

RFDC students' burn up 70s dancefloor with show success

**REVIEW**  
Disco Inferno, Royal Forest of Dean College.

WITH a cast of 26 performing arts students, the Royal Forest of Dean College staged its performance of the devilish 1970s musical *Disco Inferno*.

The two-and-a-half-hour production kept the audience captivated, clapping and stamping along to favourites like *Boogie Nights* and *YMCA*.

*Disco Inferno* tells the story of Jack and Jane through classic 1970s songs as Jack pursues superstardom, selling his soul to the devil along the way.

Hilarious moments included quick one-liners using Beatles' song titles as dialogue. Authentic costumes meant hot pants, platforms (also bravely worn by male actors) and the one piece jump-suit clinging to leading man Mark Beddis.

Special mention must go to the students including Dan Davies as Tom, Sasha Evans as Kathy, Gemma Turner as a regal Lady Marmalade, non-stop dancer David Cox and Max Freedman-Fisher with a fantastic rendition of *Do You Want to be in My Gang*.



**CLASS ACT:** The cast of *Disco Inferno*.

Emily Cooper as Jane and Mark Beddis as Jack both gave outstanding performances. Emily said the role had boosted her personal confidence and aims to win the lead role next year.

"It's been an emotional ride with non-stop glitter," she said. Mark was stunning as Jack with a solo *Sorry Seems to be the Hardest Word* as his stand-out moment.

He says he now has a better understanding of what it takes to be a leading man. Lecturer Emma Harris, making her debut as director, said: "The students have been rehearsing since October."

"It's been an amazing experience with challenges and ups and downs along the way. "We wanted it to be fun with lots of team spirit and every cast member has taken an important role including all the members of our band."

"I am so proud of them and will always cherish this first experience with the college." Mark added: "Emma has done an amazing job taking over from someone who has been in the job for 20 years. She gets along with everyone, is full of enthusiasm and a great laugh."

Linda Cameron.

**Stars swap spas for a period romp**

FROM one spa town to another comes one of the funniest jewels of late-Restoration comedy as Theatre Royal Bath Productions presents *The Rivals* at the Everyman in Cheltenham.

The production, staged from February 27 to March 4, features ITV1 *Doc Martin* star Stephanie Cole as tongue-tied Mrs Malaprop and Edward Hardwicke, better known as Dr Watson to Jeremy Brett's TV Sherlock Holmes, as Sir Anthony.

*The Rivals* is directed by award-winning director Christopher Morahan, who has worked extensively at the National Theatre and also directed Patricia Routledge in *The Importance of Being Earnest* in the West End. He directed John Cleese in the hit comic film *Clockwise*.

Tickets, priced £9 to £19.50, are available on 01242 572573 or at www.everymantheatre.org.uk

**Eating Out: Marinades Restaurant, Newent**



**EXOTIC:** Grilled gambas.



Marinades in Newent is recognised as one of the best restaurants around. *The Forester* went to find out if it lives up to that reputation.



**COLOURFUL:** Mixed salad.



**WOW:** Sweet potato pudding served with vanilla ice cream

**S**TEPPING into Marinades from the cold is just like getting off a plane in a faraway tropical land.

Reggae versions of popular songs are playing, and the buzzing restaurant is decorated in a modern style - we really could imagine at times that we were on holiday somewhere hot.

We doubt there is anywhere in Gloucestershire quite like this.

It was only when we looked out of the window and saw the bitter cold streets of Newent that we were brought back down to earth with a shiver.

As soon as you walk in you see the chefs working in the kitchen and the aroma of Jamaican jerk and fritters hits you, immediately making you hungry.

We were given a warm welcome by Clive Coldrick and Wendy Collins who run the restaurant. The staff were polite and friendly, but not fussing after us every minute and making us feel uncomfortable. The restaurant had a relaxed atmosphere.

Marinades offers a range of authentic Caribbean and Mediterranean food and caters for all dietary needs. Coeliacs, diabetics, dairy-free, vegetarians and vegans are all accommodated. The menu also caters for more conservative tastes and offers an array of southern Mediterranean dishes as well as light lunches.

For starter my husband had a Marinades jerk chicken roti. This was marinated grilled jerk chicken, shredded with mixed peppers, onions and jerk sauce, served in a warm roti bread and with a cooling salad garnish.

He said it was lovely and the bread meant the jerk chicken was not too overpowering.

**It's like taking a trip to Paradise**



**TRULY TROPICAL:** Traditional jambalaya is the taste of the Caribbean. **BELOW RIGHT:** Warm welcome. Photos: Jim Mulliner

I had a saltfish fritter topped with home-made tomato and mango salsa. I don't usually go for fish but this was very tasty and with the fritter it was the perfect combination of naughty but nice.

For our main course we both went for the jambalaya - saffron and paprika spiced rice, chorizo sausage, chicken, mussels, clams and whole prawns. To us it was like a Caribbean version of paella. It was spicy but not so much that we had to take a drink every few mouthfuls. It was delicious.

It was served with a massive side salad with olives - very healthy. My husband usually says no to pudding but at Marinades he went for the passion fruit sorbet. I opted for homemade rum and toffee bananas served hot with vanilla icecream. We left the restaurant after a fabulous evening, back out into the cold, like arriving at Heathrow after a trip to Paradise.

**Marinades Restaurant**

1-2 Cheapside, Church Street Newent



**DYNAMIC DUO:** Clive Coldrick and his partner Wendy Collins.

**How it fares**

**Atmosphere:** 10/10  
**Service:** 9/10  
**Food:** 10/10  
**Value for money:** 8/10

**OAP discount:** X  
**Veggie option:** ✓  
**Kids' meals:** ✓  
**Disabled access:** X  
**Smoking area:** X

**Open: Tues-Sat: 11.30am-2.30pm and 6.30-9.30pm; Sun: Noon-2.30pm.**  
**Contact: 01531 822941**



*The Bill*

**Starters:**  
Marinades jerk chicken roti ..... £4.75  
Saltfish fritter ..... £4.95

**Main Course:**  
Jambalaya ..... £14.50  
Jambalaya ..... £14.50

**Dessert:**  
Passion fruit sorbet ..... £3.75  
Home-made rum and toffee bananas ..... £5.50

**Drinks:**  
Diet Coke ..... £1.20  
San Miguel ..... £2.90

**Coffees:**  
Cafetiere coffee ..... £1.50

**Total:** ..... £53.55

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**Speech House Hotel**  
Royal Forest of Dean, Coleford, Gloucestershire GL16 7EL  
Tel: 01594 822607 Fax: 01594 823658  
Email: relax@thespeechhouse.co.uk Website: www.speechhouse.co.uk

**Starters - Homemade bread and olives - Roast quail and parsley risotto £6.95**  
- Soup of the day £4.95 - Mussels Mariniere Half kilo of South coast Mussels steamed with garlic, white wine, parsley and cream £5.75 - Foie gras parfait, warm toasted brioche and quince puree £7.25 - Oven dried tomato and thyme tart with local blue cheese £6.00 - Grilled fillet of mackerel on warm toast with potato salad £5.00 - Oak smoked chicken, smoked chorizo sausage, and sun blasted tomato salad £6.95 - Field mushrooms sautéed in smoked garlic and butter £5.50

**Main meals - Pan fried 10oz sirloin steak with hand cut chips and bearnaise sauce £14.95 - Tagliatelle scented with white truffle oil and rosemary with pan-fried eggs £11.50 - Braised oxtail with parsnip puree and Madeira and port reduction £12.50 - Selection of Gloucester old spot pork, Roast fillet, confit of belly, seared brussels and a brunoise of black pudding creamed potatoes, with a sage and apple jus £13.50 - Pan-fried fillet of cod with sautéed potatoes and mustard lentils £13.95 - Roast loin of Forest of Dean venison in juniper berry and slow gin sauce with speed red cabbage, poached pear and Dauphinoise potatoes £15.95 - Speech House fish pie, Salmon, scallops, smoked haddock and tiger prawns topped with creamed potatoes £12.95 - Pan fried breast of chicken stuffed with Hill's Gloucestershire Camembert, wrapped in Smoked bacon, served with sautéed potatoes £12.50 - Ragstone goats cheese wrapped in aubergine and courgette £12.50**

**Desserts - A selection all at £5.50. Speech House Hotel local cheeseboard £6.95 - Coffee with homemade chocolate brownie petit four £1.95**

**Fantastic February Offer - £25.00 per head including half a bottle of wine.**  
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Menus are updated on a regular basis.  
Please telephone to book a table on 01594 822607

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**Marinades Restaurant**  
1-2 Cheapside, Church Street, Newent, Glos. GL18 1PU  
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