



# 1. Bletchingley Amateur Dramatic Society

presents

## The Browning Version

by TERENCE RATTIGAN

John Taplow	Patrick Rhodes
Frank Hunter	Peter Benson
Millie Crocker-Harris	Jean Cormack
Andrew Crocker-Harris	Stanley Hurrell
Dr. Frobisher	Frank Johnson
Peter Gilbert	Michael House
Mrs. Gilbert	Peggy Wheeldon

Scene: The sitting-room of the Crocker-Harris' flat at a Public School in the south of England

Time: About 6.30 p.m. on a day in July

Producer: JEAN RISBRIDGER

Stage Manager: REG WEEDON



# 2. Merstham Women's Institute

presents

## Nothing Ever Happens in the Park

by JANE BLANDFORD

The Man in the Bowler Hat	Tony Graham
1st Lady	Jess Phillips
2nd Lady	Beatrice Kempson
Nanny with Pram	Doris Himsworth
The Woman	Dorothie Dancy
Smart Lady	Dorothy Wigington
Unsmart Lady	Kathleen Baldwin
The Girl	Lorna Danckwerts

Scene: A corner of a small park which boasts a lake and some trees and bushes. Also moderately comfortable seats provided by the kindly Borough Authorities. A sunny morning towards the beginning of autumn

Producer: JOY ANDERSON

Stage Manager: PAT ASHTON

# Betchworth Village Drama Festival

(SIXTEENTH YEAR)



THIS FESTIVAL is part of the National Festival of Community Drama in association with the British Drama League, and two teams will be selected by the Adjudicator, Mr. William Kendall, to go forward to Stage II of the National Festival, which will be held in the Ashcroft Theatre, Croydon, on April 18th, 19th and 20th, 1966.

Our Festival this year is being held at the Riddell Memorial Hall, by kind invitation of the Tadworth Players. The competing teams are as follows:

Day	Society	Play
Monday, 28th February, at 7.30 p.m.	TADWORTH PLAYERS BOOKHAM W.I. GOOD COMPANIONS	<i>I Spy</i> <i>Even Less Legal</i> <i>The Pool by the Dragon Gate</i>
Tuesday, 1st March, at 7.30 p.m.	CHIPSTEAD PLAYERS NORK W.I. BROCKHAM GREEN D.S.	<i>A Resounding Tinkle</i> <i>The Caucasian Chalk Circle</i> (extract) <i>The Pen of my Aunt</i>
Wednesday, 2nd March, at 7.30 p.m.	PRIORY PLAYERS BETCHWORTH O. & D.S. HURST GREEN W.I.	<i>The Rainbow</i> <i>The Importance of being Earnest</i> <i>Trouble on Helicon</i> (Act II)
Thursday, 3rd March, at 7.30 p.m.	MERSTHAM A.D.S. STUDENT PLAYERS LINGFIELD PLAYERS	<i>The Shoemakers of Syracuse</i> <i>Our Town</i> (Act III) <i>Even Less Legal</i>
Friday, 4th March, at 7.30 p.m.	BLETCHINGLEY A.D.S. MERSTHAM W.I. THE GAGE	<i>The Browning Version</i> <i>Nothing ever Happens in the Park</i> <i>The Pigeon with the Silver Foot</i>
Saturday, 5th March, at 7.30 p.m.	ST. PAUL'S PLAYERS ST. MARY'S PLAYERS	<i>A Letter from the General</i> (Act II) <i>Before the Flood</i>
Final Adjudication and Presentation of Awards		

We hope that you will give this Festival your continued support.

For and on behalf of Betchworth Village  
Drama Festival Committee,

Long Planting, Rook Lane,  
Chaldon (Tel. Caterham 43945)

C. L. F. BOND,  
Chairman.

FESTIVAL OF COMMUNITY DRAMA

REPORT OF FESTIVAL ADJUDICATOR

Festival at ..... Date ..... 19.....

Company ..... Betchingley ADS .....

Play .....

ADJUDICATOR'S CLASSIFICATION	
Scale	AWARDED
75 marks & over .... A	B
60-74 marks ..... B	
40-59 " ..... C	
Under 40 marks .... D	

ADJUDICATOR'S COMMENTS

The play is very rewarding when played strongly in a wholly naturalistic manner, with the different sequences carefully phased & bright, quick with Taplow, slower in the lesson, smooth with the headmaster and generally tense when Millie was in the room.

The set showed great taste and looked lived in. The furniture was suitably arranged to allow acting areas to the left and right. The three pieces, door, fireplace and - especially the window with seat - were most attractive. Costumes were generally right & the lighting very good.

The production was fluent, with a good pace that was not too fast and was therefore adequate: it was left however principally to the players to establish the different moods - except perhaps Taplow who had been carefully rehearsed. But the full drama of the play was not realised and an element almost of casualness was allowed to creep in. It is possible that a rather brisker pace would have helped. Certainly the players should have not been allowed to stand around so much, with their hands hanging by their sides. Seldom was the grouping as such dramatic: there was a slight tendency to have the players facing forwards too much. But chiefly the plot of the play was not sufficiently pointed by variation in mood & pace & by suitable pauses. There was no feeling of tension between Hunter & Millie on her first entrance. And his reaction to her slap ~~at the end~~ later on was far too pat. Similarly Crook was allowed little time to break down & sob: when pull himself together. Characterisation needs business as well as dialogue and

P.T.O.

ADJUDICATOR'S COMMENTS (cont.)

Some thought Menda had been given to providing the character with this. However, the business level was provided as well released.

The acting was assured and some good performances came off play through. Taplow was almost very good; his manner was nicely sympathetic and he was quite assured in all that he did. But diction was faulty, both in articulation and in expression. Both in speech and in manner he must be more ~~less~~ <sup>rough</sup> brash and spontaneous, ~~pushing~~ <sup>pushing</sup> into embarrassing situations, then woefully ~~pulling~~ <sup>pulling</sup> his way out again. We were not convinced that, for example, he was ashamed of the price of the book.

Frank Hunter had a pleasant even if too static manner. He showed that he had panache when leaping to the defence of the "Cock" at the end, which was much better played. But he was uncertain in his reactions to Millie.

Millie. She was also uncertain and the character was insipidly established so that her destructive speech about Taplow's book came rather as a surprise. She need to be more relaxed in her acting and more restless and ~~at~~ <sup>at</sup> the edge in her characterization: desperately possessive, out of pride & self-indulgence and love. She has a good presence and voice but gave an almost lethargic impression.

Andrew Crocker-Harris's performance, although still static in regard to bodily movement, was nicely varied and sensitive so that we believed in him as a hard, frustrated but gentle man who had lost his way in life. His voice was rather muffled so that he depended almost entirely on his facial expression, which was good, and sensitive emphasis in his lines.

D. Trumbler - a good performance: could be rather well with a much more suave and assured manner.

Peter Gilbert - a good restrained type of his part. Could use ten voice & be more cozy with his wife.

Signed

William Lee

Adjudicator

Miss Gilbert a bright performance that was just right.

MARKS AWARDED

ACTING (max. 40).....	30 29	ENDEAVOUR	} (max. 15).....	11
PRODUCTION (max. 35).....	19 20	ORIGINALITY		
STAGE PRESENTATION (max. 10).....	8	ATTAINMENT		

TOTAL 68

less penalties for weariness 6 = 62