

Pick of the Day

Spirited showing

Will Ramsey reviews Blithe Spirit at Hull Truck Theatre

Curiosity gets the better of Charles Condomine. Eager to research a novel about a crooked clairvoyant, the author invites a medium, Madame Arcati, around to his house to conduct a seance.

Unfortunately, the only spirit who comes calling – and then refuses to leave – is that of his late first wife, Elvira.

Hessle Theatre Company's take on Noel Coward's comedy is fittingly suave.

Under the direction of Katherine Fitzgerald, the company has captured the 40s atmosphere of the play.

It's there in the stage set – a homely, wallpapered front room complete with a fireplace.

But more importantly, it's present in the glacially polite conversation between the characters, which soon unravels once Elvira starts to wreak havoc.

As Charles, Jim Matthews has the outwardly suave – but ultimately buffoonish – author nailed down. He lounges about, and spouts advice in a drawling, upper class accent, before suffering fits of rage as the spirit returns.

There's also some great turns from Sarah Caley as the impish Elvira, Shirley Watts as the wacky medium, and Jayne



SPOOKY:

Jim Matthews as Charles Condomine, Shirley Watts as Madame Arcati and Sarah Caley as Elvira.

Burkinshaw as Charles's understandably miffed second wife, Ruth.

Sean Smith and Elaine Windass – as the Condomine's friends, Dr and Mrs Bradman – and Rachel Waters, as the accident prone serving girl, Edith, provide

good support in this supernatural comedy.

What: Blithe Spirit

When: Until Saturday, 7.45pm

Where: Hull Truck Theatre, Ferensway, Hull

Tickets: £8-£10

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