

BLECHINGLEY Amateur Dramatic Society

presents

LOVE FROM A STRANGER

By Frank Vosper

A Drama in Three Acts Based on a story by Agatha Christie

The Village Hall

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY

March 24th, 25th, 26th

At 8 p.m.

Doors open 7.30 p.m.

TICKETS (numbered & reserved) 7s. 6d., 5s. 0d. & 3s. 6d.

obtainable from the Box Office: TAYLOR & BRISTOW, Tel. 323, The Business Manager, MRS. PADDY MARTIN, Tel. 270, or from Members of the Society.

Cast: Peter Benson, Frank Ffoulkes, Alan Fogg, Frank Johnson, Priscilla Kininmonth, Doreen Reekie, Alison Leyland-Naylor, Marian Wilson.

Producer: HOPE ELIOT

*A Donation from the proceeds of this play will be made to the
Heatherley Cheshire Home, Copthorne, Sussex.*

HEATY & SONS, PRINTERS, REIGATE

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DRAMATIC SOCIETY

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Produced by

HOPE ELIOT

March 1966. Programme 6d.

Weak script saps Love from a Stranger

A two-set play with a change of scenery between the first and second acts was the latest production by the ambitious and usually competent Blechingley Amateur Dramatic Society, last week.

The drama "Love From a Stranger" is based on a story by Agatha Christie and written by Frank Vosper. The plot is simple, involving two girls living in a flat, one of whom rejects her steady boy friend's proposal and marries a handsome American, who eventually turns out to be a murderer.

His victim escapes death at the last moment by convincing her husband, who has heart trouble, that he has been poisoned. He collapses presumably with a heart attack.

ADEQUATE

The two girls, Mavis Wilson and Cecily Harrington, were

played adequately by Marian Wilson and Priscilla Kininmonth.

Bruce Lovell, the murderer, played by Peter Benson, was a strange character, the gaps in his American accent, which faded at times, were explained when the audience heard the murderer had been educated in England. Despite moments of overacting, Mr Benson was the most capable character in the performance.

Nigel Lawrence, the gallant rejected suitor, was a likeable character admirably portrayed by Geoffrey Cowperthwaite. Lesser parts all tended to suffer from overacting, except that of a village doctor played by Frank Johnson.

Gardener (Frank Ffoulkes) and maid (Alison Leyland-Naylor) at the couple's country cottage were far too rustic to be convincing. Their script was particularly weak.

As far as the change of set was concerned, the production was undoubtedly a success. The scenery was strong and convincing and the furniture well chosen.

CLEVER SETS

The change from town flat to country cottage was swift and silent. A backcloth of roofs and chimneys in the first act was creased and in poor perspective, looking more like an ornamental screen than a view from a window. A clever evening effect was given by gradually dimming the lights on this backcloth.

Aunt Louise, a dithering but well-meaning relative, played by Doreen Reekie, although overacted and suffering from a poor script, aroused laughter from a certain section of the audience.

This success, however, did not extend to the production as a whole. The main trouble was the rather feeble script. The play warmed up in the last scene when Lovell tried to murder his wife but until then events dragged along. I expected a more polished performance and a better choice of play from this society.—RST

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TAYLOR & BRISTOW

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BLECHINGLEY AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1963

Affiliated to the British Drama League

★ ★

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‘LOVE FROM A STRANGER’

CHARACTERS

(in order of appearance)

LOUISE GARRARD . . . DOREEN REEKIE

MAVIS WILSON . . . MARIAN WILSON

CECILY HARRINGTON PRISCILLA KININMONTH

BRUCE LOVELL . . . PETER BENSON

NIGEL LAWRENCE GEOFFREY COWPERTHWAIT

HODGSON . . . FRANK FFOULKES

ETHEL . . . ALISON LEYLAND-NAYLOR

DR. GRIBBLE . . . FRANK JOHNSON

★ ★

ACT ONE

Scene 1. Cecily and Mavis's flat in London, early March

Scene 2. The same, two hours later

ACT TWO

Scene 1. The cottage, six weeks later

Scene 2. The same, September

ACT THREE

Scene 1. The same, a fortnight later

Scene 2. The same, forty minutes later

★ ★

Telephone kindly lent by the G.P.O.

COFFEE TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE PROGRAMME SELLERS BEFORE THE PLAY BEGINS, Price 6d.

A Donation from the proceeds of this play will be made to THE HEATHERLEY CHESHIRE HOME, COPTHORNE, SUSSEX

Stage and Hall Staff

SET DESIGNER *and* STAGE MANAGER . . . ELVINA DOUGLAS
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER . . . WINIFRED WILLIAMS
SCENERY BUILT BY . . . GEORGE DOUGLAS *and* ERNEST WILSON
LIGHTING . . . GERALD RISBRIDGER *and* FRANK MARTIN
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PROPERTIES . . . PENELOPE LEWIS
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MAKE-UP . . . BARBARA COWPERTHWAITHE
BOX OFFICE . . . ALLAN BRISTOW
COFFEE ARRANGEMENTS . . . MOLLIE SIMMONDS
BACK-CLOTH PAINTED BY . . . WARREN TREVERS

The Society wishes to record its thanks to the members named above and to their helpers for their work in connection with this production, and to the advertisers for their continued support

Previous Productions

BOOK OF THE MONTH: 1963
THE BIRDS SANG ON: 1964 (Betchworth Drama Festival)
MY THREE ANGELS: 1964
WHEN WE ARE MARRIED: 1964
THE TWELVE POUND LOOK: 1965 (Betchworth Drama Festival)
(*Cup for best individual performance awarded to Paddy Martin*)
GOODNIGHT MRS. PUFFIN: 1965
HAUL FOR THE SHORE: 1965
THE BROWNING VERSION: 1966 (Betchworth Drama Festival)

Next Production

November 10th, 11th & 12th, 1966

Society Notes

We welcome new members who are interested in acting or in helping in any way "behind the scenes". Thinking of joining us? Then

PLEASE DETACH HERE

To: Mrs. Jean Risbridger,
Stychfield, Stychens, Blechingley (Telephone 510).

I am interested in joining the Blechingley Amateur Dramatic Society and should like details.

NAME.....
ADDRESS.....
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BLECHINGLEY (448)

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