

THE ALTRINCHAM GARRICK PLAYHOUSE

Supported by public funding by **ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**

LOTTERY FUNDED

Riotous political farce by the writer of 'Rising Damp'

UP AND COMING BY ERIC CHAPPELL

Monday 26th February to Saturday 3rd March at 7:30pm

Monday: £7.50 (NO CONCESSIONS)*
Tuesday to Friday: £15 (Members: £11) Concessions: £13
Saturday: £18 (Members: £12) Concessions: £14

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MONDAY £7.50 ANY SEAT

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Up and Coming

by Eric Chapell

at Altrincham Garrick Theatre

Reviewed by [John Waterhouse](#) February 2018

Politics, like it loathe it, is always with us; the subject of Brexit seeming exhaustible and political satires can give some respite with certain issues giving rise to complete plays. *Up and Coming* is set against a political backdrop but there is not a single issue or political policy mentioned in the entire play and there is nothing to identify any of the characters with any political persuasion.

The target here being simply the egos and failings of MPs with the politicians - who are all male - more akin to jockeys in a horse race, all trying to get the most powerful position possible by whatever means whilst enjoying their vices along the way. There is no attempt to look in any detail at the political processes, as in 'Yes Minister' or set the action against any event or issue. *Up and Coming* could be placed in the same genre as the classic Ray Cooney farce 'Out of Order', again set in a posh hotel bedroom with an MP trying to keep their indications under wraps.

Altrincham Garrick must have one of the finest theatres of any amateur drama group in the country and the ample stage area was given full justice with a superb set of a sumptuous hotel bedroom and lounge. This is matched with impeccable costuming, including some dapper 'power-suits', and all the cast delivered their lines crisply. There is much to enjoy in *Up and Coming* but unlike a typical farce, the pace remains almost constant throughout, which is a pity because there are several opportunities in this play where the ante could have been significantly raised, essentially by delivery at a faster pace and with much more emotive acting.



***Up and Coming* is on at Altrincham Garrick until Saturday 3rd March.**