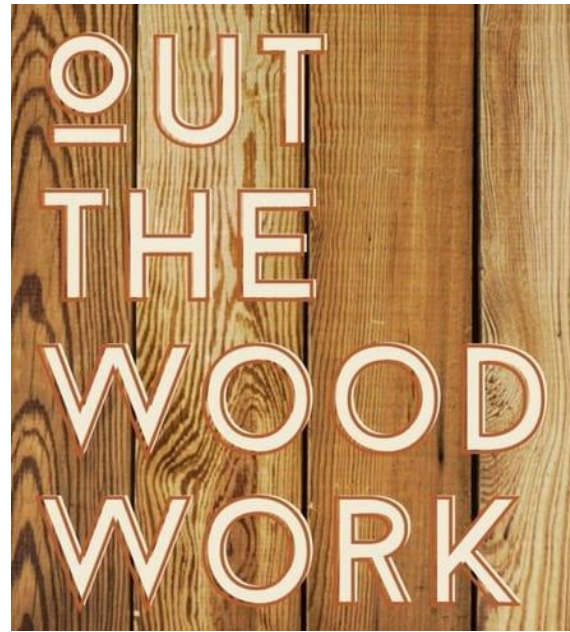


AMATEUR THEATRE REVIEW: OUT THE WOODWORK – WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY LEE CLOTWORTHY



Ladies and gentlemen, gather round, because tonight's review is about to drop some serious drama, comedy, and nostalgic heft; straight from the stage of Out The Woodwork, written and directed by Lee Clotworthy!

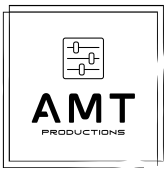
Much like a National Lottery draw where the anticipation builds with every second, *Out The Woodwork* delivers a mix of suspense and emotional highs from the very first moment. The play presents us with a tight-knit group of characters whose lives are instantly relatable. They emerge from the woodwork, so to speak, bringing with them secrets, surprises, and stories that feel like winning combinations at the lottery. It's a gritty yet deeply humane narrative that feels like peeling back the layers of the human condition, much like waiting for that last number to come up on the screen.

With *Out The Woodwork*, the characters are the key and every interaction is a chance for a new number to drop. These characters are fully realized, each one carrying a story that unravels like the balls in a lottery machine. What makes this play stand out is its ability to balance humour with heartache, offering moments of joy and absurdity alongside painful moments of self-realization. As each character steps into the spotlight, we find ourselves drawn in by their hopes, flaws, and quirks. Their journeys are unpredictable, and that's exactly what keeps us invested in the drama. Just when you think you have them figured out, a new layer is revealed, like the dramatic twist of an unexpected lottery ball.

Clotworthy's writing is sharp, witty, and dynamic. The dialogue flows like the anticipation in a live draw: just when you think it's going to hit a predictable beat, there's a curveball thrown your way. The playwright's skill lies in creating moments that crackle with tension, but also in capturing the lighter moments of life with precision. The characters are real people with raw emotions, and Clotworthy's ability to shift between comedy and drama is like the perfect balance in a well-executed lottery draw, *it all just clicks*.

Lee Clotworthy's hand as a director is evident throughout the production. He knew exactly how to create tension and release it at just the right moment. The pacing of the play is like a finely tuned lottery machine: it moves quickly when it needs to, building up suspense, but knows when to slow down, allowing the audience to reflect on the emotional depth of the characters. The timing of the performances is impeccable, each beat landing with precision, much like the thrill of watching those numbers drop.

The cast delivered a performance that was as gripping as the highest lottery win. **Kate Marcus as Pat**, brought a raw intensity to Pat, a character with layers of complexity and vulnerability. She captures



Pat's internal battles with a tenderness that pulls you in, while never shying away from the sharp edges of her personality. Marcus' portrayal feels like the suspense building in a lottery ball machine; relateable, magnetic, and always relateable.



Geraldine Moloney as Lins, performance was a breath of fresh air in a tense narrative. She brought a lively energy to the character that balanced the darker moments in the play. Whether she's cracking a joke or delivering a heavy line, Moloney's timing was impeccable, creating moments of levity amidst the drama. A true credit to this production.



Mike Newstead as Ste, was a perfect portrait of a cheating husband. His ability to shift between humor and narcissism really brings his character to life, Newstead's comedic timing is an absolute joy to watch.



Francis J Brack as Ciaran, brought a sense of complete reality to his portrayal of Ciaran, delivering the stereotypical view of a lad from the wrong side of the tracks in Liverpool, his performance is a quiet force and his comedy in certain scenes is as powerful as his dramatic outbursts. Ciaran's character is one of the most compelling, and Brack captures it beautifully.



Kizzy Leigh as Kay, was a whirlwind of energy, offering both heart and humor in a role that could easily fall into caricature but instead feels refreshingly relatable. She perfectly captured the complexity of a character caught between youth, social media, relationships and life. Her energy provides an engaging contrast to the play's realistic moments.



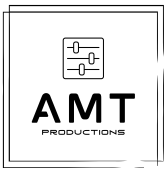
Roxanne Male as Claire, Male's portrayal of Claire is nothing short of captivating. She brought a realistic strength to the role, showing Claire through perfect comedic timing adding expressions and small gestures that really make the role stand out. Her performance changed as the play progressed, and shows how talented this actress is.



Together, this ensemble created a web of complex, believable relationships, with each actor playing off the other's strengths in a way that makes the whole production feel seamless. It's a masterclass in acting, where every performance matters and each character's journey is crucial to the overall story.

Out The Woodwork is a jackpot in the world of theatre. It's not just a play, it's an experience. With its compelling writing, memorable characters, and great direction, it has all the makings of a winning ticket for any theatre lover. The twists and turns of the plot will keep you on the edge of your seat, while the moments of vulnerability and humor ensure that it's an emotionally rewarding ride from start to finish.

If you're looking for a show that surprises, challenges, and leaves you a bit nostalgic for the Saturday night lottery draws of the past, *Out The Woodwork* is a play you can't afford to miss. Much like hitting



the jackpot in the National Lottery, it's a rare and exhilarating experience you'll want to take part in. So, keep your eyes open for any future performances, grab your ticket, and let the draw begin!

We cannot wait to see what Lee Clotworthy does next and if you want to know as soon as we do make sure to keep an eye on this social media, link below.

Reviewer: Matthew Maney – AMT Productions

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