

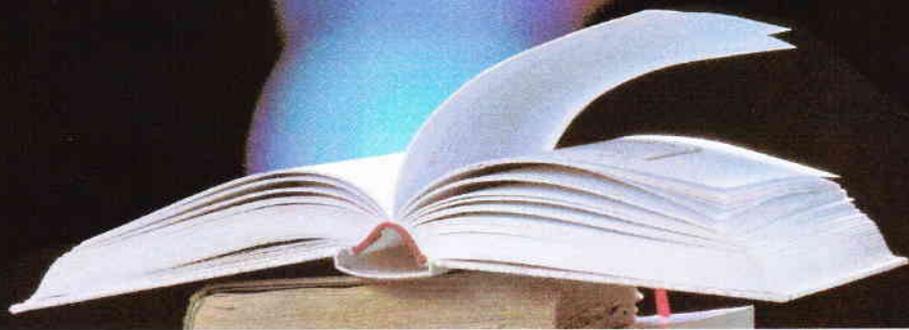


LANCING REPERTORY PLAYERS

presents

improbable
Fiction

by ALAN AYCKBOURN



Directed by IAN BLACK

APRIL 2010

PROGRAMME £1.00

improbable Fiction

DIRECTORS message

Improbable Fiction is best described as a surreal comedy. First performed in Scarborough in 2007, this follows Alan Ayckbourn's recent style of play, using time shift and a somewhat surreal environment as a vehicle for his skill in writing good comedy for the stage. This play, although only recently written, has been produced by a number of amateur groups within the UK already. It provides a challenge for both cast and technical presentation, with fast changes and complex lighting and sound requirements.

It has been great fun directing this play and, at the time of writing, we are progressing well through the rehearsal process. There is some strong comedy as far as the characters and the situations are concerned.

We welcome three new actors to the group - Jenni Acton, Simon Birk and Paul Jones - along with some tried and trusted regulars. This play can be said to be as challenging for the back stage team as well as for the actors, and it is with thanks that we welcome a number of new and very necessary members to our back stage crew, to help our stalwarts in constructing the set with props and costumes during the performance.

We hope you enjoy seeing all these elements come together in what should be a very funny evening's entertainment.

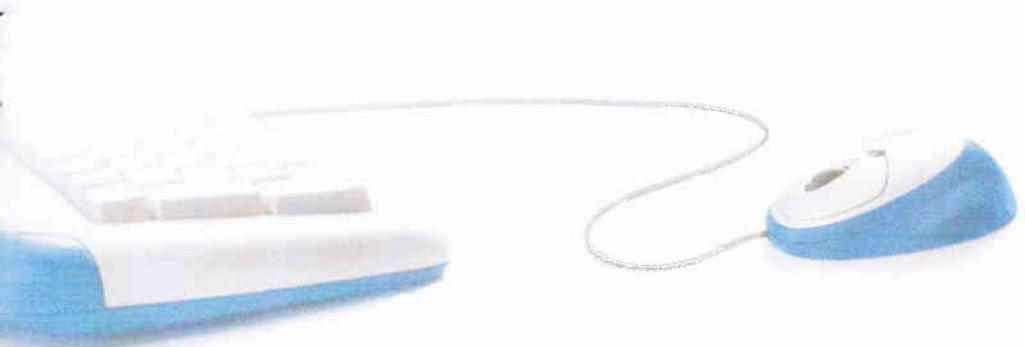
Ian Black



the Story

Six aspiring authors meet on a winter's evening to discuss their work. Among them are writers of historical romances and children's literature who are finding it difficult to start writing, and a crime writer who can't stop. Also attending the meeting is a creator of extremely complicated science fiction, a librettist without a musical partner and the Writer's Circle chairman, who produces instruction booklets,

The chairman, Arnold, attempts to get the rest of the group out of a rut by suggesting that they collaborate on a piece of writing, an idea that is received without enthusiasm. However, as Arnold is clearing up after the meeting there is a clap of thunder, a black-out - and then the stories that would have resulted from the collaboration takes place before his very eyes. Sharp comedy and affectionate satire characterize this zany, imaginative play.



THE CREW

Director	Ian Black
Stage Manager	Wendy Dowse
Set Design	Karen Howell Peter Taylor
Set Construction	Back Stage Crew
Costume and Props	Marlene Tincknell Julie Petrie Back Stage Crew
Sound	Sara Owen
Original Music	Dennis King
Music Recording	Tony Clark
Lighting	Chris Pugh
Box Office	Adrian Tincknell
Front of House Mngr.	Roz Dickinson
Refreshments	Marion Taylor
Publicity	Peter Taylor Marion Taylor
Poster/programme Design	Sylvia Tombs

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

The local press

Lancing library - providing display facilities

Lancing Parish Council

Local shops - displaying posters

Gardner & Scardifield - providing transport for the set

Tim Clarke - printing the programmes

Adur District Council - for posters in bus shelters

John Fisher - publicity photos

Stage Door - for the loan of a piano

Kathrin Zeisberg - for the head prosthetics

LANCING REPERTORY PLAYERS' NEXT PRODUCTION

another **Trio** of short plays

directed by **Marlene Tincknell & Mary MacPherson**

Moving on
a touching drama
by Richard James

Don't mention the dream
a comedy drama
by Damian Trasler

There's something about Bernard
a comedy
by Richard James

THUR 22 TO SAT 24 JULY 2010
7.30pm each evening



improbable *adj* not likely to be true or to happen; existing but not easy to believe

fiction *n* invented statement or narrative; literature consisting of such narrative. esp. novels

Arnold Hassocks

Arnold, a shop assistant, is Chairman of the Writers Group. A factual writer, he has so far only had instruction manuals published.

Paul Jones

Jess Bales

Jess is a female farmer who is struggling with her historical novel.

Denise Fawke

Grace Sims

Grace is a housewife who longs to write a successful childrens' book.

Susie Pickett

Vivvi Dickens

Vivvi is a journalist whose crime fiction mirrors her search for a good man.

Carolyn Cumber

Clem Pepp

Clem is a council worker who writes conspiracy sci-fi stories.

Simon Birks

Brevis Winterton

Brevis is a retired schoolteacher who is attempting to write a musical adaptation of Pilgrim's Progress.

Philip Norton

Isla Wolby

18 year old Isla is a shop assistant colleague of Arnold's who sits with his bedridden mother during the meeting.

Jenni Acton

the Author

Alan AYCKBOURN



Sir Alan Ayckbourn was born in London in 1939, and has worked in theatre all his life. He has undertaken various roles including actor, writer and director, encouraged by his mentor Stephen Joseph, who founded the Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough. Almost all of his plays written to date have been first performed at this theatre, of which he is Artistic Director, and many subsequently produced in the West End or at the National Theatre.

A prolific writer of comedy plays satirising middle-class manners, he is considered one of the world's pre-eminent dramatists. He has won numerous awards for his plays, which have been translated into 35 languages, and are performed worldwide on stage and television. Seven of his plays have been performed on Broadway.

He has received many honorary degrees, is Freeman of the Borough of Scarborough, was appointed CBE in 1987 and knighted for his services to theatre in 1997. *Improbable Fiction* is one of his most recent play.



LANCING REPERTORY PLAYERS
IS A MEMBER OF **NODA**