

**THE WORTHY PLAYERS
AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY**

PRESENTS

PARTY PIECE

A COMEDY BY RICHARD HARRIS

**AT THE JUBILEE HALL
KINGS WORTHY**

**APRIL 15TH, 16TH, 22ND, 23RD
AT 8:00 P.M.**

A Welcome From The Worthy Players

Welcome to the Jubilee Hall and the Worthy Players Spring production of "Party Piece" by Richard Harris. The action takes place in adjoining gardens of two Victorian terraced houses on the day of Michael and Roma Smethurst's housewarming party. Next door lives Mrs Hinson, visited by her long-suffering son and daughter in law. I won't be giving too much of the plot away if I tell you that all does not go according to plan!

Richard Harris is one of my favourite authors. We have already performed three of his plays: "Visiting Hour", "Outside Edge" and "Local Affairs". "Party Piece" has presented us with many challenges – the set, the effects and the props in particular. I am grateful to the cast, the set builders and the whole backstage team for all their efforts. I hope you enjoy tonight's performance and that the play makes you laugh as much as it has made me laugh all through the rehearsal period!

Gill Walker
Producer and Director

Gill Walker

Gill has been a member of the Worthy Players since 1976 and for most of that time has run our box office so hopefully most of you know her telephone number – ! She has appeared on stage every year since then in a variety of parts from straight plays and farces to pantomime and Music Hall. Some parts that spring to mind for a variety of reasons include the title role in Andrew Davies's "Rose", the goose in Mother Goose's Golden Christmas, where she spent a claustrophobic time totally encased in yellow rubber, and two plays, "Pardon Me Prime Minister" and "Breezblock Park" where she appeared with her daughter Ruth. You may remember her performance as Miss Schoen in "Lettice & Lovage" in 2003, and last year she appeared in a multitude of parts in our 40s Revue, "ITWA", and as Margot Buchanan in "Laying The Ghost". This is Gill's first return to the director's chair since "Visiting Hour" in 2002.

The Players

Richard Gomm

Richard is now in his third year as Chairman of the Worthy Players. He has been a member for 30 years and has still found time for a life, a business, two wives and five cats! He both produced and starred in last year's Forties Review, and will be producing this year's December show, "A Christmas Carol". His other recent productions included "Outside Edge" and our 2001 pantomime, "Dick Whittington".

Wendy Gomm

For many years Wendy vowed that she would never go on stage. However, in 1999 she was coerced into taking on a role at short notice in a W.I. production that husband Richard was involved in. She suddenly found herself on stage at the Nuffield Theatre in Southampton with five parts and a dance number, and since then hasn't looked back. Recent successes have included "Outside Edge", "Bedroom Farce" and "Robin Hood", and she both co-produced and starred in last year's Forties Review. She is now looking forward to playing the part of Richard's wife, as she is married to him in real life. She would like to make it clear that she does not 'throw things', and she enjoys a good relationship with her mother-in-law!

Sarah Hammond

Sarah has been a member of the Worthy Players since 1989 and has appeared in numerous parts ranging from Jack in "Jack And The Beanstalk" to Kate in "Bedroom Farce". More recently she was principal boy Robin in our 2003 pantomime "Robin Hood", and she also appeared in a number of roles in the Forties Review last year. Before joining the Worthy Players, Sarah starred in principal parts with the Winchester Junior Operatics and also appeared in several productions with the Armstrong Players.

The barbecue used in tonight's performance was kindly supplied by Richard Southworth from Homebase in Basingstoke.

Party Piece

By Richard Harris

CAST OF CHARACTERS (in order of appearance)

Michael Smethurst.....	David Woolford
Roma Smethurst.....	Alison Woolford
Mrs Hinson.....	Joy Thompson
David Hinson.....	Richard Gomm
Jennifer Hinson.....	Wendy Gomm
Toby Hancock.....	Nick Kearns
Sandra Lloyd-Meredith.....	Sarah Hammond

The action takes place in the gardens of the Smethursts and the Hinsons. Time: the present.

ACT ONE

A Saturday afternoon in summer

ACT TWO

7.15 pm the same day

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between the acts during which the bar will be open and coffee and biscuits will also be on sale from the kitchen. Why not order your drinks beforehand?

The raffle will be drawn during the interval.

Production Team

Producer	Gill Walker
Stage Manager	Janine Blackmore
Prompt	Liz Leask
Props	Clare Walker
Lighting and Sound	Richard Aldous
Set Design	Richard Gomm
Set Construction	Richard Gomm
	Michael Edwards
	Peter Nouwens
	Martin Pettigrew
	David Woolford
Props Construction	Michael Edwards
Front of House Manager	Margaret Woodley
Box Office	Gill Walker
Bar Manager	Sarah Hammond
Bar	Ian Hammond
	Barbara Kearns
	Alison Western
	Gavin Western

For more information about the Worthy Players, either contact our secretary, Monica Gomm, (tel _____), or visit our exciting website at <http://theworthyplayers.users.btopenworld.com>. You can also e-mail us (address – theworthyplayers@btinternet.com).

If you would like to be on our mailing list and receive details of the year's production in advance, just give your details to any member of the Front of House team. You can then book for the year ahead at a discount. Alternatively, contact Gill Walker again – tel _____ or e-mail on _____ – for more details.

More about the Players

Nick Kearns

Nick has been involved in amateur dramatics for over 20 years in a number of different groups and guises. After several performances with the Worthy Down group, the Armstrong Players, he joined the Worthy Players in 1992 to fill a bit part in "When We Are Married". Since then he has appeared in Music Halls, plays including "Local Affairs", "Outside Edge", "Black Comedy" and "Bedroom Farce", and more recently as one of the two ugly sisters in "Beauty And The Beast". He is also a long-standing member of the Chesil Theatre where stage appearances have included "Evans" in "Terra Nova" and "Charlie" in "On Golden Pond".

Joy Thompson

Joy is a founding-member of the Worthy Players, having joined when the group was first formed in 1973. For family reasons she took a break from the Players for a number of years before returning in 2000. Since then she has appeared in "Red Letter Day", "Visiting Hour", "Aladdin", "Lettice & Lovage" and "Robin Hood". She will also be particularly remembered for her performance as the sensitive and world-wise "Delia" in "Bedroom Farce" in 2003, and as Freda Deacon in "Laying The Ghost" last year. She now has an equally challenging role in Mrs Hinson, whose character also appeared in Richard Harris's "Local Affairs" which the Players performed in 1996. On that occasion the part was played by tonight's director, Gill Walker!

Alison Woolford

Alison, married to David, has been in the group for over 20 years and is responsible for introducing the rest of the family to the Worthy Players. She has been involved in all aspects of drama with the group, and co-written 3 pantomimes with David including our recent 2004 production of "Beauty And The Beast". She also starred in that show, and appeared in various roles in the Forties Review last year, where she delighted audiences with her instructions on building a bicycle!

David Woolford

David is most recently remembered for writing last year's pantomime, "Beauty And The Beast", along with wife Alison. Both have been stalwart members of the Worthy Players for over 20 years, and David claims "he has the scars to prove it"! Many of you may also have enjoyed their production of "Aladdin" two years ago. He has been involved in all aspects of drama with the group, and was "seen" last year in both the Forties Review and "Laying The Ghost", where he will long be remembered for playing the part of stretcher-bearer whilst working the lights!

WORTHY PLAYERS NEWS

Youth Production – July 2005

The Worthy Players now has an active youth group, many of whom appeared in our recent pantomime. As a result, they will be performing a production of two one act plays entitled "Stage School" on **15-17 July 2005** in the Jubilee Hall. If you are interested and would like more details then please call Jackie Nouwens –

Autumn Production – September 2005

Our next production will again be performed over 2 weekends, on **2/3 and 9/10 September 2005**. It will be produced by Peter Nouwens, who has previously produced both "Bedroom Farce" and "Robin Hood" for the Worthy Players. Readings and auditions will start on Tuesday **26 April 2005** in the Jubilee Hall from 1930hrs. We are always on the lookout for new members, both to perform as stars on stage, but also to help backstage. Please speak to a member of the group to find out more if you would like to get involved.

Table Quiz

Our annual Table Quiz will be on Saturday **24 September 2005**.

Christmas Production 2005

This year we will be presenting "A Christmas Carol" on **2/3 and 9/10 December 2005**.

A long, long time ago.....

The Worthy Players have been around for quite some time. Here's a list of our past productions - maybe you can remember some of them.....

1973	Dick Whittington	1990	The Other Fellow's Oats
1974	Double Bill Mother Goose		Music Hall
1975	Swithen Puss In Boots		Pardon Me Prime Minister
1976	2 One Act Plays		Sinbad the Sailor
	Bonaventure	1991	Confusions
	St. George And The Dragon		Music Hall
	A Worthy Tale		Breeze Block Park
1977	2 One Act Plays		Robinson Caruso
	Murder At Key Cottage	1992	84 Charing Cross Road
	Jack And The Beanstalk		Music Hall
1978	FlatSpin		The Secretary Bird
	20's Revue		The Wizard of Oz
	Deadly Record	1993	When We Are Married
	Sleeping Beauty		Farndale Ave-Murder Mystery
1979	Ladies In Retirement		Music Hall
	Sailor Beware	1994	A Month Of Sundays
	1 One Act Plays		Farndale Ave-S.S. We Found Love
	Pantomania		Music Hall
1980	When We Are Married	1995	Humpty Dumpty
	Music Hall		One For The Road
	Suddenly At Home		Living Together
	Hickory Dickory Dock		Falling Off A Log
1981	Nothing Legal/Black Comedy		Music Hall
	Music Hall	1996	Murder In Company
	The Edge Of Darkness		Music Hall
	Mother Goose's Golden Christmas		Local Affairs
1982	Rose		Panto Trek
	Music Hall	1997	Gaslight
	Don't Just Lie There, Say Something		Mixed Doubles
1983	Dangerous Corner		Relatively Speaking
	Revue, We'll Meet Again		Music Hall
	Move Over Mrs Markham	1998	Farndale Ave-Haunting
	Aladdin		Breath Of Spring
1984	Rock-A-Bye Sailor		Music Hall
	Music Hall	1999	Business Of Murder
	Not Now Darling		Educating Rita
	A Right Christmas Caper		The Last Of The Red Hot Lovers
1985	End Of The Honeymoon		Music Hall
	Music Hall	2000	Cinderella And The Football Boots
	Key For Two	2001	Outside Edge
	Cinderella		Black Comedy/Red Letter Day
1986	Fable Manners	2002	Dick Whittington
	A Tomb With A View		Play On
	Music Hall		Visiting Hour
	Dick Whittington	2003	Aladdin
1987	The Chalk Garden		Bedroom Farce
	Music Hall		Lettice & Lovage
	Do Not Disturb		Robin Hood
	Babies In The Magic Wood	2004	It's Those Worthies Again (ITWA)
1988	Something To Hide		Laying The Ghost
	Music Hall		Beauty And The Beast
	There Goes The Bride		
	Pinocchio		
1989	Blithe Spirit		
	Music Hall		
	3 One Act Plays		
	Jack And The Beanstalk		