



Founded October, 1942
Monday 23rd to Saturday 28th October at 7.30 p.m.

Talisman Theatre Company

presents

Filumena

by Eduardo de Filippo, adapted by Timberlake Wertenbaker

Cast:

Filumena , an ex-prostitute	Vicki Hollings
Domenico , a confectioner	John Fenner
Alfredo , an ex-jockey	Neil Vallance
Rosalia , a confidante	Lorna Spenser
Luigi , a caterer	Paul Sullivan
Carla , his assistant	Alice Bartishef
Diana , Domenico's mistress	Emily Morris
Lucia , the maid	Susanne Jackson-Mayne
Umberto , a student	Andrew Bayliss
Riccardo , a shop-owner	James Wolstenholme
Michele , a plumber	Gary Shapland
Nocella , a lawyer	Tim Willis
Teresina , a dressmaker	Kate Willis

Where: Domenico's house in Naples
When: 1937-38

The play is in two Acts. There will be one interval of twenty minutes.
The performance will finish at approximately 9.50pm.

Another belter from the Talisman

Filumena by Eduardo de Filippo, at the Talisman Theatre until tomorrow (Saturday). Box office: 856548.

FILUMENA tells the tale of the tempestuous relationship between resourceful former prostitute (Vicki Hollings in the title role) and her faithless lover of 20 years and wealthy confectioner Domenico (John Fenner).

It's billed as a comedy with a more serious undercurrent, and the Talisman's brisk, moving and morally intriguing rendition ticked both boxes in style on Monday night.

Sick of her master's philandering, the wily woman tricks Domenico into a deathbed marriage, prompting a strong start to this excellent Talisman rendition as Hollings' excellent Filumena makes a 'miraculous' recovery, ver-

bally shreds the flabbergasted Domenico in a hilarious domestic with plenty of low blows and terrifies Diana (Emily Morris), the young mistress who has been waiting for her to pop her clogs so she can jump into her place.

It's some start, full of pacy Italian temperament and dialogue, and all credit to the Kenilworth theatre that the level of accomplishment rarely drops from that point on. Hollings and Fenner were particularly strong in the lead roles, backed by a full complement of stylish supports. Lorna Spenser's Rosalia, Neil Vallance's knackered ex-jockey Alfredo and James Wolstenholme's caddish shop-owner Riccardo particularly well-realised.

Credit too for the a lush set worthy of Domenico's status, and a nod

to the Italian accent rather than a poor replication.

When Domenico turns to the law and has the union annulled, Filumena produces her trump card - three grown-up sons, one of whom is Domenico's. The thing is, Filumena won't tell which is which one it is - and she uses that leverage to maximum effect.

The comedic element was well-executed, but it was the continual switching of audience sympathy from Filumena, who at first appears a gold-digger to Domenico, far from without his own faults, and back which makes the piece absorbing - and the resolution genuinely moving. A complete change of gear from the frothy fun of *Dames at Sea*, but a second belter in a row from the Talisman.

Tom Sales 8/10

Plenty of laughs in perfectly cast comedy

Filumena
Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth.
Until Saturday.
Running time: 2hrs 15mins

A GOOD storyline blended with a strong cast, comedy moments and colourful scenery creates the perfect recipe for success for this Eduardo de Filippo play. Set in 1930s Naples, the

show centres on wealthy shopkeeper Domenico Soriano and former prostitute Filumena who have lived together as man and wife for a quarter of a century.

The opening scene provides laughs aplenty when Domenico realises Filumena has tricked him into marriage. The talented Vicki Hollings

plays the title role to perfection, with John Fenner giving an equally pleasing performance as Domenico.

Credit also to James Wolstenholme as Riccardo, Gary Shapland as Michele and Andrew Bayliss as Umberto.

Pure comedy performance from all of them. ★★★★★
Samantha Clarke



