



Having spent an enjoyable and educational morning at the March Monthly Meeting, and then a very pleasant lunch with other U3A members, it was time for the matinee performance of *Little Voice* at the Dukes.

In truth, I was not at all sure whether I was wasting my time and money. I'd seen the film with the all-star cast of Jane Horrocks, Michael Caine, Brenda Blethyn and Ewan McGregor. Could a play at the Dukes even begin to capture the spirit of Jim Cartwright's vision?

To my considerable surprise, and pleasure, the answer turned out to be a resounding YES!!

Only minutes into the performance, the cast had captured the audience, and held it in a tight grip throughout.

Eithne Browne gave such a high energy performance as the drunken, loud-mouthed, man-mad Mari, that I for one wondered how on earth she could keep it up. And Keiran Flynn, playing sleazy talent scout, Ray Say was superbly creepy. Rebecca Hutchinson as the eponymous Little Voice was amazing, running through the different voices of her idols live before our eyes!

The hyper-active Mari and Ray were well balanced by the minor characters - the almost mute, long-suffering Sadie (Sue McCormick) and Mitesh Soni as the quiet dreamer, Billy - the very determined suitor of Little Voice. The cast

was rounded off by Peter Rylands as Mr Boo, the nightclub owner, with jokes so bad that the only person laughing was himself.

I left the theatre knowing that I had seen a great performance which will stay in my mind for a long time. Not bad for a Tuesday afternoon!

*Tina Harrup*