



Dramatic News Dramatic News

www.huntingdondramaclub.org.uk

In Our 62nd Year

March 2006

SILHOUETTE

Performances are on 9-11

March 2006.

IT'S ON THIS WEEK!

For extra tickets please contact the box office on 01480 or go to the website at:

<http://www.huntingdondramaclub.org.uk/>

Rehearsals have been going well despite the cold weather and the late nights. It has been a very strong effort from all members associated with this production and we look forward to you all bringing friends, family and others to this show.

Remember, we need your support!

THE NEW COMMITTEE

At the AGM on 27 February, a strong, expanded committee was elected, consisting of the following:

Chair: Michael Black
Vice-Chair: Rachael Orchard
Secretary: Ray Livermore
Treasurer: Ronald Stevenson
Ordinary members:
Carol Wadey
Caroline Harbord
John Morgan
Kat Sexton
Mark Lamberth
Pete Welsh

Please read Michael's Report on 2005, which includes plans for this year.

CONTACT DETAILS

Mark Lamberth, Editor

Michael Black, Chair on 01480 454486

For details of past, present or future productions:

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'Ask not what your Club can do for you; ask what you can do for your Club'

In order to survive, the Club needs an income, to cover productions, insurance, and so on. A significant part of that income comes from subscriptions, so please send your subscription NOW, before you forget. It's still only **£10** (though higher donations would be very welcome).

Cheques should be made out to Huntingdon Drama Club and posted to the treasurer:

OUR AUTUMN PRODUCTION – A FARCE

Ray Cooney and John Chapman

MOVE OVER MRS. MARKHAM

Philip Markham, a publisher of children's books, is asked by his business partner, Henry Lodge, if he can borrow the flat for the evening to gallivant with his latest girlfriend. As Philip and his wife will be out, he reluctantly agrees. At the same time, Joanna Markham is being persuaded by Linda Lodge to let her borrow the empty flat in order to entertain her lover. With some misgivings, Joanna agrees. What nobody knows is that the interior designer who has been decorating the flat for the past three months has decided that this is the night that he and the au pair girl will try out the new oval bed. When the Markhams' evening out is cancelled, it is too late to let any of the parties know and three sets of hopeful lovers all converge on the bedroom at the same time. The situation is further complicated by the arrival of Olive Harriet Smythe, a straitlaced authoress of children's books. The frantic efforts of the Markhams to hide the amorous goings-on and, at the same time sign up Miss Smythe, lead to a hectic and hilarious evening.

(continued)

The play had a very successful West End run in the 1970s.



CHARACTERS

Major roles:

Joanna Markham – attractive, sophisticated, mid-30s or older
Philip Markham – worried, rather a drip, mid-30s or older
Linda Lodge – vivacious, scatter-brained, hoping for affair with Walter, mid-30s or older
Henry Lodge – full of masculine confidence, he and Philip are partners in a small firm publishing children's books, mid-30s or older.
Alistair Spenlow – fashionable interior designer, trying to have an affair with Sylvie. 20s or older.

Minor roles:

Sylvie – attractive Swiss au pair. 20s
Walter Pangbourne – business man, wants an affair with Linda, possibly late 40s
Miss Wilkinson – attractive, 20s
Olive Harriet Smythe – author of children's stories, 50s or older, rather dotty, county

Performance dates: 9-11 November, director Michael Black

Auditions to be arranged. If you'd like to read the play, please contact Michael.



WRITE TO:



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CHAIR'S REPORT ON 2005

PERFORMANCES

- ***Fallen Angels***, by Noël Coward, May. I directed and Rachael Orchard produced, assisted by Ruth Morgan. Excellent audience feedback on acting and set (thanks to Ruth for set dressing and Gary Arthur for design).
- **Mummers' play**: a team effort led and inspired by Ronald Stevenson, performed as part of *Kings and Liberties* (the Huntingdon 800 production), and also as part of the entertainment at the Mediaeval Banquet, and at the Peterborough Festival.
- ***From Mafeking to the Millennium: Huntingdon and the World in the 20th century***, November. Compiled, directed and produced by Ann Monk and me. It was very good that several people from *Kings and Liberties* wanted to join the Club, and *M2M* had a cast of 16 – but unfortunately not the ticket sales to match, despite photographs in local newspapers. Positive feedback from audience.

OTHER EVENTS

- Trip to see ***Round the Horne – revisited*** in London (April)
- **Horse racing and music** at Huntingdon Racecourse (June)
- **Lunch party** at Ronald Stevenson's (September)
- ***The Direct Approach*** – directing workshop, led by Valerie Gerrard (November)
- **Burns Night supper**, provided by Ronald Stevenson (January 2006)

NEWSLETTERS AND WEBSITE

- Mark Lamberth produced nine excellent newsletters during the year. Additional emails were sent to members and supporters, including notification of the AGM and other events.
- John Morgan has kept the website up to date, and made the newsletters available on it. There have been approximately 800 hits in the past year. Our attempts to get the Club's last but one website (last updated in 1999) removed have failed.

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CHAIR'S REPORT ON 2005 (continued)

VARIOUS

- **Making people aware of the Club's existence:** this was helped by members taking part in *Kings and Liberties* (including the performance for Princess Anne), and the SIMADS production of *Fiddler on the Roof*; helping front of house at PaTCH events at the Commemoration Hall; joining the Huntingdon Community Liaison Group; and building up contacts with the Town Council and others.
- **Commemoration Hall:** with the appointment of Lydia Eldridge as Artistic Director, and plans for a fuller programme of events, we're likely to benefit from the publicity.
- **Huntingdon Community Liaison Group:** this first met in February 2006, and should prove a useful way to publicise the Club to other local organisations and the press.

COMMITTEE

- My thanks to the other 7 committee members for their hard work, good ideas and good company during the year. It was a relief not to have any resignations.

PLANNED AND RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES IN 2006

- **Silhouette**, a comedy whodunnit by Simon Brett, directed by Jacquie Spencer, produced by Rachael Orchard. March 9-11. It's essential for the Club's survival that plenty of tickets are sold. Efforts to build up audiences include:
 - o sending 10 tickets to Club members and asking them to sell them (this achieved audiences of 120 a night in 1988)
 - o selling tickets at the Tourist Information Centre
 - o selling tickets at the Commemoration Hall (an offer by Lydia Eldridge)
 - o having a non-paying audience at the dress rehearsal.
- **Move over Mrs Markham**, a farce by Ray Cooney and John Chapman, to be directed by me. November 9-11.
- **Making people aware of the Club's existence:** this should be a priority for the next Committee, for example through
 - o contact with drama clubs and other organisations
 - o further improvements to publicity of productions
 - o getting more people to attend performances and social events.
- **PayPal:** information is available for the next committee to look into online booking and payment.
- **Personal licence:** the new committee should consider funding a member to get a personal licence for serving alcohol.

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