

Prompt 'should have been listed in cast'

SO many lines were delivered by the prompt during Appleby-Frodingham's performance of *Roots and Wings*, that she should have been listed as a cast member.

One had the impression at the interval that the cast was backstage learning the lines for the rest of the show.

The constantly fluffed lines, names mixed up,

and awkward pauses meant the timing of the comedy was never there, and the under-rehearsed actors did not come close to fully realising their parts.

Colin Hilton was on the right lines as Griff, a manly father who discovered his son was gay and a drag queen, but he underplays the rage and confusion.

More realism would

mean more laughs, as the absurdity of the situation would come across more strongly.

The play itself, despite the odd pithy comic line such as when Griff says: "I should have taken him to more football matches", is a heavy-handed, overly-wordy, rather preachy piece about the guilt and self-blame of parents in this situation.

Perhaps it was chosen because there are only three scenes and that makes for an easy ride for the group, but it makes for dull, static theatre which fails to exploit the immense possibilities of the theatrical space.

The play is slightly deemed by structural cleverness such as having acts one and two run simultaneously and act three having two couples talking on stage at once.

Roots and Wings is at the Plowright Theatre until Saturday.

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