



THE WORTHY PLAYERS

AMATEUR DRAMA GROUP

PRESENT

"The Darling Buds of May"

By

H E BATES



A Welcome From The Worthy Players

Welcome to the Jubilee Hall and the Worthy Players Spring production for 2006. When H.E.Bates re-wrote his novel "The Darling Buds of May" as a television play, it proved to be one of the most popular series ever. As well as the irrepressible Larkin family, living in idyllic bliss in rural Kent, the popularity of the series was in part due to nostalgia for a way of life and a set of values that existed not so long ago but now seem to have vanished.

Our production of "A Christmas Carol" revealed that we had enough talented children, as well as adults, to cast this play, which I have wanted to direct for some time. The challenge was whether we could manage it on our small stage. As our regular patrons will know, the Worthy Players like a challenge, and I hope that you will enjoy the finished product as much as we have enjoyed bringing it to you.

Shirley Lovell
Director

Shirley Lovell

Shirley Lovell, having been born to a family steeped in amateur dramatics, produced her first play, aged nine, for the Brownies, and has been acting and directing ever since. She trained to teach modern dance and directed highly successful school productions involving both dance and drama. At the age of 29 she founded the Testudo Musical Players in Seaton, Devon, who recently celebrated their 40th anniversary, directing and doing the choreography for many shows including "Oklahoma!", "Brigadoon" and "Perchance to Dream". Shirley joined the Worthy Players in 1975, since when she has tackled every aspect of production, acting in and directing reviews, plays and pantomimes. Her favourite roles include Madame Acarti, Miss Marple and more recently a long monologue in Visiting Hour. She also wrote and directed The Worthy Mystery Play in St Mary's Church to celebrate the millennium, and last directed our 2004 production "Laying The Ghost".

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The action takes place in the Larkin household, set in luscious woodland countryside in southern England

ACT ONE

Scene 1 The Larkin household, May 1957, a Friday afternoon

Scene 2 The same, later that evening

Scene 3 The same, the following Sunday morning

ACT TWO

Scene 1 The same, evening, four days later

Scene 2 The same, evening, three weeks later

Scene 3 The same, later that evening

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.

Our next production ...

Our next production will be "A Murder is Announced" by Agatha Christie, and will be performed by our junior team over two weekends, on 1st, 2nd, 8th and 9th September 2006. The show will be directed by Jackie Nouwens, and readings and auditions will be held in the Jubilee Hall starting at 7.30pm on Tuesday and Wednesday 18th/19th April 2006.

The Darling Buds of May

By H. E. Bates

CAST OF CHARACTERS (in order of appearance)

Pop Larkin.....	Martin Pettigrew
Ma Larkin.....	Alison Woolford
Montgomery.....	Mark Smith
Primrose.....	Fiona McLoughlin
Petunia.....	Charlotte Hammond
Zinnia.....	Abigail Hammond
Victoria.....	Kitty Leask
Mariette.....	Claire Huck
Mr Charlton.....	Tim Woolford
The Brigadier.....	Nick Kearns
Tax Inspector.....	Michael Heseldin
Miss Pilchester.....	Barbara Teitz
Pauline Jackson.....	Jo Mason
Sir George Bluff-Gore.....	Peter McLoughlin
Lady Bluff-Gore.....	Sylvia Davidge
Angela Snow.....	Sarah Hammond

Production Team

Producer	Shirley Lovell
Stage Manager	Peter Nouwens
Prompt	Clare Walker
Props	Liz Leask and Gill Walker
Lighting and Sound Design	Richard Aldous
Lighting and Sound	David Woolford and Ollie Southworth
Set Construction	Richard Gomm Peter Nouwens Martin Pettigrew Michael Edwards David Woolford and members of the group
Props Construction	Michael Edwards
Programmes	Nick Kearns
Front of House Manager	Joy Thompson and Margaret Woodley
Box Office	Gill Walker
Bar Manager	Sarah Hammond

For more information about the Worthy Players, either contact our secretary, Alison Woolford (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 – tel _____ or e-mail on _____ – for more details. If you would like to receive details by e-mail then please let Gill know your e-mail address.

The Players

Martin Pettigrew

This is Martin's fifth production for the Worthies since "Robin Hood" in 2003. He goes from strength to strength, and the part of "Pop" is his greatest challenge, following his "Mr Fezziwig" in "A Christmas Carol".

Alison Woolford

Alison is the group's Secretary this year. Married to David, she has been a member for over 20 years. She has been involved in all aspects of drama, and is currently writing our next pantomime, "Snow White".

Mark Smith

Mark has appeared in five pantomimes with the Worthy players, and last year had a variety of parts in our junior show and "A Christmas Carol". More recently he was in "Return to the Forbidden Planet" (Junr Operatics).

Fiona McLoughlin

Fiona is a relative newcomer to the Worthy Players, having joined the group for our junior production last year. She then subsequently appeared as Belinda Cratchit in "A Christmas Carol".

Charlotte Hammond

Charlotte first appeared for the Worthy Players as one of the Cratchits in "A Christmas Carol". Youngest daughter of Sarah, and grand-daughter of Sylvia Davidge, all three generations are appearing on stage tonight!

Abigail Hammond

Charlotte's older sister, Abigail also made her debut for the Players' in "A Christmas Carol" as Tiny Tim. Her solo rendition of "Away in a Manger" gained wide applause, and she is part of the family party on stage tonight.

Kitty Leask

Kitty was another newcomer to the Worthy Players stage in 2005, as another member of the Cratchit family! She is daughter of Liz, who is looking after props tonight but has appeared in three of our recent shows.

Claire Huck

Claire has appeared in three of our recent pantomimes, and is a type-cast leading lady. This is her first major part for us outside panto. She has also performed with many other groups, most recently in the Barton Stacey pantomime.

Tim Woolford

Following in his parents' footsteps, Tim is now a seasoned performer with the Worthy Players. Although he had a break from the stage last year, he was in the lead role, "Titch", in our last pantomime, "Beauty and the Beast"

Nick Kearns

Nick has been involved in amateur dramatics for over 20 years in a number of different groups and guises. He appeared in both "Party Piece" and "Present Laughter" last year, and is currently the group's treasurer.

Michael Heseldin

Mike has made numerous appearances for the Players' since taking on the pantomime dame in "Humpty Dumpty" in 1993. His most recent triumph was as "Scrooge", and he is also in the forthcoming St Cross variety show.

Barbara Teitz

Barbara's last performance for the Worthy Players was in "Beauty and the Beast" in 2004. She is still remembered for playing "Rita" in "Educating Rita", and also appears with both the Chesil and the Winchester Operatics.

Jo Mason

Jo is another newcomer, having joined the group in 2005. She was lined up to appear in "A Christmas Carol" but unfortunately had to miss the show, so "The Darling Buds" will be her first appearance with us on stage.

Peter McLoughlin

Peter is Fiona's father (this really is a family show!) and also appeared with the Players for the first time last year, as "The Ghost of Christmas Present" in "A Christmas Carol".

Sylvia Davidge

Sylvia returned to the stage after a gap of many years when she joined the Worthy Players in 1989. Talked into it by daughter Sarah, she has since had a variety of parts, most recently "Monica Reed" in "Present Laughter".

Sarah Hammond

Sarah has performed in many major and minor parts since joining the group in 1989, most recently as "Sandra" in "Party Piece". Principal boy in panto on a number of occasions, she is also our longstanding Bar Manager.

The Worthy Players would like to thank Wessex Windows for allowing patrons to park on their premises this evening.



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 Crusoe
	Murder At Key Cottage	1992	84 Charings 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
	3 One Act Plays		Farndale Ave-S.S. We Found Love
	Pantomania		Music Hall
1980	When We Are Married		Humpty Dumpty
	Music Hall	1995	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	Table Manners		Dick Whittington
	A Tomb With A View	2002	Play On
	Music Hall		Visiting Hour
	Dick Whittington		Aladdin
1987	The Chalk Garden	2003	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	2005	Party Piece
	Pinocchio		Present Laughter
1989	Blithe Spirit		A Christmas Carol
	Music Hall		
	3 One Act Plays		
	Jack And The Beanstalk		