

# Stellar cast transcends clichéd elements of this farce

**SHOW:** PERFECT WEDDING

**CAST:** ALAN COMMITTIE, ROBERT FRIDJHON, JENNY STEAD, JO GALLOWAY, LYNITA CROFFORD, ALEX HALLIGEY

**VENUE:** AT THEATRE ON THE BAY UNTIL APRIL 9

**REVIEW:** PETER TROMP

There are certain things that one has to accept as being institutional in the theatre. Farces happen to be one of those things. They're not everyone's cup of tea, not even perhaps the Rolls Royce of farces, 'Noises Off'.

Not everyone is into the slamming of doors and the constant replaying of identities being mistaken that are the chief signifiers. Yet farces continue to pack houses; I imagine for exactly being traditional. Times of uncertainty make people cling even tighter to things that make them feel comfortable and has nostalgic value.

I guess at this point it is evident that I'm not the biggest fan of farces. All of this being said, 'Perfect Wedding' is the kind of farce I can live with.

This is thanks predominantly to a truly wonderful cast elevating some pretty pro forma material way beyond its station. The play's setup itself has been replayed so many times already that it is almost a pop cultural cliché: groom (here Robert Fridjhon) wakes up in bed with a strange woman after overindulging on his stag night. (Surely stag parties are only still celebrated for their ironic value.)

Of course Bill, the groom, can't remember anything of what happened,



Robert Fridjhon, Alan Committie and Jo Galloway in 'Perfect Wedding'

and before you know it, his straight as an arrow best man Tom (Alan Committie) shows up, as well as the chambermaid (obligatory for this fare, and here played by the marvellous Jo Galloway) to complicate matters even further, even as they try and help him. And then the regular hijinks ensue.

Fridjhon and Committie have appeared together before and they have undeniable comedic chemistry. The way they appear to delight in one another's mischievous personas and even try on occasion to get one another to corpse makes for a delightfully humorous night out.

They are both versatile and talented performers and this material is very much beneath them. Professionals that they are, they nonetheless give it their all and their combined presence will make many an audience very happy indeed.

It is no secret that Committie is

an almost obsessive student of comedy and whenever he is on stage, he channels so many influences that you are essentially getting more than one performer. It has been a delight to see him grow not only as a comedian, but as an actor and entertainer of the highest calibre over the years.

The rest of the cast is every bit as good, with particularly Galloway holding her own against these titans in the comedic department. Jenny Stead as Judy, the girl that Bill wakes up with, reminds one of what a fantastic performer she is, adding a real touch of traditional theatrical class to the production. Stead hasn't performed much over the last number of years, but hopefully 'Perfect Wedding' will mark her permanent return to the local stage. She has been missed.

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