

BLECHINGLEY AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

presents

Midsummer Mink

A Comedy by Peter Coke

Produced by Paddy Martin

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY

May 10th, 11th, 12th

The Village Hall

at 8 p.m.

TICKETS: 40p, 30p, 20p (numbered & reserved)
from The Post Office or Society Members
(GODSTONE 3201)

Cast: Nada Bouch, John Buck, Eddie Carvell, Barbara Cowperthwaite, Joan Hayman, Stanley Hurrell, Sheila Illsley, John Illsley, Joyce Jones, Meriel McLaughlin, Kay Winter

A donation from the proceeds of this play will be made to St. John Ambulance (Local)



Blechingley Amateur Dramatic Society

PRESENTS

'MIDSUMMER MINK'

A COMEDY BY

Peter Coke

Produced by Paddy Martin

May 1973

Programme 3p

(21st Production)

A DONATION FROM THE PROCEEDS OF THE PLAY WILL BE MADE TO
THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE (LOCAL)

'MIDSUMMER MINK'

BY PETER COKE

Characters in order of appearance

BRIGADIER ALBERT RAYNE, C.B., C.M.G., M.V.O.	STANLEY HURRELL
ALICE, LADY MILLER	JOYCE JONES
MISS NANETTE PARRY	MERIEL MCLAUGHLIN
MISS ELIZABETH HATFIELD	SHEILA ILLSLEY
DAME BEATRICE APPLEBY	NADA BOUCH
LILY THOMPSON	KAY WINTER
TED	JOHN BUCK
MICHAEL HOGAN	JOHN ILLSLEY
CHRIS	EDDIE CARVELL
MADAME CHAMBERT	JOAN HAYMAN
D.I. WILSON	BARBARA COWPERTHWAITHE

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The action of the Play passes in the living-room of Dame Beatrice's flat near to the Albert Hall

ACT I

A morning in Summer

ACT II

Morning, six weeks later

ACT III

Evening, six weeks later

Time: The Present

Furry tail raises the laughs

WOULD YOU sell stolen furs to raise money for your favourite charity? If you want to know how it's done, go and see Peter Coke's 'Midsummer Mink' as staged by Blechingley Amateur Dramatic Society as a festival offering last week.

Admittedly, the thoroughly upright committee, chaired by a Brigadier, with a Dame and a Lady as active members, have the first mink literally thrust upon them, but they are not slow to turn the situation to advantage.

The action takes place in Dame Beatrice's flat near the Albert Hall (an excellent set design by Robert Landeryou), where the Brigadier organises flag selling and fund-raising with military precision. A

brown paper parcel is thrust into Miss Parry's arms right on the doorstep, in which they discover a mink. They have just concluded it is stolen, when a silver-tongued young Irishman calls to collect it, with a blarneying tale which they don't believe.

Fences

Discovering that Michael Hogan is a fur thief, Dame Beatrice suggests the committee should act as a fence, and they make a satisfactory arrangement with Hogan, by which they soon raise plenty of money for their charities. Their only danger is the maid Lily, whose boy friend is a policeman. Ironically, although she knows nothing of their activities, Lily herself is the

cause of a policeman coming to the house, in search of a fur borrowed by Lily from another employer. They are an amusing collection of characters. Nada Bouch was impressive as Dame Beatrice, an assured, authoritative woman, with a dry sense of humour. A well-spoken polished performance Joyce Jones brought her own inimitable humour to Alice Lady Miller, and Sheila Illsley was excellent as the nervous, prim spinster, who fortified herself throughout with large swigs of her nerve tonic. Meriel McLaughlin played Miss Parry, the division teacher who welcomed any opportunity to act, and made all the bogus phone calls in a variety of accents. He acting was too exaggerated to be in balance with the others, they were

comic widows she tipped over into farce. It was puzzling to know why she kept putting her hands on her hips, particularly when wearing evening dress. Stanley Hurrell's Brigadier lacked assurance at times, partly due to uncertainty over lines. The most natural performance of the evening came from Kay Winter as the cheerful, ex-reform school maid, Lily, who always called her employer "Dame dear".

John Illsley played the plausible Michael with suitable smoothness, and the remaining roles were taken by John Buck (Ted, the policeman boy friend), Joan Hayman (a French furrier), and Barbara Cowperthwaite as the quiet, efficient police detective. Stage business was briskly and amusingly handled. Producer, Paddy Martin.

SHEILA SMITH

Furry tail raises the laughs

WOULD YOU sell stolen furs to raise money for your favourite charity? If you want to know how it's done, go and see Peter Coke's "Midsummer Mink," as staged by Bletchingley Amateur Dramatic Society as a festival offering last week.

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**MIDSUMMER
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A Comedy by Peter Coke

**THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY
10th, 11th, 12th May, 1973**

VILLAGE HALL, BLECHINGLEY

at 8 p.m.

*Paddy Martin is the producer of this amusing comedy
which will be the 21st production of the Society*

*Those taking part: Nada Bouch, John Buck, Eddie
Carvell. Barbara Cowperthwaite, Joan Hayman, Stanley
Hurrell, Shelia Illsley, John Illsley, Joyce Jones, Meriel
McLaughlin, Kay Winter*

**TICKETS: 40p, 30p, 20p (numbered and reserved),
may be bought from the Post Office or from mem-
bers of the Society.**

A donation from the proceeds of this play will be made to:
ST. JOHN AMBULANCE (LOCAL)

Hleatt, Printer, Reigate