**Review: Steptoe and Son -- Newmarket News, March 20th, 2013**

Steptoe and Son was originally presented as a TV sitcom written by Galton and Simpson and concerned two rag and bone men living in the fictional London road called Oil Drum Lane.

The series was broadcast by they BBC from 1962 to 1965 and due to the popularity it was followed by a second series in the 1970s.

My own father was always glued to the box and loved the series, which focused on the conflict of Albert Steptoe, a “dirty old man” set in his grimy and grasping ways and contrastingly, his 37 year old son Harold who was filled with social aspirations, not to say pretensions of grandeur.

Under the direction of John Mitchell and Jamie Maguire, Nomads are presenting three episodes of this classic series at the King’s Theatre in Newmarket this week, with a brilliantly chosen line-up having Steve Beach and Mark Scrivner as Albert and Harold Steptoe.

The first playlet is A Star is Born and Harold joins the local amateur dramatic society, but of course, his dad manages, by chance, to be in on the scene and grab the star part. There is quite a bit of “doubling up” throughout the evening and there are some excellent performances by Cherry Ackerley as Nemone, an actress, along with Colin Scott as director of the group.

The Desperate Hours features the escape of two prisoners from Wormwood Scrubs, played by Mark Jackson and Alan Coogan as Spooner and Ferris. There is a remarkable likeness in character and situations when these two intrude on the Steptoes. They also realise that they would probably be better off back in the Scrubs, but soon the barriers between prisoners and Harold and Albert are broken down.

Oh What a Beautiful Morning and Albert's brother dies and, of course, we have the bickering about whether to go to the funeral or not, and eventually the entire family turns up, with the intention of finding out who is in the will.

There are some memorable moments throughout the evening, in particular the delivery of Albert’s lines in the amateur dramatic play, and the game of cribbage in the second play and the poignancy between the two convicts. The voices of Harold and Albert are so like the original, and, too, are the mannerisms. It is a great team effort with the other parts played by Richard Clarkson, Kris Camden, Simon Wheeler, Angela Bishop, Teresa Baron, Alison Worthington, and Dani Swanson.

**Jancis Harvey**