

The Rotherfield Players presents

NOISES OFF!

by Michael Frayn

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16th - 18th May 2013

Rotherfield Village Hall

Programme £2



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New Members

The Rotherfield Players is a vibrant village dramatic society. We have a healthy membership but we always welcome new faces both on stage and back stage. Many different skills are required to put on a show apart from acting, singing and dancing. There's carpentry, painting, sewing and even computer skills. If you are interested in joining our group please contact

James Gallifant

Tel: 01892 654219

Email: members@rotherfieldplayers.co.uk

For more information about Rotherfield Players, go to www.rotherfieldplayers.co.uk

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From the Director



Sarah Truelove

Michael Frayn wrote "Noises Off" in 1970, whilst watching a performance of "The Two Of Us" from the wings and said, "It was funnier from behind than in front, and I thought that one day I must write a farce from behind."

Of course, mayhem usually rules the day behind the stage as we approach curtain up. Actors lose props, property mistress or master also lose props, costumes do not fit properly (but they did the day before!), sound and lighting decide that they need extra time to sort out cues and a new light bulb gel has been purchased which must be used. Stage builders are still screwing things together and set designers are titivating the set (as quietly as possible) whilst the Stage Manager walks around with an air of superiority whilst relying on the backstage crew to bring the show together. Eventually the Stage Manager shouts at everybody with five minutes to go and a one minute flurry of further confusion ensues as backstage crew fall over themselves, and any other tools lying around, before the stage is handed over to the actors who clutch their scripts with an anxious look upon their faces. Then after leaving scripts and props where they shouldn't they promptly blame everyone else! That is life..... That is the theatre.....

Sardines, whiskey, a cactus..... what could they possibly have to do within a play? It's farce.... a theatrical medium that embraces highly incomprehensible plots caused by random events with extravagant and improbable situations. So who knows why sardines, whiskey and a cactus are a constant cause of confusion to the cast? That's farce! Who knows why the actors react the way they do? The beauty of this play is that you observe not only what happens onstage but also behind the set.

Most of the time I know exactly why I want to put my name and direction behind a piece but I have no idea why I chose this play... It just seemed a good idea at the time and the author's cousin, Alan, is a favourite pantomime writer of ours! We have all thoroughly enjoyed the rehearsal process albeit excessive laughter and confusion have often stopped the work. The physical and verbal humour has taken weeks of rehearsal with one particular 6½ hour stint draining us completely but we lived to tell the tale.

Confused? You will be!!

From the Chairman



James Gallifant

Farce is the theatrical equivalent of Marmite. One either likes it or hates it. Few are indifferent. However I have always loved them and this love goes back to the fifties when we peered at the ghostly images of the Brian

Rix farces on our enormous black and white 12 inch television screen. Doors flew open at the wrong moment and trousers were dropped in imagined embarrassment. It looked like chaos but was most certainly not. Congratulations to Sarah Truelove (our director) for retaining her composure through smiling gritted teeth throughout rehearsals. As one of the cast, I can tell you that rehearsals were a lot of fun, often dipping into farce!!

The Rotherfield Players continue in rude health with a strong membership that has many disparate skills. It's not just about the acting. Our sets become ever more complex to construct and our traditional use of nails and rope to hold the sets together has been consigned to history. Nigel Cassford and Mark Tasker have created the Noises Off set which has been somewhat demanding bearing in mind the requirement for two floors. Our Village Hall is brilliant but it does not have the height of a London Theatre!!

Total change of genre for our October production. Alison Organ will be directing the classic play "A Streetcar Named Desire" by Tennessee Williams, for showing in late October. This is an extraordinarily powerful drama.

The Players are endeavouring to provide tiered seating for all of their productions. The seating equipment is quite expensive in comparison with the overall budget of each production but we are very aware that sight lines are very restricted for many people in our audiences. It's a shame that the Romans didn't build a theatre in Rotherfield before they left!! They understood audience requirements totally.



Cast List

Dotty Otley / Mrs Clackett Jacky Jenkins
Lloyd Dallas Adam Hardy
Garry Lejeune / Roger Tramplemain Jimmy Powell
Brooke Ashton / Vicki Jess Hardy
Poppy Norton-Taylor Cecilia Marshall
Frederick Fellowes / Philip Brent / Sheikh Lawrence Robinson
Belinda Blair / Flavia Brent Lynn Lunn
Tim Allgood Matthew Stevens
Selsdon Mowbray / Burglar James Gallifant

Backstage

Director Sarah Truelove
Producer Charles Truelove
Stage Manager Andy Miller
Costumes Shelagh Whitehead
Beattie Smitham
Set design Nigel Cassford
Mark Tasker
Set Build Mark Tasker
Nigel Cassford
Andy Miller
Will Lunn
Stage Hands Will Lunn
Laurie Jeal
Nigel Cassford
Properties Iona Bailey
Lighting Nigel Cassford
Prompt Stacey Brackley
Box Office Charles Truelove
Bar Manager Jane Littlefair
Front of House Judith Hardy
Publicity Becky Syms
Programme design Gillian Earle
Photography Mark Kennedy



Cast Biographies



Jacky Jenkins

Jacky joined us in 1980 and then took a brief 24 year rest only to return as the Wicked Witch of the West in The Wizard of Oz. Last seen as a nun in The Sound of Music she has got out of that habit for this role as Mrs Cratchett or Crotchett or whatever.



Adam Hardy

After 14 years with The Players, performing all sorts of different roles, Adam has finally discovered his true self as the director of "Nothing On" in "Noises Off". It's been difficult to disseminate the difference between Adam and our real director (Sarah) as both address us through gritted teeth!!



Jimmy Powell

Jimmy graduated from The BRIT School in 2001, his recent projects include a one act festival at The Lost Theatre London and BAFTA nominated short film called Callum.



Jess Hardy

Jess is willing to take on any role whether that be Fido the Dog in pantomime or a nun. Breaking out of that habit for Noises Off she appears as a sexy bimbo. Whatever next??



Cecilia Marshall

Cecilia has played two animal parts for us in the past (front of a horse and a parrot). A nun in The Sound of Music, her role in Aladdin was So-Shy. Is she heck!!



Lawrence Robinson

Known to us as Larry, Lawrence joined us for "All My Sons" in 2011 but he can be seen more often in Mayfield. He just couldn't resist coming back.



Lynn Lunn

Lynn is happiest when she is making people laugh although it has been known for her to portray serious roles. Certainly she keeps us amused throughout rehearsals.



Matthew Stevens

Matthew has loads of experience in amateur dramatics but not in Rotherfield. Once we had located him we insisted that he join us. No doubt he will be glad that he did.



James Gallifant

James is best in any part that has few lines or ones that he can make up on the spot whilst wearing a dress. He has been in the Players since 1980 and refuses all of our suggestions that he should retire to his dotage.

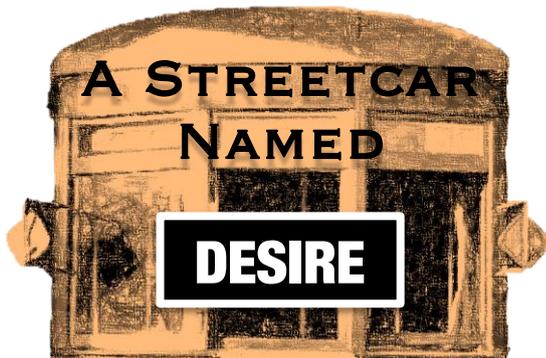
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A dark blue rectangular advertisement with white and yellow text. The text is arranged in a blocky, stylized font. The top line reads 'The Costume Place' in white. Below it, 'BRAND NEW SHOWROOM IN BEXHILL' is written in yellow. At the bottom, 'Fancy Dress & Show costumes to hire' and the phone number '01323 471033' are written in white.

Synopsis of Scenes

- ACT 1 The living-room of the Brents' country home. Wednesday afternoon.
(Grand Theatres, Weston-Super-Mare, Monday, January 14th)
- ACT 2 The living-room of the Brents' country home. Wednesday afternoon.
(Theatre Royal, Goole, Wednesday matinee, February 13th)
- ACT 3 The living-room of the Brents' country home. Wednesday afternoon.
(Municipal Theatre, Stockton-on-Tees, Saturday, April 6th)

Next Production



Pullitzer Prize winning "A Streetcar Named Desire," by Tennessee Williams, was thought to be steamy and shocking when it was first produced. It has also been described as "One of the greatest American plays" (Observer). Set after World War Two in New Orleans, it is the story of Blanche, a faded Southern beauty and her efforts to come to terms with the loss of wealth and youth. Staying with her sister and earthy, brutish brother-in-law, she struggles to come to terms with the reality of modern life. Many will remember the famous film starring Marlon Brando and Vivienne Leigh.

Familiarisation night

Monday 10th June at 8.00pm
in Rotherfield Memorial Institute

Auditions

Friday 14th June at 7.30 pm
in Rotherfield Village Hall

For more information contact the
Director, Alison Organ, aorgan@supanet.com

Charity Collection

The Rotherfield Players have always supported a chosen charity at each production. This year we have decided to 'adopt' a charity for the duration of the year. In 2013, we will be supporting Care for the Carers; an independent charity which supports unpaid carers in East Sussex who look after a relative, friend or neighbour who is frail, disabled, and/or has a long term illness.



By working with the charity throughout the coming year, The Rotherfield Players hopes to build a supportive relationship with Care for the Carers, through understanding their goals and receiving regular updates on the work they are doing.

The charity aims to support and empower carers throughout the county by offering information, practical and emotional advice, groups, activities, events and a range of services that are specifically tailored to the needs of East Sussex carers.

Care for the Carers also work closely with young people who are caring for someone at home, offering trips, activities and residential short breaks as well as support in the home. Pantomime always offers a focus on young people, from those in the cast to the many in the audience, so Robinson Crusoe and the Pirates seems an ideal show to launch our support for Care for the Carers.

Find out more at www.cftc.org.uk

Programme



A brief calculation suggests that this is the 25th consecutive programme that Gillian Earle has designed and compiled for The Players. Gillian does virtually all of our graphic design work for our fliers and posters. We just give her the play title and back come the designs for programmes and posters. We always give her a free copy of the programme of course!! That's appreciation!!

Past Productions

The Happiest Days of Your Life	1976	Cinderella	1990	Puss in Boots	2003
The Diary of Anne Frank	1976	Something Borrowed	1990	Farndale Avenue Housing Estate	
Lord Arthur Saville's Crime	1977	Arms and the Man	1990	Townswomen's Guild Production	
Rother Jubilent	1977	Our Town	1990	of MacBeth	2003
Pool's Paradise	1977	Mother Goose	1991	Inn Love with Shakespeare	2003
The Winslow Boy	1978	A Resounding Tinkle	1991	Dick Whittington	2004
Goodnight Mrs Puffin	1978	How the Other Half Loves	1991	'Allo 'Allo	2004
Night Must Fall	1979	Joseph & the Technicolor Dreamcoat	1991	A Murder is Announced	2004
I'll Get My Man	1979	A Coat of Varnish	1991	The Magic Fruit	2005
Dark of the Moon	1980	Sinbad the Sailor	1992	Calamity Jane	2005
The Creature Creeps	1980	Rotherfield Pageant	1992	Garden District	2005
Ghost Train	1981	Ten Times Table	1992	The Wizard of Oz	2006
When We Are Married	1981	The Sleeping Beauty	1993	The Final Curtain	2006
The Rose and the Ring	1982	Bird Bath	1993	An Ideal Husband	2006
Separate Tables	1982	Ghost Writer	1993	Goldilocks and the Three Bears	2007
Just the Ticket	1982	Cat on a Hot Tin Roof	1993	Godspell	2007
Jack and the Beanstalk	1983	All Aboard	1993	Bard from the King's Arms	2007
A Letter from the General	1983	The Matchmaker	1993	Caught in the Net	2007
The Chiltern Hundreds	1983	Ali Baba	1994	Sleeping Beauty	2008
Aladdin	1984	Sailor Beware	1994	Kiss Me Kate	2008
The Man Born to be King	1984	Hedda Gabler	1994	Les Liaisons Dangereuses	2008
Doctor in the House	1984	The Magic Fruit	1995	Cinderella	2009
Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs	1985	Queen Alice	1995	Busybody	2009
Berkeley Square	1985	Absurd Person Singular	1995	Our Country's Good	2009
Bedroom Farce	1985	The Happiest Days of Your Life	1996	Babes in the Wood	2010
Little Red Riding Hood	1986	Babes in the Wood	1997	Present Laughter	2010
The Crucible	1986	My Fair Lady	1997	The Railway Children (Junior	
A Separate Peace	1986	An Inspector Calls	1998	Players)	2010
Season's Greetings	1986	Blithe Spirit	1998	Farndale Avenue Housing Estate	
Goldilocks and the Three Bears	1987	Smugglers	1999	Townswomen's Guild Production	
Mother Figure	1987	Evening of One Act Plays	1999	of The Mikado	2010
Larkrise	1987	Aladdin	2000	Wind in the Willows	2011
Plaza Suite	1987	A Midsummer Night's Dream	2000	Little Shop of Horrors	2011
The Tinder Box	1988	A Review for the Millennium	2000	Three Characters in Search of a	
Moonset Over Zeron	1988	Cinderella	2001	Verdict & Round the World with	
Murder in Company	1988	Oliver	2001	Class Six (Junior Players)	2011
Key for Two	1988	Importance of Being Earnest	2001	All My Sons	2011
Pinocchio	1989	Jack and the Beanstalk	2002	Aladdin	2012
The Brute	1989	Don't Dress for Dinner	2002	The Sound of Music	2012
A Festival of Short Plays	1989	50 Years on the Throne	2002	The Elephant Man	2012
Getting On	1989	Steel Magnolias	2002	Robinson Crusoe & the Pirates	2013



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