



presents

PARTY PIECE

by

Richard Harris



Bletchingley Village Hall

October 16th, 17th, 18th 2008

Programme 50p

Cast (in order of appearance):

Michael Smethurst Guy Hudson

Mrs Hinson Di Brooke

Roma Smethurst Jackie Lucas

David Hinson Craig Phelan

Jennifer Hinson Emma Davey

Toby Hancock Matt Horan

Sandy Lloyd-Meredith Sally Harling

The action takes place in the gardens of a pair of terraced houses in West London.

The audience are asked to imagine the high fence that exists between the two gardens.

ACT I

A Saturday afternoon in Summer

INTERVAL

Fish & chip supper

Raffle

ACT II

7.15pm the same evening

Production Team:

Director..... Barbara Saunders

Stage Manager Cyril Mighall

Lighting & Sound Rodney Bain

Lighting Assistant Steve Morse

Set Design Cyril Mighall

Props Jenny Barnett & Sheila Mighall

Wardrobe Karen Murray

Continuity Eileen Shore

Set Construction Cyril Mighall
 Jeremy Lund
 John Gent
 Steve Morse

Front of House:

House Manager Felicity Lund

Bar Manager Frank Power

Box Office Sue Walker

Many thanks to all front of house and bar staff

Chairman's message:

As, unfortunately, we had to cancel our Spring production, this is the first chance I have had to address you this year.

I am pleased that Barbara has taken the challenge to not only produce something entirely different in terms of set presentation, but also to involve some members who have not appeared recently, as well as a very welcome new member.

Because the Spring production was cancelled at short notice, we had already incurred several non-refundable expenses and we therefore wish to apply the proceeds of the raffle towards our running costs. We hope you will support us and give generously to the raffle.

I reiterate our desire to attract new members in whatever capacity and invite those interested to complete the form at the end of this programme.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy the show.

Jeremy Lund – Chairman

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Guy Hudson (Michael Smethurst)

This is Guy's third production with the Players. Last year he appeared as the mysterious Inspector Goole in "An Inspector Calls". He followed this in October with the axe-wielding Mr Robinson in "The Graduate". He has really enjoyed playing the obsessive Michael and hopes his costume in Act II won't frighten the horses!

Di Brooke (Mrs Hinson)

Di was delighted to find an age-appropriate part in this play, especially as she has been out of acting for two years. To play a cunning old battleaxe of a mother-in-law has been great fun in rehearsal, and having the last word a very satisfying experience. Hopefully her sons-in-law are not nodding and saying "We told you so"!

Jackie Lucas (Roma Smethurst)

Having been a member now for some years, Jackie always enjoys not only the performances but also the rehearsals and this play has certainly been no exception! Her only regret is not being able to take full advantage of her costume in Act II with a dance routine – maybe next time!

Craig Phelan (David Hinson)

Craig has been performing with Bletchingley Players for over 5 years now and is fresh from taking the title role in last year's production of "The Graduate". However, Craig is enjoying the prospect of keeping his clothes on in this play, feeling that perhaps our audiences can have too much of a good thing.

Emma Davey (Jennifer Hinson)

Emma escaped from the West Country at 23 and went to London to "find her fortune" training as an actor. She has worked on stage, TV and in films and favourite leading lady roles have been in "Pygmalion", "The King & I" and "Steel Magnolias". Her last production was her little boy, Robin, who is almost two and showing definite signs of Mum's dramatic tendencies! Emma is looking forward to treading the boards once more, this time as Jennifer – the long-suffering daughter-in-law.

Matt Horan (Toby Hancock)

Matt is delighted to be taking part in his first production with Bletchingley Players. It is only his second acting role since leaving school and comes just three weeks after his first, in the Archway Theatre's production of "Proof". Despite a hectic time learning lines and attending rehearsals for two productions, Matt is thoroughly enjoying being an actor.

Sally Harling (Sandy Lloyd-Meredith)

Sally has been a member of Bletchingley Players for 8 years. During this time she has portrayed a variety of characters, her favourites being Elvira in "Blithe Spirit" and Annette in "Steel Magnolias". Having been kept away from amateur dramatics by being busy moving house, changing jobs and completing the London Marathon, Sally is looking forward to returning tonight as Sandy.

Barbara Saunders (Director)

Barbara has been a member of Bletchingley Players for a number of years and has appeared on stage in various roles, as well as directing "Arthur's Big Day" and "Caramba's Revenge".

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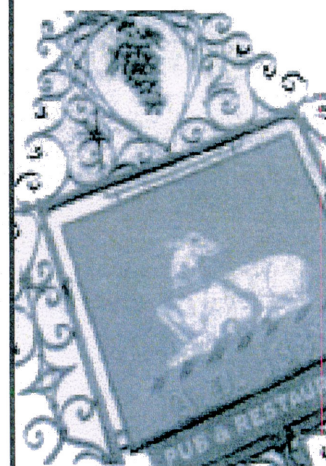
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22ND, 23RD & 24TH OCTOBER 2008

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Party Piece

Bletchingley Players,
Bletchingley Village
Hall

Reviewed by
Oliver Cownden

PARTY Piece by Richard Harris is a fast paced comedy set in the neighbouring back gardens of two Victorian terraced houses.

Michael and Roma throw a fancy dress house warming party that soon turns out to be

a disaster. Most of the guests they invited do not turn up and they eventually end up inviting their nosey next-door neighbour, her son and his difficult new wife.

A lot of work had obviously gone into the impressive set designed by Cyril Mighall complete with sheds and garden furniture. The smoke effects of the barbecue were excellent and used to good effect. I did feel however that the lighting was a little harsh for the set.

Guy Hudson as Dr Michael Smethurst and Jackie Lucas

as his wife Roma gave strong performances. The great height difference between the two gave their paring an extra comic dimension and their interaction reminded me of Basil and Sybil Fawley. The very tall Hudson was good at physical comedy to which the audience responded to favourably. Lucas had good facial expression conveying the absurdity of various situations and played her character well – they were good together.

Di Brooke as the interfering next-door neighbour Mrs Hinson portrayed her character as the mother-in-law from hell well. She has a good sense of comic timing and for me was the star of the night. Her son David played by Craig Phelan also gave a good performance although at times looked slightly awkward on stage.

Emma Davey as David's wife Jennifer gave a strong, believable and polished performance and had real stage presence. Although Matt Horan who played Toby Hancock had few lines, he played the comedy of his role well. Sally Harling as the man-eating Sandy was breath of fresh air on stage and very funny.

Director Barbara Saunders delivered a good performance from her cast. The village hall was packed out and the audience appreciative of the evening's entertainment.



On an impressive set: Guy Hudson as Dr Michael Smethurst and Jackie Lucas as Roma



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