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COMMUNITY

Tried & Tested

TRIED THE BLT?



Photos: Robert Pivko Photography (robertpivko.co.uk)

by TANIA TODD

We went along to Bromley Little Theatre to watch Nigel Slater's Toast. Here's what we thought...

It's increasingly rare to be gripped by a play as the years go on, but I was utterly drawn in from the outset by the captivating acting of Alfie Gosling in the December production of Nigel Slater's Toast, at Bromley Little Theatre.

Here was the most idyllic nuclear family - with the mother we have always wanted - and wanted to be - and the brilliant relationship she shares with her son; inspiring, loving and fun (with plenty of recipes to mull over, to boot). The brilliant Alfie Gosling had full command of the stage, using every inch in wonderfully animated flair, speaking to the audience at the fourth wall, and creating this character of Nigel Slater, that we couldn't help but fall just a little bit in love with.



The first half was a wonderful ride on a high of halcyon days, when family was everything, the characters full of fun, and the audience enjoyed plenty of

laughs - until the heartbreak set in; the acting twisting to a violently darker hue, and we were all both gripped, and aching, for our new friend.

Throughout the play, the supporting actors had the enjoyment of creating many excellent characters, all superbly performed. Particular highs were the fabulous mother, played delectably with humour, light - and that heart-breaking paleness by Abigail Moss - and the show's director, the excellent Roxana Graves as the terrifying all-commanding Home Economics teacher, Miss A.

A huge credit must also be given to the backstage crew (well done that arm!), to the set creators - and mostly, to the lighting department who could transport us to very different scenes and feelings, just by the flick of the beautiful coloured lighting effects. Superb.

And also to BLT, who created a special, Taste-Along box, which the audience could pre-order and, at certain cues throughout the play, normally an absolute no-no at any play, Barratts and Swizzles sweet wrappers (donated by both companies) were twisted noisily throughout the audience, giving us all a giggle.

So to the director, I can't say I have enjoyed a play more, a huge congratulations to you all, but most especially to Alfie Gosling, the star of the show - and the name to watch. For upcoming events at Bromley Little Theatre see bromleylittletheatre.org/whats-on