

BUT NOW I AM RETURNED.

By Erik Hutchinson.

This is a play which deals with a difficult subject and
in order to convince
an audience of its authenticity the actors must feel as well as
play their parts. This did not strike me as being so
the people playing Bryan Russell and Madge Harris. In fact
the performance of the latter made me wonder why the prisoner
of war had ever bothered to come home again, to so lifeless
and lukewarm a partner. She did not seem to care with which
of the two men she spent the rest of her life and by the end
of Act II neither did I.

Both Joan Pyle and Philip Allen are to be congratulated on holding the play together and bringing it to life. They both gave magnificent performances. The rest of the cast were good in the supporting roles.

mKB.

I liked the settings very much indeed.

Comments on Play.

I liked the play very much. In particular the real live-ness of several of the characters, particularly Nance, Miss Pickering & Arthur. The first two were beautifully true to life. I thought Arthur's part was perhaps a little exaggerated; he started to lose his temper too early in the play. I strongly object to the word "bugger" being used, it was quite unnecessary & I'm sure would offend a lot of people.

W H Glaisher

Alfred

Mr. Rose

"BUT NOW I AM RETURNED" By Erik Hutchinson.

A REVIEW

When this play was first announced I had a slight misgiving about it. To read that the author had something serious to say about an urgent modern problem set me wondering as to whether the result would be an obsession with the theme to the exclusion of an entertaining plot. Not that I object to serious discussion in a play (indeed, a piece without food for thought bores me almost to tears) but I demand of all plays that they should first entertain; the rest following as naturally as may be.

But I need not have doubted. This play did entertain; so much so that I felt it could have carried additional dialogue about some minor issues without strain. That is my only criticism of it. The characterisation was excellent. Between the perfect casting and clever writing, each part came instantly and spontaneously to life.

It was an easy play to watch. The situations were so well contrived, the production so smooth, ~~xxxx~~ that no calls were made either on our imagination or our credulity. An uncommon achievement!

It seems invidious to single out any for praise where all were so good but surely no-one will blame me for admiring Joan Pyle's performance beyond the rest. Then, too, the details were praiseworthy: Dr. Saunders' cardigan instead of a waistcoat, the crumpled state of Brian's tweeds etc. were all assets. On the other hand, Mr. Allsop's eyebrows were of a startling whiteness.

~~xxx together~~ Altogether, a memorable production calling for congratulations all round.

TELEPHONE:
PERIVALE 2230.

14.9.45.

"SWALLOWFIELD"

ST STEPHEN'S ROAD,
WEST EALING, W. 13.

Dear Sir.

I should like to say how very
much we all enjoyed the Play
last evening, & we do most
heartily congratulate all
concerned.

It was an excellent Play to
begin with & the acting of
all most natural & convincing.

Much credit is due of course
to the Producer who had been
able to get the true feeling
into the Players.

The "side bits" of Nancy & her
handling of the close of the scene
in last talk with Brian & Neddy

was a masterpiece.

We can hardly dare to criticize
for everyone was absolutely
splendid.

7 ours fairly free.
in - funning.

an ideal Doctor!! & Ansel
So natural that she just was
not there at all !!

conclusions of two non-acting members.

Play. Very interesting owing to its topicality, but one felt the author had not come into personal contact with returned P.O.W. Dreams + aspirations whilst at the Stalag, dissolve when the men come home. They are so thankful to be back, and on the whole seem prepared to accept England as it is. Granted they hope for progressive jobs + homes for all, but one need not be a P.O.W. to wish that.

The marriage problem. disagreed with the author.

① Brian could not have been in love with Madge or he would have offered marriage straight away.

②. Why make three people unhappy by allowing a marriage of suffering sooner or later it will break. Brian's temporary happiness ~~must~~ can only last whilst Madge hides her tolerance of him.

Selling of property. We are led to believe that the two P.O.W are great + loyal pals yet the loyalty is such that Brian is prepared to ~~take~~ sell at a very high

figure property not worth perhaps a
quarter of its value. To sell to a stranger
yes! But not to a supposed friend.
Again we do not agree with the author.

Production - Excellent

Cast. All very good. Arthur, making
sometimes not quite convincing
& Brian Russell inclined to be
boring.

Would have liked a little more
of Mrs Pickering.

Although Miss Barbara Hutchins is
a good actress would she please
speak a little louder. & drop
immediately the little simpering
habit ~~has~~ she has just adopted.

Nothing personal meant,

We enjoyed the play very
much in spite of above
criticism.