

BY SAM AND BELLA SPEWACK



MY THREE ANGELS

7th - 14th December

*A funny sweet and
splendid Christmas tale.*

Berkley Road South, Earlsdon, Coventry
Performances start at 7.30 pm
Box Office Direct: 024 7657 5175
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The Criterion is an amateur theatre company
This is a notice to members. Credit and Debit cards accepted
Produced in association with National Theatre Live

CRITERION
THEATRE
www.criteriontheatre.co.uk

Cast

Emilie Dulay: Annie Gay
Madame Parole: Chris Ingall
Marie Louise Dulay: Daisy Bloor
Alfred (4707): Jack Hawker
Jules (6817): Brian Emeney
Joseph (3011): Mark Wiszowaty
Gaston Lemare: John Fenner
Paul Cassagon: Callum Adey
Sub Lieutenant Espoir: Alex
Mushore
Felix Dulay: Pete Bagley

Crew

Director: Nicole Firth
Set Design: Martin Willis
Stage Manager: Olivia
Holmes
Props: Frances Dixon
Props: Sally Patalong
Costume: Maureen Liggins
Costume: Pam Coleman
Lighting: Ian Knight
Sound: Dave Cornish
Producer: Chris Firth

A rather charming, if slightly overlong play for Christmas at the Criterion Theatre and the first major directing production by Nicole Firth. The year is 1910, and the location a French penal colony in South America where three convicts are repairing the roof of the shop run, rather hopelessly, by Monsieur Felix Dulay (Pete Bagley). Despite the best efforts of his wife Emilie (Annie Gay), the books don't add up,

especially with grande dames like Madame Parole, played with great gusto by Christine Ingall, sweeping in and out demanding credit. Meanwhile pretty daughter Marie Louise (Daisy Bloor) swoons over the man of her dreams Paul (Callum Adey), who has apparently become engaged to someone else.

Then there's the men on the roof.: prisoner 3011 played by Mark Wiszowaty (still remembered for his role as Alan Turing in Breaking the Code), prisoner 6817 (Brian Emeney) and tall young prisoner 4707 (Jack Hawker).

"Don't worry," Felix assures his wife. "None of them are burglars...they're all murderers."

And indeed all is sweetness and light, until we meet the domineering Gaston, played with relish by John Fenner, who wants to see the shop's hapless books, bully his nephew and break a young girl's heart.

At Monday night's performance an obliging late butterfly added extra atmosphere by fluttering around the tropical and rather lovely set.

Apparently the same insect also made its debut appearance on Saturday night.

Although what didn't happen on Saturday was the gentle collapse of Marie Louise's French bloomers. I have to hand it to Daisy Bloor....the way she casually picked them up and carried on speaking was the mark of a true professional. People in the back rows probably didn't even notice.

A darkly funny Christmas ensemble that could have done with a little editing - but showed the best side of the Criterion stage-makers and its performers. **Barbara Goulden**



