

**Dr Rosemary J Westwell (PhD, MA Ed, MA TESOL, B Mus, BA Hons)**

**'Antipodes', 17 Common Rd., Witchford, Ely,**

**Cambs. CB6 2HY**

**Tel: (01353) 663918**

**Email: [rjwestwell@hotmail.com](mailto:rjwestwell@hotmail.com); [rjwestwell@yahoo.com](mailto:rjwestwell@yahoo.com)**

09/02/2017

**Review of Viva's production of 'Shakers' in the Brook, Soham on Thursday 9th  
February 2017**

Viva's performance of 'Shakers' in the Brook at Soham on Thursday night was fantastic. This was a first night production, yet the four stunning actresses launched into their amusing scenarios immediately with confidence, gusto and skill. These highly talented actresses were Kerry Hibbert (as Nicki), Jenny Tayler-Surrige (Carol), Cassie Rouse (Mel) and Maddie Palmer (Adele). They played a group of disillusioned waitresses working at 'Shakers', a supposed up-market cocktail bar, so realistically that we could empathise with them immediately.

Every nuance of humour, sarcasm and pathos was expressed and even when portraying crude, sex-obsessed blokes eyeing up the girls, these actresses never lost a moment and we were there in the 80's witnessing the quirky characters and customs of the time, be they party girls, snooty media types, trendy snobs or ignorant slobs, they were very much the role(s) they were playing. Their poignant, tear-jerking monologues created contrasting moments of depth and insight into the emotions and turmoil that their characters suffered. The acting here was superb.

David Tickner lived up to his name as a first-rate director and with an excellent team of workers managed to pull off yet another fantastic production by this amazing company. More please!

There are two more performances of 'Shakers' on Friday the 10 and Saturday 11th February. Tickets are available on the door each evening. £10 each, the doors open at 7pm for a 7:30pm start and The Brook will be selling cocktails to get the evening going!

The next Viva production to look forward to is 'Legally Blond' from the 1st to the 4th March 2017 contact: [www.viva-group.org.uk](http://www.viva-group.org.uk)