



**[Sugar Daddies](#) by Alan Ayckbourn**

Produced by [Oldham Coliseum](#) and Harrogate Theatre

Reviewed by [Helen Nugent](#) March 2013

Alan Ayckbourn has written 77 plays but, until last night, I hadn't seen any of them. As a theatre buff, I almost hesitate to make this admission; it's a bit like a movie fan saying they've never watched a Bond film. Or a bookworm conceding they've yet to pick up Dickens.

And so it was with a large degree of anticipation and excitement that I made my way to the Oldham Coliseum for a revival of Ayckbourn's ***Sugar Daddies***. The last time I visited the Coliseum was for panto. I must have been in junior school, those halcyon days when a trip to the theatre was a major event. Today I still get a tingle down my spine as the lights dim and the curtain rises.

Following a major revamp, the **Oldham Coliseum** is a pleasure to visit. Tucked down a side street in Oldham town centre, it feels a little like happening upon the Almeida in London's Islington. The building's lights twinkle and a fresh coat of paint sparkles in the moonlight. Once inside, the atmosphere is immediately welcoming, comparable to a big theatrical hug. Even the seats in the charming auditorium are comfy. Everything augured well.

