattigan rates as a master storyteller

Separate Tables, Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth, until tomorrow (Saturday) at 7.30pm.

DRAGONS, wall flowers, retired majors and a failed politician were among the wide array of characters assembled at a hotel in Bournemouth.



Jim Baker gets to grips with Pam Gresty in the Talisman Theatre's production of Separate Tables by Terence Rattigan.

Under Sue Teers' direction the seedier side of relationships was explored against a backdrop of a manners and snobbery. Drug and alcohol addiction and sexual frustration could all be found among the guests.

The acting was strong especially by Pam Gresty and Jim Baker who gave moving portrayals in the title roles and Ann Brooks was sternly forbidding as the monstrous Mrs Railton-Bell. Linking character Miss Cooper, played by Lorna Spenser, gave a touching performance as the hotel landlady who sorts out her guests' problems while getting no help with her own.

However the dedication given to exploring the characters' failings dragged the play into something of a marathon.

The pace lagged a little in places and could have been speeded up somewhat.

Great pains had been taken with the set. The stage had been pushed back and extended forwards to fit in a marvellous dining room and a lounge so all the action could take place in one area.

Terence Rattigan's plays are back in fashion and it is easy to see why.

A drama based round complex human failings always makes a good play. - Sarah Portlock

