

LOOKING BACK (Part 1)

As we approach our 75th Birthday in October, we decided it might be interesting to look back at the plays which brought us here, starting with a swift review of comedies.

Comedy was part of our programming from the very start. The opening production in 1941 was an evening of one-act plays, each presented by one of the three drama groups which had combined to form the Retford Little Theatre. Other than the titles, full details of these have been lost, but one of them was a comedy by J. M. Barrie: *Shall We Join the Ladies?* – a comedy-thriller to be precise.

Within the first five seasons we produced three of Shakespeare's comedies, and examples of the work of Oscar Wilde, Noel Coward and Richard Brinsley Sheridan, between them covering a broad sweep of British comedy theatre.

By the 9th season we had covered five Shakespearean comedies, amidst many other plays which our audience today might perhaps find rather heavy going! (More of these in future play programmes).

In contrast, the 1953-54 season was devoted entirely to comedies, again featuring Sheridan, Wilde and Coward in the company of Somerset Maugham and Kaufmann & Hart.

Many seasons included classic comedies from the late 17th and 18th centuries: Wycherley, Congreve, Etherege, Farquar, Goldsmith, etc, but we haven't produced a true Restoration comedy since *The Man of Mode* in 1996. All these classics tend to require large casts and staggering costume hire bills.

In common with many amateur theatres (and some professional ones), the plays of Sir Alan Ayckbourn have featured frequently in our comedy slots. We have performed fifteen so far. Only another sixty-four to go!

Many of our patrons tell us repeatedly that they come to the Little Theatre to be entertained. Comedies (and farces) amply fulfil this aim. We have produced many farces, but this is now a rather out-dated genre, and modern comedies are not always suitable for our staging or our acting strength.

Have you seen comedies elsewhere – amateur or professional – which you believe would go down well in Retford? Please let us know!

If you are interested in volunteering, acting on stage or helping with any other duties at the theatre, please leave your details by filling in this slip,

by telephone on 01777 702002 or by email: boxoffice@rlt.org.uk

Name
Telephone/Mobile:
Email:

Please indicate your preferred method of contact

Please hand this slip to the Duty Manager or send it to us and someone will be in touch.

Retford Little Theatre, Wharf Road, Retford, Notts DN22 6EN www.rlt.org.uk

75th
Season

Laying the Ghost by Simon Williams 5th - 13th Feb 2016

COMING SOON

THE BROWNING VERSION

By Terence Rattigan

DOUBLE BILL

STILL LIFE

By Noël Coward

Produced by Stephen Walker

1st - 9th April 2016 7.30pm

THE CASTING OF

THE VICAR OF DIBLEY

Produced by Donnamarie Stamp

20th - 28th May 2016 7.30pm

(to include a matinee and an evening performance on 28th May)

Two readings took place in January, but if you missed the chance to be there and wish to be considered, please contact Donnamarie on 07825249644 by 14th Feb to arrange a reading.

SEASON EXTRA

I WANT THAT HAIR

By Jane Thornton

Produced by Sarah Mullins

13th - 15th July 2016 7.30pm



at Retford Little THEATRE

Next two films:

19th February 2016

18th March 2016

Mr. Holmes

Bridge of Spies

YOUTH THEATRE

We are thrilled by the influx of young people to our new Youth Theatre.

They meet on Tuesday evenings and have now begun rehearsals for their first production *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to be staged in April 2016.

We have set a maximum membership of thirty and are now almost to full capacity.

Very exciting times.

SPECIAL EVENTS

TALKING HEADS (3 each night)

By Alan Bennett

Produced by Jane Bardsley & Shirley Thomas

Wednesday 2nd - Friday 4th March 2016 7.30pm

A Woman of No Importance

A Lady of Letters

A Cream Cracker Under the Settee

ON SALE NOW

ROB HERON & THE TEA PAD

ORCHESTRA

Saturday 12th March 2016 7.30pm

Rob Heron & The Tea Pad Orchestra continue on their train of 'North Eastern Swing', fusing country, western swing and ragtime into a fun-packed evening of live music.

The six-piece band features Ben Fitzgerald (guitar), Tom Cronin (mandolin), Colin Nicholson (accordion), Ted Harbot (double bass) and Paul Archibald (drums).

ON SALE NOW

WE WANT YOUR VIEWS:

Fill in our online survey and be entered into a draw to win a bottle of wine.

Scan the code or visit

<http://rlt.org.uk/HaveYourSay>

Closing date 20th Feb 2016



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Retford Little THEATRE

Friday 22nd July 2016 7.30pm

CASHPOT RESULTS AFTER PLAY 2

First Prize Mrs. Barbara Crank

Second Prize Mrs. P. Towers

Third Prize Miss M. Barlow

For the latest information, activities, castings and special events visit our website, Facebook page or follow us on Twitter.

www.rlt.org.uk

[Retfordlittletheatre](https://www.facebook.com/Retfordlittletheatre)

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Laying the Ghost

By Simon Williams



5th - 13th February 2016

This Production is sponsored by **Newton Fallowell**

PRODUCTION NOTES

Laying The Ghost was written by Simon Williams and being an actor there is a strong theme of the British theatre throughout his play. Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* constantly comes up as part of the plot as our heroes' finest hour was playing the juvenile leads decades ago.

Simon Williams was born on 16th June 1946 in Windsor, Berkshire. His father was the actor Hugh Williams and his mother was Margaret Vyner. Simon trained in repertory at Worthing, Birmingham and Bath and later joined Theatre Workshop.

Simon Williams is best known for playing upper middle class or aristocratic roles, most notably playing James Bellamy in the period drama *Upstairs, Downstairs* in 1971. His first television appearance was in *Man in a Suitcase* in 1967 and his last as James Bellamy in 1975 after 37 episodes. Following this he appeared in *Wodehouse Playhouse* and played Laurence Jones in *Agony* 1979 – 1981.

His film career includes appearances in *The Touchables* (1968), *The Blood of Satan's Claw* (1971), *Jabberwocky* (1977), *The Odd Job* (1978), *The Prisoner of Zenda* (1979), *The Fiendish Plot of Dr Fu Manchu* (1980) and *The Return of the Man from U.N.C.L.E.* (1983).

In 1985 he took over the part of Dr. Charles Cartwright in the TV sitcom *Don't Wait Up* playing opposite Nigel Havers who went on to marry his sister, Polly Williams. He played TV parts in *Juliet Bravo*, *Dr. Who*, *Minder* and played Roderick Alleyn in *The Alleyn Mysteries*. Williams played Captain Hastings in several BBC Radio 4 adaptations of Agatha Christie's novels.

Since 1990 Simon Williams has been very busy, mainly in television, but also on stage, film and radio. He has written two novels and several plays and in 2010 he contributed to the CD *We Will Remember Them* published by the Royal British Legion, where he read three of the poems.

Robert Warburton (Producer)

LAYING THE GHOST

The play takes place in the lounge area of Yew Tree House, a retirement home for actors on the South Coast.

Time The present
 ACT I 10.30 a.m. on a spring morning
 INTERVAL
 ACT II Three minutes later

Cast

(in order of Appearance)

Freda Deacon SHEILA EYRE
 Mrs. Kidd TRICIA HILL
 Margot Buchanan LESLEY WARBURTON
 Sadie Croft CHARLOTTE NEWTON
 Lady Buchanan TRACEY STAFFORD
 Sir Leo Buchanan MIKE NIXON
 Superman DEREK GREEN

(Other parts played by members of the crew)

Produced by Robert Warburton

Special thanks to:
 Jewson Ltd; The Fire Station; Mrs. Kath Warburton; Sheila Eyre; Tricia Hill; St. John Ambulance; Bingham Carpets; and all who have helped with this production in any way.

REFRESHMENTS

During the interval the Coffee and Licensed Bars will be open in the Theatre Lounge. Ice cream is also available. The Bar will remain open after the performance for drinks (including coffee) but please note that, as a general rule, the bar will close 30 minutes after the final curtain.

Production team

Stage Manager
 Sarah Mullins
 Assistant Stage Managers
 Tina Jones, Derek Green
 Sound and Lighting
 David Cox, Stephen Walker & Dean Woolley
 British Sign Language Interpreter
 Sarah Cox
 Music
 Dire Straits
 Construction and Décor
 Arthur Brecke, Philip Cooper, Alan Dunning, Geoff Foulds, Ray Johnson, Gavin Johnston, Roger Jones, Barrie King, David Larder, Ian Mather, Guy Middleton and Jim Simpson
 Scenic Artist
 Helen Silcock for the portrait and special décor
 Wardrobe
 Retford Little Theatre Wardrobe and members of the cast

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BOOKWORM
 (Near Retford Bus Station)

This play is sponsored by
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