

Stage Whispers

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February 2024

www.whipstheatre.org

EDITORIAL

Looks as if we are set to have a spring production!

After the January playreading at Pats house, the general consensus was that, like in 1986 when we last performed this Ayckbourn play, we should reduce the five interconnected playsets to four. This production has a total of sixteen roles that could be played by 2 men & 1 female but as this is our final play, the intention is to give all members having at least a chance to act without learning huge amount of lines.

The casting meeting will be on Thursday 8th Feb @ 7.30 in the EH Canterbury room

SUE FLOYD

Very sad news, Sue Floyd, who acted with us for many years and retired with husband Alan to Somerset, died suddenly late January after a short illness. Terrible shock for Alan, son Chris and daughter Katie (who has recently moved to Ockham)

Sue, who was in her eighties, always had a cheerful attitude towards her life, acting in many of our plays and especially our Panto's. She took the part of Milly alongside dear old Norman Pearce in Gosforth's

Fete which we are just about to revive, but in my opinion her crowning glory was playing Maxine in 'Stepping out' She will be sorely missed.

Her funeral will be on Mon 12th Feb at 2pm at Yeovil Crematorium

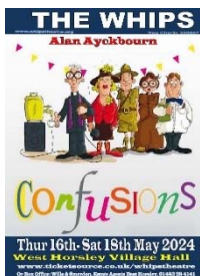
SPRING PRODUCTION

Casting meeting Thursday 8th Feb at 7.30 in the Canterbury room EH

"Mother Figure": Housewife Lucy has the difficult job of looking after the children alone whilst her husband is away. This job of looking after the children has taken over her life; so much so that she never leaves the house and doesn't even have the time to change out of her pyjamas. Concerned neighbour Rosemary decides to come around to check on Lucy and to give her the number of her husband Harry who has been trying to call her for a while, and is shocked to find Lucy rushing around trying to look after the children and revealing that she doesn't listen to bells. Rosemary enlists the help of her husband Terry to discover what is wrong with Lucy. Terry is a chauvinist with no respect for Rosemary, and this attitude is clear in the way he speaks to both Lucy and Rosemary. However, Lucy, in her permanent state of the "mother", treats the pair in the only way she knows how, as children. This approach quickly puts Terry in his place and puts an end to the petty squabbles between Rosemary and Terry, and the end result is the pair leaving hand in hand (if rather reluctantly).

1. **"Drinking Companion"**: Harry, husband of Lucy, tries to flirt with perfume saleswoman Paula. Harry's obvious and strong advances scare Paula somewhat, however Paula makes the most of the free drinks Harry is providing until friend Bernice approaches and tries to get her to leave. Harry gives Paula his room key in obvious hope and persists to flirt and also trying his luck with Bernice. Eventually the women become quite adamant that they must

leave so Harry goes to get them a taxi, whilst he is gone the two women escape leaving the key with a waiter.....**Between Mouthfuls"**: In the same hotel as the people in *Drinking Companions* two couples at adjoining restaurant tables realise an unwelcome common bond, assisted by an interactive waiter. Mrs Pearce wonders who Mr Pearce is sleeping with. Polly's not been frank to Martin (who really doesn't care at all about Polly's affair). The waiter is extremely well spoken. There's clever direction of the alternation between the two sets of conversations. A twist to the plot-line spices the ending.

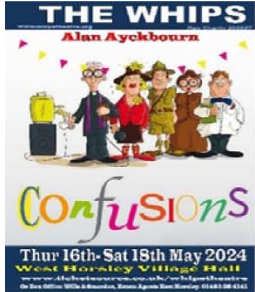


"Gosforth's Fete": Publican Gosforth is running the village gala. Due to a big mistake bad personal news from Milly Carter is publicised over the public-address system. Milly's fiancé Stewart Stokes becomes extremely aggravated and drowns his sorrows with alcohol. Councillor Mrs Pearce, after the most disorganised greeting is electrocuted by the PA system. Gosforth's Fete starts like all village fetes do. However, it develops into chaos and as things continue to go wrong the play climaxes to a complete disaster

FOLK NEEDED

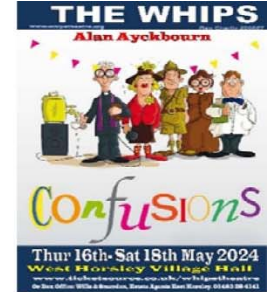
Props, costume, Producer, sound, lighting There will be little in the way of staging as curtaining will be used with minimum furnishings.

Proposed rehearsal Schedule



Confusions.. four interconnecting plays

Mother FigureLucy...Rosemary ..Terry
 Drinking Companions ..Harry...Paula... Beatrice
 Between Mouthfuls Waiter.. Pearce .. Mrs Pearce ..Martin ..Polly
 Gosforth's FeteMrs Pearce ..Milly.. Gosforth ..Vicar.. Stewart



By Alan Ayckbourn Directed by Jack Griffith

Performances 16th May to 18th May Oct 2024

Provisional REHEARSAL SCHEDULE Version 18/1/2024

DATE	VENUE	TIME	ACTS	CAST AWAY
FEB				
Thurs 8	Canterbury Rm EH	07.30	Casting meeting all	
Mon 26	Canterbury Room	07.30		
Thurs 29	Canterbury Room	07.30		
March				
Mon 4	Canterbury Room	07.30		
Thurs 7	Canterbury Room	07.30		
Mon 11	Canterbury Room	07.30		
Thurs 14	Canterbury Room	07.30		
Mon 18	Canterbury Room	07.30		
Thurs 21	Canterbury Room	07.30		
Mon 25	Canterbury Room	07.30		
Thurs 28	Canterbury Room	07.30		
April				
Mon 1	Canterbury Room	07.30		
Thurs 4	Canterbury Room	07.30		
Mon 8	Canterbury Room	07.30		
Thurs 11	Canterbury Room	07.30		
Mon 15	Canterbury Room	07.30		
Thurs 18	Canterbury Room	07.30		
Mon 22	WHVH Main Hall	07.30		
Thursday 25	WHVH Main Hall	7.45 – 10.00pm		
Monday 29	WHVH Main Hall	7.45 – 10.00pm		
Thursday 16th	WHVH Main Hall	7.45 – 10.00pm		
May				
Monday 1st	WHVH Main Hall	7.45 – 10.00pm		
Thursday 4th	WHVH Main Hall	7.45 – 10.00pm		
Monday 6th	WHVH Main Hall	7.45 – 10.00pm		
Thursday 9th	WHVH Main Hall	7.45 – 10.00pm		

PRODUCTION WEEK (performances at 8.00pm)

- Sunday 12th May 2024 Technical Rehearsal Time 4 PM
- Monday 13th May (Dress Rehearsal)..Cedar room
- Tuesday 14th May Free (maybe!) or Cedar room
- Wednesday 15th May Free or Cedar room
- Thursday 16th May 1st performance (Supper Night maybe)
- Friday 17th May (Performance)
- Saturday 18th May (Performance)
- Sunday 19th May (Strike the Sct)

Letter to the editor

From Nic Pearce who moved to the east of England a few years back with wife Jan who sadly died some time ago

Jack



Long time no see! Thank you for continuing to send Whispers as it is always interesting to catch up with what is going on with the club and I'm so sorry to learn that it is likely to close down next year. I know you have been saying for quite sometime if people didn't step up the end could not be far away but nevertheless it will still be a very sad day when it comes after such a long and illustrious existence. I've many happy memories of the club and all the friends we made in and around Horsley and it was always a regret we didn't get back down as often as we would have liked after moving.



I hope you manage to get this possibly final production to take wings and fly and if you do that it will prove a memorable swan song. Please send my love and best wishes to all the old friends in the Whips and I will definitely try to get down to see a final show if I can.

Hope you are both well and all best wishes to everyone at the Whips for 2024!

Nic Pearce.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Feb 8thCasting Meeting
May 16-18th 2024Spring Production



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and finally

Two Mexicans are stuck in the desert, wandering aimlessly and close to death. They are close to just lying down and waiting for the inevitable, when all of a sudden...

"Hey Pepe, do you smell what I smell. Ees bacon, I is sure of eet".

"Si, Luis, eet smells like bacon to meee".

So, with renewed strength, they struggle off up the next sand dune, and there, in the distance, is a tree, just loaded with bacon.

There's raw bacon, dripping with moisture, there's fried bacon, back bacon, double smoked bacon...every imaginable kind of cured pig meat you can imagine!!

"Pepe, Pepe, we ees saved. Eees a bacon tree".

"Luis, are you sure ees not a meerage? We ees in the desert, don't forget".

"Pepe, when deed you ever hear of a meerage that smeell of bacon...ees no meerage, ees a bacon tree".

And with that...Luis races towards the tree. He gets to within 5 metres, Pepe following closely behind, when all of a sudden, a machine gun opens up, and Luis is cut down in his tracks. It is clear he is mortally wounded but, true friend that he is, he manages to warn Pepe with his dying breath.

"Pepe..Pepego back man, you was right, ees not a bacon tree"

"Luis, Luis si amigo...what ees eet?"

"Pepe...ees not a bacon tree....."

Ees.....Ees.....

Ees.....

Ees, a Ham Bush"

