

# A sexy SPACE

WHAT DO an Avon lady, a bra under the front seat of a Morris Minor and a transvestite called Bernard have in common? They all featured in SPACE Theatre's production of David Tristram's *The Opposite Sex* at Episkopi on Thursday, November 1 to Saturday, November 3, an adult comedy about two couples whose pasts come back to haunt them, writes *Martine Padwell*.

I went to see the show on the opening night and was impressed by the stylish living room set, which looked like something out of a Sunday supplement. Five minutes into the play, I feared for the pristine cream sofa, as chips and sausages were flung across the room by intemperate Vicky (played by Lucy Bent) at sozzled hubby Mark (played by Steve Cassily). The marriage was evidently less harmonious than the colour scheme. Not long after the new Avon lady, dippy Judith (played by Nand Cassily) comes to call, and Mark is amazed and excited to recognise an old flame. Without pausing to engage brain, he invites Judith and her husband to dinner the following night.

The evening starts badly. The husband, Eric (played by John Kille) is a compelling mixture of righteous prig and near-darthal man, frequently calling his wife a "stupid bint". One exquisitely cringe-making moment

follows another. Tact isn't Vicky's strong point. She delivers a vicious verbal assault on Mark for buying a cheap and nasty bottle of *liebfraumilch*, only to be told by Mark (clearly enjoying himself) that the wine was a gift from Eric and Judith. Soon after, she gleefully describes the grottiest hotel in Torquay, seconds before realising it was the very same hotel in which their cash-strapped guests have just spent their annual holiday. Social embarrassment soon descends into Fawley-esque head banging, scathing insults "you ponced-up sewer rat" and an attack with a huge vase, as scandalous revelations threaten to put the skids under both marriages.

It was a terrific production. The strong performances of the four actors under the capable direction of Gemma George did full justice to the witty script, and the play was much appreciated by the audience, with chuckles and belly-laughs much in evidence.



Above: **Lucy Bent as Vicky**, inset and right: **Steve Cassily as Mark**. Top right: **Nand Cassily as Judith** with the vase, bottom right: **Nand Cassily as Judith** and **John Kille as Eric**

