

Cream of societies

Robert and Elizabeth
Players Anonymous

RAY JEFFERY, professional director of CYGAMS and CAODS among many others, is taking Robert and Elizabeth to Waterford this year.

Players Anonymous, the cream of several societies, sail for the International Festival of Light Opera today, Friday. I was lucky enough to join a select (and partisan) audience at the Civic for Sunday's dress rehearsal.

The music they've chosen is a wholly ludicrous look at literary history, by way of Hollywood and Broadway, redeemed by a tuneful score — including the splendid duet I Know Now — and by a swift, slick production and a host of super performances.

Patric Tucker was Robert Browning, the poet, working miracles with the health of Miss Elizabeth Barrett (Virginia Bryan in fine voice). Robin Sampson was the martinet father of the Wimpole Street clan, which included Paul Dicker as the eighth and final scion, Richard Clements as Charles, and Stephen Emery as Septimus. Not to mention Dawn Sampson as the daughter with an eye for the military.

Rachel Parsons gave a hilarious cameo performance as cousin Bella, with Peter Smith as Henry, her hypochondriac intended. Gill Plumtree was the efficient ladies maid and dog-walker Wilson.

And Ray Jeffery delighted everyone with his Macready, the egocentric actor-manager struggling with his "unhappy consortium of players."

A glance across the page will confirm that many of these players held down major roles in Hello Dolly. It is a measure of their professionalism,

Eric Ashley