

# The Rep

The Newsletter of Lancing Repertory Players

No. 55

June 2008

## **Summer Play: 'The Day After the Fair' by Frank Harvey. Directed by Wendy Norton**

Directing is not an entirely new venture for me: thirty years ago I directed a pantomime I had written for Lancing Repertory Players, 'Dick Whittington'. But this is my first straight play, chosen because it has stayed in my memory since the Rep last performed it 31 years ago. It was then a play recently adapted from a Thomas Hardy short story: 'On the Western Circuit'. I was in charge of props and the play must have made quite an impression on me because it is one I remember out of the dozens of Lancing Rep plays I have seen over the years.

It is a quiet, understated drama, just sensitively drawn characters and relationships, with plenty going on under the surface. At the centre is a woman, trapped in a marriage to a man, a good man in himself, who cannot fulfil her emotional needs.

We have a strong cast, and I hope all Lancing Rep members will bring their friends and family along to enjoy a trip to a more leisurely Age.

**Wendy Norton**

### **Diary Dates**

**If you were at the AGM please note some date changes:**

**Summer Play:** 'The Day After the Fair'. 10, 11, 12 July at 7.30pm Lancing Parish Hall.

**23rd July:** Committee meeting 7.30pm Rep H.Q.

**26th July:** Pat & Michael's BBQ

**28th July:** Post production meeting 7.30pm Rep H.Q.

**9th Aug:** Silent Auction Rep HQ. 7pm. Drinks & nibbles.

**20th Sept:** Beetle Drive Rep HQ. 7pm. Fish & chip supper.

**Autumn Play:** 9, 10, 11 Oct details to be announced.

**6th Dec:** Christmas Party Rep HQ. 7 for 7.15pm.

**To book play tickets phone Jean 01903 820019**

**To book for social events phone Julie 01903 537985.**

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**Our Web Site is at: [www.lancingrep.co.uk](http://www.lancingrep.co.uk)**

### **Forthcoming Productions by our Neighbours**

Arundel Players, Priory Theatre Arundel. 01903 882862

24th-31st Aug: 'Kiss of the Spider Woman' by Leonard Schrader.

12th-18th Jan 2009: 'The Weekend' by Michael Palin

Ferring A.D.S., Ferring Village Hall. 01903 245973 (2-5pm)

25th-28th June: 'Ferndale Housing Estate TWG Drama Society presents: Murder at Checkmate Manor'

26th-29th Nov: 'Sweeney Todd' (the play)

Stage Door, The Windmill Theatre Littlehampton. 01903 722224

30 Jul-2 Aug: 'Hello Hello' by David Croft

3rd-6th Dec: 'Oliver'

Rustington Players, Woodlands Centre Rustington. 01903 713362

18th-21st June: 'Living Together' by Alan Aykebourne

12th-15th Nov: 'The Lady in the Van' by Alan Bennett

Storrington D.S., Sullington Village Hall. 01903 742535

3rd-6th Dec: Pantomime (details to be announced)

West Chiltington D.S., West Chiltington Village Hall. 01798 812065

19th-21st Nov: 'Murdered to Death' by Peter Gordon

The Bury Players, Bury Village Hall. 01798 831468

4th-6th Dec: 'Blithe Spirit' by Noel Coward

**Peter & Marian Taylor**

### **Treasurer's Report**

I think my comments in the last newsletter that we had spent over £2,000 more than we had received in 2007 staggered a lot of members. How could this be? Was it the ineptitude of the Committee to let this happen? Well NO, all is not as it seems.

Our accounts system is a simple Income and Expenditure Account, as required by the Charities Commission for registered members with a yearly turnover of under £10,000. This means that

whilst our accounts show all income and expenditure over a given period (ie Jan-Dec 2007), it doesn't account for money already held in our Bank Account as at 1st January.

In 2006 you will recall that we had the fascia of HQ completely renovated and in order to pay we had transferred £2000 from the 100 Club. Half the cost was paid in 2006 but the balance of £1400 was not paid until the work was completed in 2007. However, the money was sitting in the bank to pay for it. We also had a couple of non-recurring one-off items in 2007 which cost £200 so in fact we really had not flagrantly overspent in 2007.

With regard to 2008 and the cancellation of the April play, we were insured against abandonment of a production and have successfully recouped most of our expenses and fees for 'Murder Deferred'.

I apologise if the last report worried you regarding the finances of the Players, but it was intended to emphasise how expensive it is to run the Players and how essential it is that we make good profits on our productions and economise wherever possible on our expenditure.

**Mary Macpherson, Treasurer**

### **A message from Play Selection**

Hello Everyone. I shall refrain from mentioning The Day After the Fair as Wendy has written about it and she is more capable than I of talking about her chosen play.

We are still choosing something for October. Ian has written a one act play and is seeking another to put with it. We are having a meeting to make some decisions soon, but not by the time of writing this piece. We have, however, chosen Aladdin as our Panto this year. Mainly because we already have some costumes and, as Julie is directing, it is not easy to do costumes as well. However, if anyone is willing to help with wardrobe for the Panto, or knows someone who would help, we would welcome them with open arms. In fact, we would welcome anyone who could help backstage, as a Panto set is always a lot more complicated than at first it seems.

I would like to hear from all our members about the sort of plays you like to see. Are we doing too old a play? Would you like some more modern ones? Should we do more mystery plays? I don't have the answers, but I would like to hear your views. I shall be around at Rep for the next few weeks, or give your notes to someone who will see me there. You may of course telephone me in the evenings or write to 39 Melrose Avenue, Worthing, BN13 1NU.

I am appealing to you all for more directors for next year. Anyone interested should contact me, and let me know when they will be available. If you have some new ideas, or would like to be on the Play Selection Committee, please let me know.

I shall finish by wishing Wendy all the best in her first directorial position for a straight play and hope it is a success which may prompt her to consider doing it again.

I look forward to seeing you all the Play in July, although as Stage Manager, I shall be mainly backstage. Please bring your friends and neighbours—'Bums on Seats, Darlings'!

**Marlene Tincknell, 01903 243558 email: [dramadiva@btinternet.com](mailto:dramadiva@btinternet.com)**

**Did you know**—that the Rep has a website? All kinds of interesting items are included on it and you can order your tickets for a play, see details of past productions or dates for the next.

Log on to: [www.lancingrep.co.uk](http://www.lancingrep.co.uk)

**If you would like to become a member but do not have access to the web, phone: Ros Dickinson 01903521221**

### **Ways & Means**

Our social events during 2007 brought us a total of £750 and selling items on e-bay, our raffles and Webb Ivory raised a further £145. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my team for all their hard work and time. Also thanks to Pat & Michael for opening their garden for the BBQ.

**If you have anything to sell or ideas for fund raising, just call Julie 01903 537985**

**Editor: Wendy Dowse, tel: 01903753139.**

**Email: [wendydowse@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wendydowse@hotmail.co.uk)**

### **Good News and Bad News!**

The bad news is that, at the AGM, the members agreed with the Committee to cut back on our productions. We have found that it is increasingly difficult to find directors, actors and backstage crew for three plays and a pantomime each year. There are so few active members that for many people it has been the end of one production, two weeks break and straight into the next.

Whatever they are doing, the commitment has become hard work when it should be an enjoyable hobby.

The good news is that we have managed to change the dates starting next year. So we shall have two pantomimes in 2009, one in January and one in December, but only two plays, one in April and one in July. From 2010 we shall have plays in April and July and a pantomime in December, which is when most people expect to go to the Panto. Rehearsals for the school children in our panto will be as usual, although it may be possible to start during the August holidays. Another good point is that everyone will be able to relax over Christmas because the show will be over!! The new dates will appear in the newsletter as we go along, but for the remainder of 2008 there will be no change. **Wendy Dowse, Editor**

### **Message from Our Chairman**

Summer is here, and the July play, 'The Day After the Fair', is set in the summertime, in the late nineteenth century. Please come and support Wendy's first drama production for the Players; a play we first presented in 1977. It is well written and, I hope, enjoyable.

New members are particularly welcome at present; lots of people are needed for all our activities, and pantomime season will soon be here!! If you know of anyone who wants to get involved, in any capacity, please contact us. **Philip Norton, Chairman**