

Vintage Hitchcock, Connaught Theatre, Worthing

Monday 18th November 2013 in [The Critic By Barrie Jerram](#)

Conn Artists Theatre Company is a welcome addition to Worthing's theatre scene, backed by Worthing Theatres and Worthing Community Partnership. Ross Muir, known to many through his fine work at Highdown Gardens with Rainbow Shakespeare, directed and produced this, their first production. And what a debut it turned out to be.

The Connaught stage was converted into a US radio station where three plays, derived from classic Hitchcock films, were being broadcast. The studio was realistically recreated with a warm-up artist, fantastic sound effects and commercial jingles – the best being for a relaxing break at the Bates Motel. The evening was full of similar in-jokes.

Nicholas Richards, Joshua Crisp, Jack Kristiansen, Margo Henson and Laura Mason took on 60 roles for *The Lodger*, *Sabotage* and *The 39 Steps*. The first two were played with the tongue firmly in cheek, plenty of comedy and inventive sound effects. The latter was performed more seriously but no less enjoyably.

A nice touch was to have Michael Wooldridge on stage playing subtle organ music, including the Hitchcock theme and echoes of *Psycho*, to heighten the action. Based on this production, Worthing audiences can look forward with anticipation to future work from this excellent company.