

# Wyong Drama Group: Media Release 7

To: All Media Outlets  
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Re: Loot is Bang on the Money  
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On Friday night I ventured, with a little trepidation, to Wyong Drama Group's production of *Loot* by Joe Orton. This is a much anticipated production from new director Hagen Heinrich, who I have seen in a few acting roles before, but never before have I seen his work as a director.

*Loot* is a difficult play to realise on stage, as it involves an incredibly convoluted plot about subjects that make an audience a little squeamish. It's a very funny play, but the audience (quite justifiably) gets a bit worried about finding themselves laughing about death, tipping a dead body out of a coffin to use as a hiding place for the loot from a robbery, and a policeman knocking two shades of tomorrow out of an otherwise innocent victim.

But laugh we did at that, and at a lot more besides. The acting standards from the cast were of the highest calibre, and the direction clear and well conveyed. *Loot* was an absolute joy to watch, and keeps the standard of Wyong Drama Group flying high.

As McLeavy, John Czerniecki gave a polished performance, and took the audience along with him emotionally. Denni Mannile as Fay portrayed the conniving character who has had seven husbands in almost as many years (all dying of suspicious circumstances) very convincingly. Paul Karton brilliantly played a young cockney bank robber full of life and enthusiasm, despite the recent death of his mother and Damien Van Der Meulen has progressed enormously with his acting skills. Marc Calwell wowed us with his comic timing and a real feel for his character of Truscott of the Yard (the back yard, perhaps) and guided proceedings admirably. Despite being on stage for a total of about two minutes, Duncan Mitchell got a big laugh after about fifteen seconds, and his cameo was memorable.

At all times during the play, you believe the characters are actually experiencing the ludicrous plot that the playwright imposes on them, which indicates that the direction is accurate and lucid. The set also needs mention. As is typical for Wyong Drama Group the naturalistic set was incredibly well presented with an accurate choice of décor, and worked well for the play.

Congratulations to Wyong Drama Group on (yet again) a very high standard production which your current scribe enjoyed immensely. You have only three more chances to see the show, it runs on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8pm; and a 2pm Matinee and 8pm Final Night on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>. The play is at Wyong Memorial Hall in Anzac Avenue Wyong, and you can book on 4353-4353. Be aware that the play does cover adult themes and is not really suitable for children, but definitely worth getting out to see if you're getting bored with the Olympics! For further information, see the website [www.wyongdramagroup.com.au](http://www.wyongdramagroup.com.au)