

Theatre & Arts Centre Talisman

Are You Being Served?

By David Lloyd & Jeremy Croft

Friday 2 to Saturday 10 July

(No Performance on Sunday 4 July)

7.30pm

Tickets: £8.00 (Monday to Thursday) £8.50 (Friday and Saturday)
(Concessions Available)

Box Office: 01926 856548

Web: www.talismantheatre.co.uk

Barrow Road | Kenilworth | Warwickshire | CV8 1EG



Cast: (in order of appearance)

Mash	Colin Ritchie
Captain Peacock	John Fenner
Miss Brahm's	Ann Hannan
Mr Lucas	Ross Woodward
Mr Grainger	Nevil Malin
Mrs Slocombe	Jill Laurie
Mr Humphries	David Draper
Lady Customer	Maureen Jones
Nurse	Imogen Francis
Male Customer	Trev Clarke
Mr Grace	Geoff Barker-Mountford
Don Bernardo	Colin Ritchie
Conchita	Wendy McClay
Cesar	Trev Clarke
Taeresa	Maureen Jones

Crew:

Director	Wendy Anderson
Stage Manager	Clive Taylor
Lighting Design	Steve Roberts
Sound	Colin Thomas
Wardrobe	Mary Morgan and Vicki Hollings
Properties	Team led by Geoff Barker-Mountford
Set Design	Tim Eden
Continuity	Margaret Brayshaw

With thanks to:

Christopher Ward for the wigs.

All set builders, painters, scene shifter and the rest of the crew for all their hard work and time.

Scene shifters led by Rob Henderson.

Set builders and painters led by Tim Eden:
Malcolm Austin, David Charlton, David Draper,
Stephen Duckham, John Ellam, Alex Gowers, Chris Gunter, Peter
James, Stephan Leipa, Wendy McClay, Dominic McClay, Karen
Richardson, Liam Thomas-Burke, Colin Thomas, Rod Wilkinson.

Very well served by comic capers

Are You Being Served? The Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth. Until Saturday July 10.

THE stuffy second-half heat of the packed Talisman Theatre was enough alone to remind me of the time I worked in retail.

But the proceedings on stage really brought back memories of working in the sweltering basement of a department store in my teens.

The television sit-com *Are You Being Served?* was coming to an end of its 13-year run when I was born.

Judging by David Croft and Jeremy Lloyd's play you could find the same sort of characters in the women's and menswear sections back then as you could when I worked on the shop floor in the late 1990s.

This sense of nostalgia alone made the Talisman's knockabout production worth watching.

And with a bargain basement staff holiday, some union flag bloomers, a randy Spanish revolutionary fighter and a daft 'traditional' German dance thrown in

there was plenty going on.

While the gags were shamelessly dated and generally predictable they brought about both happy and wry smiles and a sufficient amount of laughter.

The cast performed well despite the paper thin script combined with a whimsical storyline. David Draper, as Mr Humphries, is undoubtedly a good sport and camped it up unflinchingly.

Jill Laurie's interpretation of Mrs Slocombe paid homage the late Molly Sugden and it was obvious

John Fenner's return to the Talisman as Captain Peacock was a welcome one for his fellow cast members.

With Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None* and Gordon Vallins interpretation of *The Canterbury Tales* to follow it is probably fair to say *Are You Being Served?* will not be the pick of the Talisman's productions this year.

But it was a good choice to boost the summer holiday feeling.

Oliver Williams

Verdict: Silly but fun.





