

## Review of A Murder Is Announced

I was honestly knocked off my feet watching this performance. A fantastic stage adaptation, performed at Howick Little Theatre, and directed by Matthew Cousins — my appreciations to him for putting on this play so well with his amazing cast and crew.

Throughout the production, there was never a moment of boredom, it was fast-moving conversation that kept everyone entertained. Even when things were starting to get a little too confusing, we'd have Mitzi barge in with some very upright comments that always left the audience laughing. Each character was so refined in the little details that portrayed their character, such as how sure of herself Miss Marple sounded, and the way Mrs Swettenham acted so motherly towards her son. Every time the actors left the stage for the set to be changed, I just wanted them to come back.

The set itself initially gave me an Emmerdale feel; homey furniture and plenty of seats. It all the more dramatises the mood when murder is brought down upon this serene home. I also enjoyed seeing how well the actors used their space on the stage; finding themselves a seat, and always remaining in character, even if they weren't the main speaker at the time.

Lighting and costume were both used very well to add character to the play. Spotlights highlighted a character's intentions, such as Mitzi's short soliloquy. While characters wore appropriate clothing and accessories that displayed their personality, and helped the audience to remember who they were.

My favourite part was how the murder was at its climax of being solved: Miss Marple in the room alone with the murderer who no one could have expected, delivering her facts and figures, and the murderer's manic response to being found guilty of the crime.

However, I definitely felt it worth the time to come to this play. It was truly a "winter warmer", some fantastic entertainment to distract us from the outside world as we are drawn into the plot of another fabulous Who Dunit!

By Calvin Chong,  
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