



Bournemouth
Little Theatre News



Issue #35

www.theatreclub.plus.com

2001/2002 Season

Friday, 22 March 2002

We Present
at Jameson Road

The

**Opposite
Sex**

by David Tristram

Directed
by
Lee Tilson



*An Adult
Comedy of (Bad)
Manners*

**MONDAY 15 TO SATURDAY 20 APRIL
2002 AT 7.45 PM**

For booking arrangements and more about the play,
please turn to page 2

The ♀ Opposite ♂ Sex



Trish Binding



Paul Mole



Dawn Hollington



Don Cherrett



The Opposite Sex is a situation comedy from the pen of David Tristram, probably best known for his hilarious one act play *Last Tango in Little Grimley*. His style is, in many ways, quite like that of Alan Ayckbourn, in that beneath the considerable humour, there runs a vein of acutely observed human relationship behaviour; including its darker side. The play is, nevertheless, extremely funny.

Whilst the humour is clearly aimed at broad-minded adults, and contains a certain amount of sexual innuendo, there is no particularly strong language

and nothing that should cause offence to any but the hyper sensitive. You will hear stronger stuff on *The Vicar of Dibley*!

Set in a suburban living room, around 10 to 12 years ago the story involves two married couples who, on the face of it, have absolutely nothing in common. However, when these two ill-matched couples unexpectedly find themselves having a dinner party together they learn that they do have a common bond — and when they find out what it is, all Hell is set to break loose!

Bookings

Advance ticket bookings

Tickets £6 (with concessions) Members £2

1. **WRITE** enclosing cheque and S.A.E. to Box Office, BLTC, 11 Jameson Road, Bournemouth BH9 2 QD OR
2. **PHONE** to book by calling Sue **ONLY between 7.30 pm and 9.00 pm** on her home number 01202 424640
EITHER Tuesday 2 April to Friday 5 April
OR Monday 8 April to Friday 12 April

Please Note

The Box Office is not open for callers in person or by phone at Jameson Road the week before any show. Tickets booked and paid for with S.A.E. will be issued two weeks before the show in the order the bookings were received. If you have a problem after receiving your tickets, phone Sue on the dates and times set out in 2 above.

David Tristram — an accessible playwright



and down the country, as well as many abroad.

He is unusual among British (or any) playwrights these days in that he can be reached on the Internet, and is not above responding, as he did with us, to emails asking for more information about him.

His plays — all comedies — have been translated into many languages, and performed all over the world by professionals and amateurs alike.

The Opposite Sex, one of the earliest comedies, received its professional premiere in South Africa, then went on to break box office



Ascend from the Opening Mexico production translated and produced



Canal-lovers, dog-walkers, cyclists and keen runners might occasionally spot David's narrowboat "The Playwright"

both here and abroad.

In 1986 David founded the Flying Ducks Theatre Company, which "flight-tests" all of his comedies under his own direction in small, local theatres near

HE IS now one of Britain's most popular and prolific playwrights. Every year there are around one thousand performances of his comedies in amateur theatres up

records in Mexico, filling a 450 seater auditorium 7 days a week for well over a year. It's currently enjoying another professional run in South Africa. The play has been David Tristram's most commercially successful full-length comedy to date, and has been translated into languages as diverse as Welsh and Hebrew. It has been performed extensively on the professional stage

their home town of Bridgnorth, before they are published and distributed by London agents Samuel French for amateur and professional performances all over the world.

David has just published his sixteenth comedy *Forget-Me-Knot*, and is launching the Flying Ducks' own recipe for a perfect evening out — a comedy dinner-theatre company called "Ducks à l'orange".

Memories are made of this

All about the Club's archives

The Club was founded in 1919.

In 1989 Keith Rawlings wrote a history of the Club for its seventieth birthday and this drew extensively on archive material going back to the earliest days. Unfortunately most of what was then available has since disappeared. As everyone knows, space in the Club is always at a premium and what probably happened is that someone trying to be helpful must have cleared out what he thought was just a load of old rubbish and thrown it away.

Fortunately not everything went. Hugh Norris, now doubling as Secretary/Archivist has collected together all that remains, expanded Keith's version up to date and packed it all up into numbered boxes which are stored well

out of trouble's way in the cupboards over the false ceiling in the telephone corridor. He hopes that whoever is around in 2019 for the Club's centenary will be able to produce an interesting little booklet!

Among other things that have survived are some 16mm black and white films made in the early 1930s by the short-lived cinema section of the Club: these have been transferred to video tape. The most interesting bit is a half hour home movie called *You Know Them All*, featuring Club members doing extraordinary things in a mock Hollywood thriller.

Unfortunately there is no clue as to who the actors are, and no one nowadays does "know them all". However the leading actor is clearly recognisable as George Stone, one of the Club founders.



Hugh Norris, King of the archives



Keith Rawlings wrote the book

If anyone knows of anyone who can supply memories of the old Club, their contributions will be gladly welcomed and placed in the Club archives which are now hopefully in safe custody. So please contact Hugh on 01202 761400 if you can help.



Deb's Cookery Corner

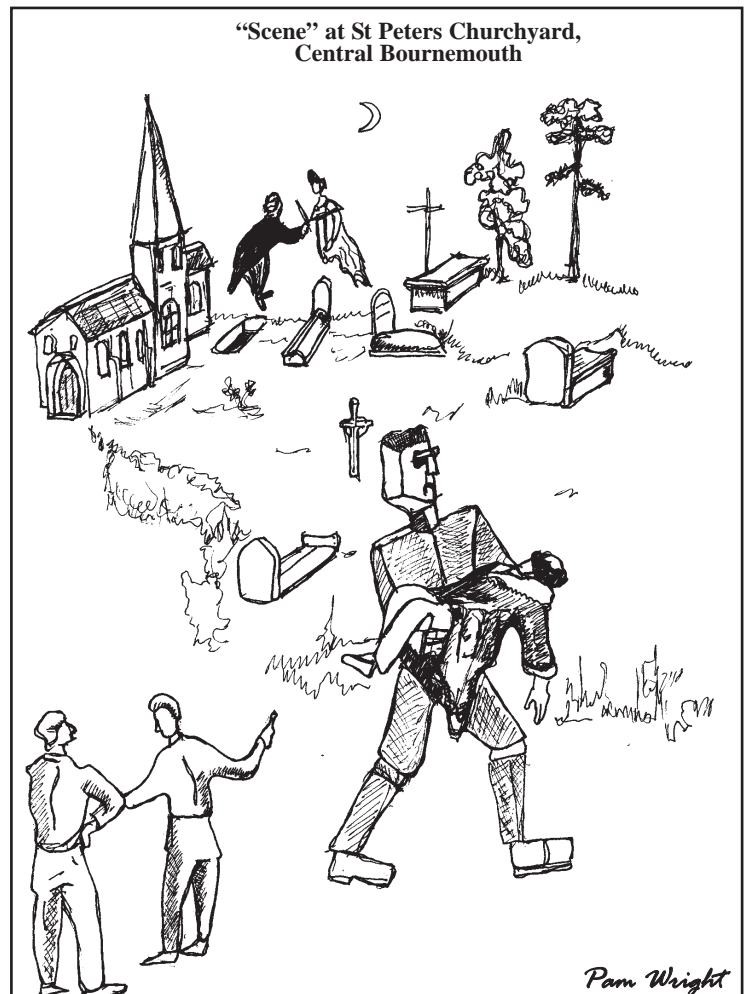
Do you have a special recipe you'd like to share with Deb and the rest of us? Call Deb on 554291 and we'll try it out. If it works, and we have space, we'll print it

This is my Mom's recipe (I kid you not) for **Beef Stroganoff**.

It serves five. You need:
 1½ lb (750g) beef sirloin steak, sliced thin
 3 Tbsp (45ml) butter
 1 cup (4 oz) mushrooms, sliced
 1 large onion, chopped
 2 Tbsp (45ml) flour
 2 cups (600ml) beef stock
 2 Tbsp tomato paste
 1 tsp dry mustard
 3 Tbsp sherry
 2/3 cup (200g or more) sour cream
 Rice or noodles

Preparation time: 1 hour

Dust beef with s&p, leave for two hours. Melt two Tbsp butter, saute mushrooms 15 minutes, remove. Add remaining butter, sear beef, remove. Add flour to butter, stir. Slowly add beef stock stirring till smooth. Add paste, sherry & mustard. Combine all, simmer slowly 20 minutes, add sour cream. Serve over rice or noodles.



Don, do you really want to commission Mary Shelley to do a Frankenstein sequel?

Film Quiz

by
Tony Orman

What do the following have in common:

1. Sharon Tate, Sal Mineo and Ramon Navarro?
2. River Phoenix, Peter Lawford and Bela Lugosi?
3. Bruce Lee, Marilyn Monroe and Natalie Wood?
4. John Malkovich, Bruce Willis and Sean Connery ?
5. Rudolph Valentino, Clint Eastwood and Clark Gable?
6. Lyle Lovett and Julia Roberts; Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman; Ronald Reagan and Jane Wyman?
7. Carrie Fisher, Emilio Estevez and Laura Dern?
8. Telly Savalas, Robbie Coltrane and Jack Nicholson?
9. Francis Ford Coppola, Steven Spielberg and Oliver Stone?
10. The films *Death of a Gunfighter* (1969), *Scent of a Woman* (1992) and *Heat* (1995)?

Answers at foot of page

Don't forget TONIGHT
Friday 22 March

Play Directors' Meeting at Jameson Road at 7.30 pm. If you want to direct a show next season — BE THERE TONIGHT!

Answers to Quiz

1. They are all murdered.
2. They all died of drink or drugs.
3. They all died in mysterious circumstances.
4. They are all bald.
5. They all started their careers as film extras.
6. They all got married after meeting on the set — Lovett and Roberts, *The Player* (1992); Cruise and Kidman, *Days of Thunder* (1990); Reagan and Wyman, *Brother Rat* (1938). They also all got divorced.
7. They are all children of actors — Carrie is the daughter of Debbie Reynolds and Eddie Fisher; Emilio is the son of Martin Sheen; Laura is the daughter of Diane Ladd and Bruce Dern.
8. They have all had sufficient chutzpah to record albums — Telly's was *Who Loves Ya Baby?*; Robbie did *New Orleans*; Jack wowed us with *Who Is There Among Us Who Knows*.
9. They are all directors who appeared uncredited in one of their own films — Francis in *Apocalypse Now* (1979) as the director of a TV crew; Steven in *The Loss of World: Jurassic Park* (1997) eating popcorn in a CNN TV story about dinosaurs; Oliver in *Platoon* (1986) in a cameo appearance as an army officer in a bunker that gets blown up. Stone actually did serve in Vietnam.
10. They are all films purported in some versions to be directed by Alan Smithee (who does not exist — it is his name director use when the no longer wish to be associated with a film); the first was directed by Don Siegel and Donald Totten; the second and third were renowned respectively by Martin Brest and Michael Mann in much-cut airline and TV versions.

Curtain Call Award Evening

DON'T MISS the 2002 Annual Awards. Who's nominated? Well, we won't know until some date in September. Each year, BLTC hosts a table for the rubber chicken (or vegan version) dinner and quasi-Oscar handouts — and each year the same thing happens. People wait until they or their show is nominated, then they suddenly decide they cannot live without their rubber chicken fix and they must, absolutely must be at the event.

So they call *The Daily Echo*, they call Don Gent, they call anyone who might get them a ticket: only to find it's a sell-out, and they can't get in for love or money.

This year the event is going to be held in the evening at the Carrington House Hotel on Saturday, October 12.

You can book your own table by calling *The Daily Echo*, or join the BLTC table by calling Don Gent on 389725. Wait too long and you'll miss it.

But remember — you do have to pay for your own tickets: it ain't a free lunch.

Website Notes

RECENTLY one of our Playgoers sent us an email, questioning why we did not have online booking, via our website. He said he was sending his stamped addressed envelope for tickets, but hoped we would make online booking available soon.

We take that as a kind of compliment: obviously, we are beginning to look professional. But we have to make it clear that we are still only an amateur company, supported by the subscriptions of our members and the box office returns.

That means that this newsletter, the website, the box office — indeed everything to do with the organisation — is produced by amateur volunteers.

Online booking would mean the use of credit cards: this would eat into our income as well as being beyond the limits of time and effort available to our amateurs.

So we won't be doing online bookings in the medium term. But if anyone will volunteer to set up a workable (and cost effective) system for us, please step forward.

Verdi's '18 certificate'

ENGLISH National Opera very recently advised its audiences against taking children to its new staging of Verdi's *A Masked Ball*. The "very adult nature" of the production might need the operatic equivalent of an 18 certificate.

Photo courtesy of The Times



"Another opening of another show!"

Critic Francis Muzzu says, "It's shocking. It sets out to be shocking ... a young man comes on to the stage, is gang-raped by some soldiers and is garrotted, none of which is remotely to do with the scene or what the music is depicting."

The warning came as the company faced accusations of using shock tactics to sell tickets at a time when it is struggling financially. An explicit homosexual rape, transvestism and singers sitting on toilets are not scenes that Verdi ever envisaged, the critics say.

The production has only exacerbated low morale at the ENO as performers were alerted recently to expect job cuts as part of a drive to cut £700,000 in spending.

We say there's no long-term value in putting on shows to shock people.

Review of February show

Linda Kirkman reviewed our February production of *Three One-act Plays* in the *Daily Echo*. She wrote:

THE EVENING'S curtain-raiser is a short play, *The Has-Beens*, by local author Ken Thorp. Although well-performed, it proved no more than a gentle but inconsequential dialogue that created little impact.

Nudes In Waning Light is a different kettle of fish entirely, a delightful comedy about one man's bid for freedom during his wife's holiday, thwarted when she returns unexpectedly. Clifford Page's direction keeps the pace bubbling along and his cast do him proud, not least Ann Cave as the domineering wife and Reg Beckley as her husband.

Rachel Mason also deserves plaudits for taking on a second role at the eleventh hour, ending up playing a young village girl AND her mother.

Sandcastles On The Beach is the Club's festival entry this year, and if there is any justice it should be a winner every time. Directed by the excellent Jack Snell, this drama/black comedy is superbly performed by June Cutner, Don Gent, David Weeks and Michelle Newton, all of whom draw out both the humour and poignancy of the situation. My one small criticism is that lines are occasionally lost through audience laughter, and if that can be resolved this thought-provoking piece will be even more outstanding.

Bournemouth Open Air Theatre

Please don't complain to BLTC if you can't get seats for the 2002 BOAT production of *King Lear*, directed this year by Jo Puttick. This is not an advertisement, this is a BLTC editor's warning. The show will sell out, whether or not it is advertised. It is one of Bournemouth and Poole's great Summer events, and it was founded by BLTC in 1964. So if you want seats for one of the eight per-

formances between 24 July and 9 August 2002, write off now to the address below asking for particulars, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

In April 2002, the BOAT Booking Office will respond, giving you details of the production and the chance to order your tickets. The address is Department P, BOAT, P. O. Box 338, Poole BH17 7ZT.

Reminders

Fri. 22 March 2002. Play Directors Meeting at the Club at 7.30 pm.

Mon. 15 to Sat. 20 April 2002. Performances of *The Opposite Sex*, directed by Lee Tilson, at the Club at 7.45 pm

Mon. 3 to Sat. 8 June 2002. Performances of *Dead on Nine*, directed by Hugh Norris, at the Club at 7.45 pm

Your Committee

- Chairman.....Don Gent 389725
- Secretary..... Hugh Norris 761400
- Treasurer/Bar Manager..... Noel Davenport 766690
- Membership Secretary/Newsletter..... Tony Orman 554291
- Advertising Manager....Derek Hyder 424640
- Wardrobe.....Hilary Jefferys 298356
- Stage Director..... Clifford Page 874795
- Properties.....Ginnie Waters 718290