

This week's theatre reviews

May 8 2003

Salad Days, Shinfield Players Theatre

Originally written in 1954 by Julian Slade and Dorothy Reynolds with the object of filling a three-week slot in the programme of the Bristol Old Vic, this show went on to become a smash hit in the West End for over five years. And after all these years this quintessential English musical, packed full of good tunes and plenty of dancing, still has a great deal of charm.

The piece is based around Timothy and Jane who, after graduating from University and marrying, meet a tramp in the park who asks them to look after his fabulous magic piano for a month while he goes on holiday.

Particularly entertaining in this production were the beauty parlour scene, the policemen, the night club scene, the dress shop, the flying saucer scene with its excellent lighting effects --all adding up to a highly entertaining show.

With a hard working cast and super musical accompaniment from Anton Gwilt and his merry men, a packed house showed their warm appreciation.

Barry Theobald deserves congratulations for taking on this slot at such short notice with great success. Well done.