



■ *Orlando Gough's 'The Finnish Prisoner', premiered in Lewes*

Triptolemus, who uses and ultimately abuses Cora as a means of consummating his lust for the long-dead Lily, Andrew Rupp turned in a strong performance as both the harsh Victorian prison warden and the hated contemporary traffic warden, complete with Lewes-issued 'red devil' uniform—both, it emerges, are members of a hereditary line of benevolent guardians 'watching over other people's lives'. And full marks must go to the excellent community chorus—some 60-strong, over half of them children—who sang and acted their socks off, whether as harried and hurried commuters or as mid-Victorian waifs and worthies.

All seven performances were sold out, with long queues for returns. But you can catch it again in 2009, when the production visits both Helsinki and Hämeenlinna, the town (also Sibelius's birthplace) from which the Finnish prisoners originally came.

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