



jackie lucas



barbara saunders



joyce wells



margaret pinnell



susan sarti



jacqui sharman

The cast of 'Waiting in the Wings'



wendy whittaker



marian buck



peter shore



mary foster



emma younds



liz tomlin



joanna scott



jennie barnett



tim mumby



sally harling



craig phelan



ian seath



producer/director

felicity lund



stage manager

cyril mighall



lighting & sound

rodney bain

Bletchingley Players



present



Waiting in the Wings by Noel Coward

October 30th, 31st & November 1st 2003

at Bletchingley Village Hall

PROGRAMME 50 p

The action of the play takes place in the lounge of "The Wings" in 1958.

ACT I

Scene 1 After lunch on a Sunday in June
 Scene 2 A month later – 3.00 am

ACT II

Scene 1 A Sunday afternoon in September
 Scene 2 Early hours of the following morning
 Scene 3 Sunday afternoon a week later

ACT III

Scene 1 Christmas evening
 Scene 2 After lunch on a sunny afternoon the following year

"The Wings" is a small charity home for retired actresses. It differs from other organisations of its kind by providing only for those who have been stars or leading ladies and who, through age, lack of providence and misfortune, have been reduced to poverty.

Some of these have been granted a pension of four pounds a week by the King George's pension fund; others have pitifully small incomes of their own.

No actress under the age of 60 is eligible for admittance to the home.

"The Wings" is subscribed to by public funds and was founded in 1925 by Sir Hilary Brooks, a leading actor-manager and producer of his day.

The organisation is controlled from London by a committee of leading actors and actresses who attend meetings once a month and make decisions on policy and investments.

A fish'n'chip supper will be served during the interval between Act I and II.

House manager	John Tomlin
Bar manager	Renate Butler
Box office	Sue Walker
Programme sales	Joanna Scott

Thank you to all our other helpers... front of house and bar staff and other behind the scenes helpers who all contribute to the success of the evening.

Thank you also to the generous local traders who support us by advertising in this programme. Please support them.

Waiting in the Wings

by Noel Coward

R E S I D E N T S

Bonita Belgrave	....	Jackie Lucas
Cora Clarke	....	Barbara Saunders
Maudie Melrose	....	Joyce Wells
May Davenport	....	Margaret Pinnell
Deidre O'Malley	....	Susan Sarti
Estelle Craven	....	Jacqui Sharman
Almina Clare	....	Wendy Whittaker
Sarita Myrtle	....	Marian Buck

S T A F F

Perry Lascoe (Secretary of the Committee)	Peter Shore
Sylvia Archibald (Superintendent)....	Mary Foster
Doreen (the housemaid)	Emma Pounds

N E W C O M E R S

Lotta Bainbridge	....	Liz Tomlin
Dora (her maid)	....	Joanna Scott
Topsy Baskerville	....	Jennie Barnett

V I S T O R S

Osgood Meeker	....	Tim Mumby
Zelda Fenwick	....	Sally Harling
Dr Jeavons	....	Craig Phelan
Alan Bennett	....	Ian Seath

P R O D U C T I O N T E A M

Producer/director	....	Felicity Lund
Stage manager & set design	....	Cyril Mighall
Lighting & sound	....	Rodney Bain
Props	Eileen Shore/Jennie Barnett	
Continuity	....	Carolyn Whittaker
Make up	Roz Miller
Set construction	John Gent, Jeremy Lund,	
	Alan West, Sean Phelan	

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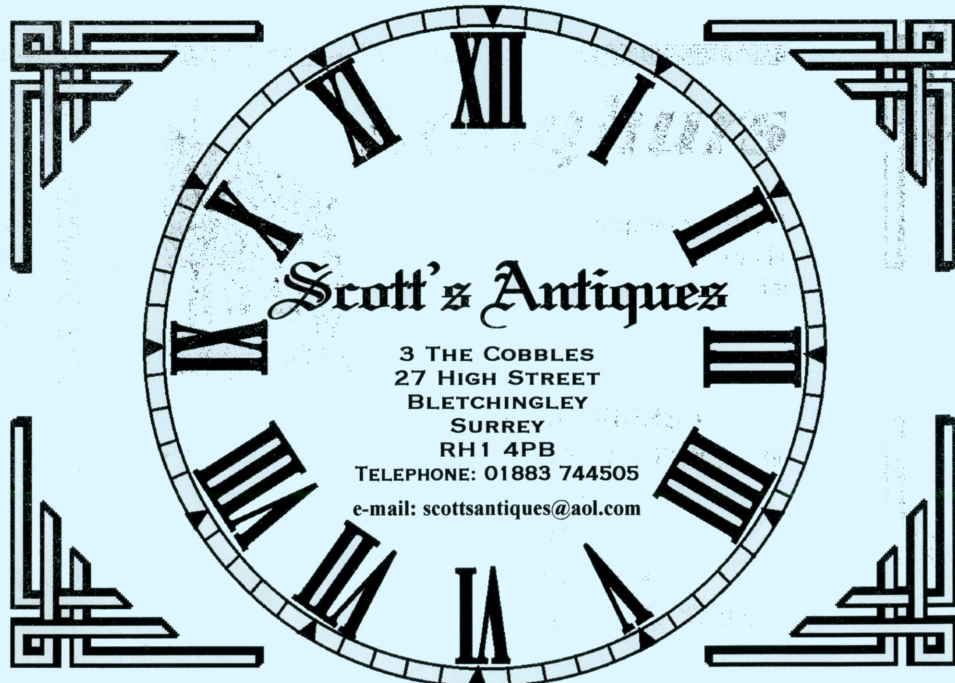


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reviews

Waiting in the Wings,

The Bletchingley Players at Bletchingley Village Hall.

Reviewed by Tony Flook

OUTSIDE it was wet and dismal — autumn had arrived. The atmosphere in Bletchingley Village Hall, though, was welcomingly warm as the capacity audience grouped around candle-lit tables for another of the players' popular play and supper events.

Noel Coward's *Waiting in the Wings* is set in a charitable retirement home for former leading actresses who have fallen on hard times. It needs a large cast of mainly mature players; there are 18 characters and no scope for doubling up of roles.

Bletchingley Players were fortunate to be able to call on a number of actresses of roughly the right age, although some may have added a few years with make-up.

Even though *Waiting in the Wings* is, largely, an ensemble piece, some personalities are more dominant than others and some players in this production, directed by Felicity Lund, seemed to know their characters better than did others.

Margaret Pinnell played the somewhat aloof May, who is angered by the arrival of Lotta, portrayed with extrovert theatricality by Liz Tomlin. There's a long-standing

antagonism between these two which, having simmered for 30 years, was resolved with barely a whimper in Act II. These two actresses gave a telling insight into the minds of ex-stars and the adjustments they have had to make because of circumstances.

Marian Buck made the most of her few appearances as Sarita whose mind has long since retired and who now lives in a world of her own. She enlivened all her scenes and there was a touching moment when she was taken away, oblivious of the damage she had done by setting fire to her room.

Susan Sarti also added sparkle as the fiery Deidre. The young generation was well represented by Emma Pounds as Doreen, a helpful but sometimes flustered maid.

Although most of the other players added neat touches, some tended to speak too much on one level and some exchanges lacked spontaneity. It's a long, relatively static play and, overall, the actors needed to infuse more light and shade, to help hold the audience's attention.

Cyril Mighall's imaginative set made the most of the small stage and his excellent use of the available space was seen in some episodes involving up to 11 people. The conventional drawing room was flanked by three doors — all used to good effect — a realistic-looking staircase and even french windows leading to a terrace that was transformed to a sun-room for the final scene.