

Theatre & Arts Centre
Talisman
 Monday 17th - Saturday 22nd May at 7.30 p.m.
 Noël Coward's
RELATIVE VALUES
 We are in the library of Marshwood House, East Kent, during early July 1951 where Felicity, Countess of Marshwood, is awaiting the arrival of her son, Nigel, and his fiancée, the film star Miranda Frayle.
 Directed by Sue Teers

TALISMAN THEATRE & ARTS CENTRE, BARROW ROAD, KENILWORTH, WARWICKSHIRE
 Box Office: Kenilworth 855548 - Mon to Fri 7.00 to 8.00 p.m.
 week prior to show and show week,
 or telephone Kenilworth 513008 - most evenings.

Founded October, 1942
 Monday, 17th to Saturday, 22nd May, 1999 at 7.30 p.m.
 556th Production
Talisman Theatre Company
 presents
RELATIVE VALUES
 by Noël Coward
 Directed by Sue Teers
 Designer Bob Teers

Cast:-
 Crestwell Sandy Robertson
 Alice Judy Ferguson
 Moxie Audrie Lawson
 Felicity Judy Murdoch
 Cynthia Joan Jury
 Peter Mike Skinner
 Admiral John Fenner
 Nigel Neil Monro-Davies
 Miranda Marlene Penn
 Don Mick Ives

The action takes place in the family living-room of Marshwood House, East Kent, during early July, 1951.

Act I Scene 1 Saturday afternoon
 Scene 2 Two hours later
 Scene 3 Before dinner

Act II Scene 1 After dinner
 Scene 2 The following morning

There will be one Interval of 15 minutes.

Stage Manager Neil Roberts
 Assistant Stage Manager Glenys Gogely
 Lighting Designer Chris Hobson
 Sound Dick Thacker
 Wardrobe Penny Holloway
 Properties Ann Richards and Louise Robertson

Set construction by Bob Teers, assisted by Colin Mountjoy, Roy Appleyard, Richard Crump, David Draper, John Ellam, Jo Ely, Paul Haigh, Chris Heron, Des McCann, Stuart Morris, Richard Orr, Mike Santos, Clive Taylor and Simon Walmsley.
 Artistic assistance from Trevor Thomas and John Ellam.
 Production photographs by Zoe Jelley

The Talisman Theatre would like to thank: Tim and Paul of Heaphys of Warwick for menswear. Also Margaret Preston, Westmeade Furnishers, Warwick; The Table Place, Kenilworth and the Loft Theatre for furniture.
 Special thanks to Karl Esterhazy, butler at Coughton Court, Alcester, for his help with this production.



MANNED COMEDY: Marlene Penn and Neil Monro-Davies

Strong cast gets the measure of manners

RELATIVE VALUES - Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth, until Saturday. Running time 2hr 30 min.
 THE lawn is full of autograph-hunting girl guides, the lady's maid is sniffing in the drawing room and even the admiral feels distinctly put out.
 Only Crestwell the butler, played by Sandy Robertson with the consummate ease of one to the manor born, is able to rise to the occasion in this 1950s Noël Coward comedy of social manners.
 Hollywood actress Miranda Frayle (Marlene Penn) is

being brought home to the family seat of the Earl of Marshwood (Neil Monro-Davies) and there are wedding bells in the air. But is Marshwood House ready for a new mistress of dubious background? Are the servants?
 Noël Coward's complicated sentences have to be spoken with rhythmic precision to catch the full humour of the nuances Judy Murdoch, as the earl's mother, and Sandy Robertson are outstanding in this strong cast.
Barbara Goulden

Fine performance as laughs abound

Relative Values, The Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth
SKELETONS falling dramatically from their closets, intricate webs of deception weaved to save face and well delivered one-liners help make The Talisman's latest performance a treat to view.
 The plummy accents of the upper crust were faultless - helped no doubt by Kenilworth breeding! - and an

impressively plush set with careful attention to the finer details set the scene.
 Judy Murdoch's Felicity was superb and the words of wisdom from Coughton Court butler Karl Esterhazy proved invaluable and helped Sandy Robertson steal the limelight.
 Compliments also to Audrie Lawson as the passionate Moxie and Mike Skinner as the plain talking Peter. A well-rounded and hilarious performance under the expert direction of Sue Teers.
 The play runs until Saturday. Call the box office on 01926 855548.
Vicki Gumbley

Not quite The Master's touch

Relative Values, by Noël Coward, Talisman, until tomorrow (Saturday). THE butler lessons paid off.
 Sandy Robertson was so determined to play Crestwell the butler convincingly he took lessons from a real professional.
 And it worked, the end product being the most lovable but arrogant butler Noel Coward could have wished for.
 Unfortunately he was not quite enough to hold the play together.
 It was difficult to tell whether the actors really understood the play, or the play itself was uninspiring, but it did not really come together in the way Talisman productions usually do.
 However, Judy Murdoch, despite a few first night stumblings, gave a wonderful performance as Felicity.

She made the most of her one-liners and had the audience laughing throughout.
 But at times the play did not flow, with actors not seeming to connect all the time.
 Mike Skinner appeared exceptionally at ease with his role as Peter, as did Mick Ives as Don the American, but other characters at times appeared to be talking at each other rather than with each other.
Relative Values ends with Felicity's comment that nothing much had changed. It hadn't. Nothing much had happened at all.
 But at least there were some good laughs on the way. - Calista Duffield.
 Outlook rating ★★★

