

*Lancing Repertory  
Players*

present a  
**Family Christmas Play**

**The old woman  
who lived  
in  
shoe cottage**



Written & Directed by Yvonne &  
John Eddleston

**January 2007**



## Directors' Message

We hope you all had a good Christmas and are looking forward to a happy 2007.

We have tried to do something a little different for our first production of the New Year. Rather than a traditional Pantomime, or even a play with a Christmas theme, (although the action takes place in the days leading up to Christmas), we decided on something more realistic. Even so we have included lots of songs and hopefully a few jokes to make you smile.

This is the first time we have directed a play together and so far we haven't had to consult the divorce lawyers.

So sit back, enjoy the play and join in the songs. If you don't know the words just take off your shoes and hum along.

*Yvonne and John Eddleston*

*Lancing Repertory Players*

# WANTED!



**Actors and Actresses** of any Size or Age!  
Experience is Useful but not Essential.

Also anyone interested in working Backstage with Props,  
Costumes, Sets, Light & Sound, Prompt and much more!

Please come along to our HQ at Wembley Gardens, Lancing.  
Tuesdays and Fridays 7.30 - 9.30pm.  
or ring Rosalind Dickinson - 01903 521221

Visit our website: [www.lancingrep.co.uk](http://www.lancingrep.co.uk)

## About The Play

Agatha Sillie and her eight children are what her neighbours think of as the "Family from Hell" until they find out that things could be much worse. The Sillies have been tenants in Shoe Cottage for many years, but now a man from the council comes round to evict the Sillies. He is closely followed by the owner Rachel Shrew and her son Arnold. The neighbours euphoria at getting rid of the family are short lived when they discover the reason for the eviction and what they will have to put up with instead.

Arnold is smitten by Agatha's oldest daughter Millicent, but could she possibly be interested in a nerd like him?

The Shrews and the Sillies seem to be at daggers drawn, but then Willie Sillie hears something that changes everything.

*The play takes place at the present time and the scene throughout is the front garden of Shoe Cottage.*

Act I.

**Interval**

Act II.



## The Nursery Rhyme

The lyrics to the popular nursery rhyme go:

"There was an old woman who lived in a shoe.  
She had so many children, she didn't know what to do.  
She gave them some broth without any bread,  
Then whipped them all soundly and sent them to bed."

The Rhyme is very old and there are many versions, many quite gruesome, and there are also many opinions as to its origin.

The first of two suggested meanings is that it refers to Queen Caroline, wife of King George II, who had eight children. The second refers to King George who began the men's fashion for wearing white powdered wigs. He was therefore referred to as "The Old Woman". The children were the members of Parliament and the bed was the Houses of Parliament - even today the term 'whip' is used in parliament to describe an M.P. who is tasked to ensure that all members 'toe the party line'.

Incidentally, the wigs worn by women of the period were so large and unhygienic that it became necessary to include mousetraps in their construction.



## The Cast

Agatha Sillie .....	Denise Fawke
Millicent Sillie .....	Talia French
Belinda Sillie .....	Charlie Owen
Dilys Sillie .....	Kirsty Cumber
Matilda Sillie .....	Nicole Edwards
Hilary Sillie .....	Shelby Hardy
Jillian Silly .....	Ami Catling
Lilian Sillie .....	Tacita French
William Sillie .....	Kurtis Hardy
Roland Smythe .....	Alan Springham
Rachel Shrew .....	Carolyn Cumber
Arnold Shrew .....	Danny Robb
Dave Westbrooke .....	Jonathan French
Julie Westbrooke .....	Tracy Bowderly
Josephine Williams.....	Yvonne Eddleston
Constable Ford .....	Ian Black
Angela Fry .....	Wendy Dowse
Felicity Marsh .....	Kellie Waters
Other Protestors.....	Philip Norton, John Eddleston, Pat Lewis, Lauren Meredith

## Special Notes

*Refreshments* will be available during the Interval  
when the *Raffle* will also be drawn.

Please remember to **SWITCH OFF** your **MOBILE PHONES**.

**No photography** is allowed during the performance.

## Behind The Scenes

**Directors** ----- Yvonne & John Eddleston

Stage Manager ----- Marlene Tincknell

Choreography ----- Kirsty Cumber, Talia French

Music ----- Kim Edwards

Set Design / Construction - Marion Taylor, Peter Taylor,  
Mary MacPherson, Karen Howell

Continuity ----- Wendy Norton

Lighting ----- Peter Taylor, Matthew Cumber

Front of House Manager - Rosalind Dickinson

Props ----- Pat Lewis, Jean Sarfas

Box Office ----- John & Yvonne Eddleston

Publicity / Programmes --- Peter & Marion Taylor

We would also like to give special thanks to the following  
who have supported the Players in this production :-

The Local Press

Lancing Parish Council

Lancing Library - for providing display space

Local Shops - for displaying posters

Gardiner & Scardifield - providing transport for the set

John Fisher - publicity photographs

## LANCING REPERTORY PLAYERS

Lancing Repertory Players was first formed (with another name) over 70 years ago as a result of the local Women's Institute enrolling several husbands for productions. They were re-formed after the war and went from strength to strength, performing at the Luxor Cinema in Lancing (now a cycle shop). Later on, the move was made to the Parish Hall which, when rebuilt, formed what is now the Jubilee Hall.

Through their hard work the Players have established their own rehearsal room, wardrobe and workshop facilities in Lancing that are continuously in use preparing for the next production.

The Players are a very busy group, putting on four productions a year. That means that as soon as the set is taken down from one play, rehearsals start for the next, in fact of course the planning for a production has to be started long before the previous one is staged. Productions are staged at Lancing Parish Hall with support from local businesses with such things as transport and publicity.

Last year saw a wide variety of productions. Following the Christmas Play in January, *A Magical Christmas*, they staged "*Five Blue Haired Ladies Sitting on a Green Park Bench*" in April, this unusual and well received comedy certainly showed the versatility of our lady actors. Then in October, after very hard work by the actors, production team and set builders, we successfully staged an adaptation of Charlotte Brontë's "*Jane Eyre*".

This year's programme is already underway and full details are on the back cover of this programme.

### **GTA Minibreaks 2007**

#### **Selection of Holidays**

<b>March 2</b>	<b>Swinging 60s weekend</b>	<b>£125</b>
<b>April 21</b>	<b>Paris - Da Vinci Code</b>	<b>£94</b>
<b>May 19</b>	<b>Rouen &amp; Monets Garden</b>	<b>£65</b>
<b>June 16</b>	<b>Leuven &amp; Mechelen</b>	<b>£68</b>
<b>June 28</b>	<b>Spanish Minicruise</b>	<b>£85</b>

**PHONE 01273 465500 FOR A COPY  
OF OUR BROCHURE ON ALL OUR  
HOLIDAYS AND DAY TRIPS**

# Future Production Dates

The "Rep" will be presenting the following at Lancing Parish Hall:-

## Murder in Company

by Philip King & John Bolard

Director - Marlene Tincknell  
19th to 21st April 2007

## BEDROOM FARGE

by Alan Ayckbourn

Director - Ian Black  
19th to 21st July 2007

Bookings: 01903 605067 or via our website: [www.lancingrep.co.uk](http://www.lancingrep.co.uk)

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