

BLACKBURN DRAMA CLUB TRIUMPH AT 54th NIDDERDALE FESTIVAL

For the second year running the Nidderdale Drama Festival was won by a team making its festival debut. Under the direction of Dorothy Perkins, Blackburn Drama Club actors Steven Derbyshire and Andrew Smith provided a rapt Saturday audience with a superb rendition of ADDRESS UNKNOWN, an adaptation for the stage of an eloquent and powerful short story written in 1938 by the American authoress Kathrine Kressmann Taylor (1903-96). Blackburn go on to represent the Nidderdale Festival at the All-England Theatre Festival (AETF) Area Final at Saltburn on 6/7 May.

Knaresborough Players finished worthy runners-up with a bravura performance of Peter Shaffer's classic farce, BLACK COMEDY directed with distinction by Jessica Ramsey who won the Best Senior Producer trophy.

Harrogate Dramatic Society with the Pinter classic THE DUMB WAITER and Woodlands Drama Group with Arlene Hutton's disturbing I DREAM BEFORE I TAKE THE STAND also provided quality productions and featured as trophy winners.

The Juniors of Pateley Bridge Dramatic Society also made their festival debut and under the inspired direction of Joyce Liggins and Ruth Dodsworth delighted the first night audience with a splendidly costumed and choreographed version of the Brothers Grimm fairy tale THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN.

The senior acting awards went to Steven Derbyshire (Blackburn Drama Club), Alison Gilmour (Woodlands Drama Group) and (for their ensemble work) the cast of Knaresborough Players. The winners of the junior acting awards were Jonathan Levy, Daisy Reinsch and Connie Richards.

A list of all the awards winners (and short-listed candidates) is provided below.

Richard Woodward of the Guild of Drama Adjudicators presided over the event with distinction. His post performance feedback was sensitive, positive and perceptive.

This year's festival was well attended and proceeds from raffle ticket and programme sales (£154) went to the Disaster Emergency Committee's East Africa Appeal.

IAN CLARKE – CHAIRMAN, NDDA.