



★ Running blind! The Bletchingley Amateur Dramatic Society are performing the chilling thriller *Wait Until Dark* at their village hall, off the High Street, tonight and Saturday.

The play — by John Simmons — examines the reactions of a terrified blind girl, who is at the apparent mercy of three ruthless men seeking a drug filled doll hidden in her home.

Our photo shows the cast in rehearsal earlier this week, the actors are (L to R) Andy Roberts (Croker), Felicity Lund (Susy), Jeff Fendall (Roat) and John Dresser (Mike).

Deadly game of hide and seek

I JUST love a good thriller! Bletchingley Amateur Dramatic Society's choice of *Wait Until Dark* rates among the best.

The plot revolves around a blind girl, Susy Henderson. Her husband, Sam, has unwittingly returned from Amsterdam with a doll packed with heroin.

Three villains want the doll — badly! They send Sam off on a wild goose chase and then act out an elaborate con on Susy to find out where the doll has been hidden.

The climax comes when Susy, realising the true nature of their intent, puts herself on equal footing

with the last remaining villain by plunging her flat into darkness.

Andy Roberts as Croker and John Dresser as Mike set the pace of the play very well as two ex-cons blackmailed by Roat (Jeff Fendall) to fool the apparently vulnerable Susy.

Mike especially develops a rapport with her to the eventual point where his admiration for her courage brings out the good side of his persona to admit his criminal purpose.

Little does he now that Croker is already dead at Roat's hands and he is next on the list.

Jeff Fendall seemed a little lacking in confidence in the first act but by the traumatic conclusion he had really delved in to the sinister and sadistic nature of the evil Roat.

Felicity Lund handled with great sensitivity the difficult role of Susy, convincing as a blind lady, avoiding direct eye contact and methodically manoeuvring round her furniture.

She also proved a daunting adversary to her tormentor.

Debbie Haiselden as Gloria did a sterling job as a spiteful teenage brat who eventually comes through with flying colours and true devotion to Susy.

Bob Gill was rather weak and unconvincing as Sam: a shame really, as cameo parts are vitally important in helping create atmosphere and plausibility.

This is a difficult play to set and especially light but, despite the odd mishap on cues, was very effective.

John Simmons, the producer, chose his cast well, not only for their acting abilities but for their correct physical appearances.

Richard Sirot