

GUILD OF PLAYERS  
[1950s?]  
"THE RISING GENERATION"  
Impress Their Elders At Birchington

The older members of All Saints' Guild of Players, Birchington, will have to look to their laurels if they are not to be overshadowed by the "rising generation." On Friday and Saturday evenings, a comedy, "The Rising Generation," was presented at the Church House, Birchington, with a cast consisting mainly of the younger members of the Guild.

Written by Wyn Weaver and Laura Leycester, the Players interpreted this comedy, which is centred around the Entwhistle household most spiritedly, and as it was in all probability a play after the young artistes' own hearts, they enthusiastically tried to live the characters. Long and difficult lines were delivered with a clarity which reached the back of the hall, and the mistake of many inexperienced actors in turning their backs to the audience was rarely seen.

Shirley Miles, in the role of Winnie Entwhistle, possessed a confidence which placed the others at ease as soon as she stepped onto the stage, and Allan Johnson, as her brother, although over-stepping the mark in some respects, carried his part well. Allan Lewis deserves credit for the way he memorised his long part, and for his natural mannerisms in portraying the character of Walter Morrell, an undeveloped, brainy schoolboy.

The task of interpreting a girl who was never so happy as when she was unhappy was well carried out by Joan Letley and Annette Hart, although inclined to the melodramatic, convincingly played the "catty" Vane Harpenden. Basil Green, as the popular but shy George Breese, gave the impression of being more frightened than in love with the girl he wanted to marry, and Phyllis Bailey, in the difficult role of a woman twice her own age, was inclined to be restrained in word and movement.

For the older members of the Guild, William Sheppard, as the butler, and John Shaul as Mr. Entwhistle, were outstanding. Rosemary Samuel, as the quick-tempered cook, and "the late entrant," played her part cleverly and added considerably to the humour of the play. The brief appearances of Arthur Manistre as Felix Andrews, and Oswald Franklin as John Morrell, the suppressors of the "rising generation," were welcomed, and were notable for the gestures which underlined their words.

Mr. John Halford was the producer and off stage the Players were assisted by Francis Rolfe (secretary), Anne Eardley (stage manager), Joan Chetwynd (assistant stage manager), Margaret Higgins (property manager), William Sheppard (electrician), Eve Shaul (wardrobe mistress), and Lily Sheppard (prompter). The scenery was designed and built by William Sheppard and Oswald Franklin.