

PROMPT

Hay Fever that you will want to experience!



Our Director John Munson is very pleased with the way our next production is taking shape. The cast have been rehearsing with more than usual fervour, in order to ensure that Noel Coward's wit comes across in the best possible light. Although the play dates back to the 1920s it still works well today because of the exquisite writing. Michael Billington wrote in 2014:

"A nice change for you, I suppose, after all those dreary plays," said the lady next to me. She was right in that Hay Fever offers pleasurable escape, but watching Lindsay Posner's amusing revival I found myself wondering why, 90 years after it was written, Noël Coward's comedy still proves so astonishingly durable. I suspect it is because it combines astute observation with ironclad technique.

Of the many plays that have been written about impossible guests, Coward's is one of that select band that deals with nightmare hosts. A country weekend in Cookham with the theatrical family Bliss proves about as seductive as supper with the Macbeths, or cocktails with George and Martha in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* But Coward's comedy also combines neat symmetry, as each guest pairs off with the

wrong person, with slim dialogue in which every word falls perfectly into place. When Judith Bliss says of her husband, "No, he's not dead, he's upstairs," the laugh derives both from her crisp dismissal and that final hard consonant that Neil Simon said was indispensable in comedy."

I can't imagine some of the current theatrical offerings will still be relevant in 90 years time, but maybe the pace of change has increased a little since 1924.

Anyway, after all the hard work from the actors, and the creation of an excellent set from our award-winning design and construction team of Derek and Trevor, not to mention the sound and light contributions from equally award-winning Chris and Liz Hall, we are assured that the evening's entertainment will be first class. No awards to pitch for this time, just the kudos of a job well done. This means that you can recommend with confidence, so please forward this newsletter to all your friends in the area and beyond. It will be worth driving a few more miles to come and see the award-winning Detling Players in action again...

The cast is as follows:

| | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Judith Bliss | Sue Sutton |
| David Bliss | John Watson |
| Sorel Bliss | Kathryn Shirley |
| Simon Bliss | Ed Price |
| Myra Arundel | Sandra Stanley |
| Richard Greatham | Darren O'Connor |
| Jackie Coryton | Lucy Wood |
| Sandy Tyrell | Patrick Carty |
| Clara | Trudy Caplen |

The Backside of **PROMPT**

The September Play reading

Last month saw a select few gathering at West Court to read through a play by local playwright, Dennis Lipscombe. "Theatrical Knights" is a play with dizzying plot twists and ingeniously written. It has a cast of three, which means that a conventional production might be difficult. But Richard Finn has suggested that we could still perform this as a radio play on stage, so the audience would enjoy listening to the plot unfold but with the added benefit of seeing the action, whilst the performers would not have to learn the major parts just for one performance. I would be interested to learn what our members and supporters think of this idea. It would be fun, we could still raise some money by charging a modest entrance fee but with no requirement to build a set or pay license fees, and most of all we would be supporting a local writer.

Email me at johnpgwatson@talktalk.net for more information or just to register your interest.

The Mystery Walk round Detling which took place in August proved to be a great success, and raised another £55.00 to swell the Detling Players' coffers. Supporting events such as this not only helps to generate income, but more importantly, spreads the word that we are an active and inclusive organisation, that goes beyond putting on productions twice a year. We feel it is important to have fun and at the same time make the community aware of our dramatic activities of all kinds, from film nights and workshops to "open mike" type performance events such as the "Words and Music" evening organised by Tikki Gulland. But we can't do this without the support of you, the members, and your friends. Don't forget our events are open to all, you don't have to be a member of the Detling Players to take part.

Forthcoming events

A quick reminder that there is a Stage manager's Workshop on 26th. October at the School Hall, starting at 7.30. Come and listen to Chris Hall and Dickie Dawson giving us some insights into this important role. Refreshments will be served and there will be a modest charge to cover this.

Directors needed!

This is an open invitation to any experienced—or for that matter budding - directors who might have an idea about a play that they would like us to stage. If you have little or no experience, we can give you coaching and support. If you have a burning ambition to direct, get in touch with us and we will see how we can help you to realise your dream...

And finally

Carol Vizzard offers a guided tour of historic Maidstone to organisations such as ours as members of MAAP

I have been a Maidstone resident for over 30 years and I am ashamed by how little I know about our heritage – our mediaeval bridge, the resistance to authority through Wat Tyler and Andrew Broughton; our links to the Washington family and the USA, the founding of the Royal Society of Arts, and many more aspects of Maidstone's heritage that are crucial to the development of English society. Carol will be happy to lead a walk of 1 to 1 ½ hours duration that will reveal the hidden Maidstone. Her preference is to do this later afternoon when the Town Hall is still open, avoiding shoppers as much as possible, and while there is still some daylight

I would be interested to learn what level of support there might be for such a tour. Please let me know by email at johnpgwatson@talktalk.net

The Detling Players present

WAY FEVER

By Noel Coward

Detling Village Hall, 10th. - 12th. November



Box office

07842 169725

www.detlingplayers.co.uk