



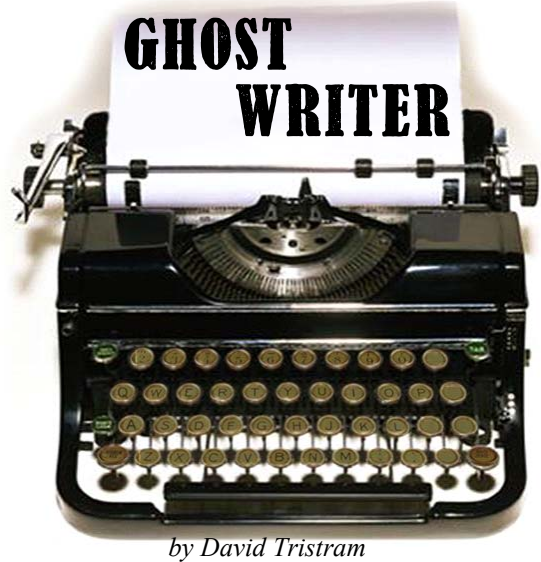
Dramatic News

Autumn 2008

www.huntingdondramaclub.org.uk

In Our 63rd Year

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by David Tristram

Coming soon!

Our Autumn (Halloween!) production is *Ghost Writer* by David Tristram and rehearsals, set-building and publicity are all well underway. It is a cracking play with a terrific script and some wonderful characters. We are all enjoying the challenges of being variously bitchy, drunk, ditzzy, self-important, over-dramatic, attention-seeking and generally overbearing and unpleasant. And it's not even the after-show party yet!

In a nutshell, *Ghost Writer* is a whodunit. Ruby, a diva-ish actress who tragically died a year ago from a lethal cocktail of booze and pills, comes back from the dead to tell her husband Edward, a playwright, that she was actually murdered and that she needs him to find her killer. At this point, keen theatre-goers in the audience should have spotted similarities to the plot of Hamlet, and there are plenty more opportunities to spot Shakespearean references as the play unfolds, and Ruby and Edward stage a play-reading which mirrors the murder.

I'd recommend re-watching Hamlet before you come if you want to spot all the quotes and references, but even if you've never seen Hamlet and have no interest in Shakespeare, there's plenty to enjoy. Oh, and some terrific twists as well, which of course I'm not going to give away.

This is one of the most modern plays we've put on recently, as it was written in the 1980s and there are plenty of contemporary references as well as the Shakespearean ones. It's fast-paced and quick-witted, and has plenty of physical comedy too. We'd love to see you there, and as we're performing over five nights rather than the usual three, we really need those bums on seats, so please spread the word.

Ghost Writer is being performed at **Brampton Park Theatre on 31st October and 1st November** and at the **Commemoration Hall from the 6th to the 8th November**. Performances start at 7.30 and tickets are £8 (£6 for concessions or for parties of four or more). Tickets from Ann on 07765 058487 or from the website (www.huntingdondramaclub.org.uk).

Hope to see you there, *Caroline*



The cast at a recent rehearsal

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Your Club Needs You!



If you can help front of house or back stage please contact Chris Rogers on 0775 441 8375 or email him at chris_f_rogers@hotmail.com

Go on, you can do it!

Director	...	Jacque Spencer
Assisted by	...	Phil Cox
Producer	...	Chris Rogers
Cast List		
Ruby	...	Caroline Harbord
Alex	...	Bob Pugh
Edward	...	Chris Topham
Frances	...	Christine Marriott
Glenda	...	Kat Sexton
Hedley	...	Michael Black



CONTACT DETAILS
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Club Christmas dinner

Prima, 143 High Street, Huntingdon

Following last year's success, our next Christmas dinner will be on **Thursday, 11 December**, at 8 pm. It'll cost £21.95 for three courses, including service charge.

The menu is attached.

If you and your partner/family/friends would like to come, please contact Carol no later than **Friday, 4 December**, with:

- your choice for each course
- either the full cost - £21.95 - or a deposit of £10 per person. Cheques should be made payable to Huntingdon Drama Club.

Carol's contact details:

xmas@huntingdondramaclub.org.uk; 01480 431600; 51 West End, Brampton, Huntingdon, PE28 4SF.

Secret Santa

Please bring a wrapped present costing no more than £1, so that Santa can give everyone something special for Christmas!

NB: If you book but can't come on the night and the restaurant charges, you will be responsible for payment.

Name:		Starters	No.	Main	No.	Pizza	No.
		Soup		Chicken		Funghi	
Number of Guests:		Patatas Braves		Meatballs		Duck	
Phone:		Meatballs		Lamb		Mexicana	
Cheque enclosed: £		Funghi Ripieni		Pasta	No.	Romano	
		Goats Cheese		Lasagne		Contadino	
		Mozzarella		Linguine		Desserts	No.
				Spaghetti		Ice cream	
				Tagliatelle		Tiramisu	
				Penne		Cheesecake	

Post with cheque to: Carol Wadey
51 West End
Brampton
Huntingdon. PE28 4SF

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Garden Party at Ronald's

On the seventh day (after the original planned event) the clouds parted and the drama club saw that it was good and said that it was good and, boy, was it good!

The garden, bathed in sunlight, was a fantastic setting for the play reading. While the wine was poured and the olives were eaten the audience was entertained by a fantastic play reading by the actors.

And what followed the reading was, again, another gastronomic delight from the kitchen of Ronald! The quiche, frittata, salads and desserts were a perfect finish to an afternoon when we had thought we would never see sunlight or warmth until next Spring.

Many thanks to Ronald for his wonderful hospitality and to Carol for her effort in bringing the play and the actors together to entertain in true Huntingdon Drama Club tradition. *Mark Lamberth*



BARBECUE

A one-act play by Cherry Vooght

Barbecue is a bitter-sweet tragicomedy that is ideally suited to an outdoor venue like Ronald's garden. The audience felt as though they were other diners, with the action going on, like real life, at nearby tables.

Chris Rogers was very effective as an observer, 'a seeker trying to find my place in life', as his character puts it. He played a would-be art student working as a waiter at a resolutely downmarket motel, and trying to introduce a touch of romance in the form of a barbecue (well, the play was published in 1980!). With mixed results.

Sam and Elsie, played by John Morgan and Christine Marriott, are celebrating – if that's the right word – their anniversary, but Sam's attempts to recover the life and romance they once shared are a failure. He isn't helped by the fact that his mother Lil (Ann Monk) lives with them and is decidedly in the way. Christine put across the frustration Elsie feels, and the bitchiness which is her ineffective response to it. John showed Sam's feeble attempts at a reconciliation with his wife, and at coping with life with two demanding women. The pathos in the relationship was very moving.

As two people who come together and stand a chance of happiness, Carol Wadey and Mark Lamberth once again demonstrated the chemistry that made their relationships so believable in *Fallen Angels* and *Move over Mrs Markham*. Mark took over the part at a few days' notice from Phil Green, whose appearance was stymied by having the party postponed from the previous Saturday, so Mark should be particularly congratulated. But bad luck, Phil.

Ann Monk doubled the two comic parts of Lil and Mrs P, an elderly skivvy at the motel, and skilfully differentiated them. She was particularly entertaining when the waiter flirts with Mrs P – and she admits to having had a few men flocking around her (though probably not recently!).

This was our second dramatised playreading, with props and costumes, and like *Bedroom Farce* last autumn, it was Carol's brainchild. *Barbecue* provided a very enjoyable focus to the party that gave us an appetite for the real (and infinitely superior) food that followed. So, very many thanks to Carol and all the cast.

Michael Black



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LEARNING ABOUT EARLY 19TH CENTURY THEATRE

The Theatre Royal in Bury St Edmunds opened in 1819 and has seen service as a beer store (the Greene King brewery is just over the road) as well as a theatre. It was recently restored to combine the best of its original qualities with modern comforts, like seats for the whole audience (no more standing room) and electric lighting (no more candles).

In August John and I attended *The Georgian Theatre Experience*. For £8 we had an excellent afternoon that included a guided tour of the building, and demonstrations of Georgian lighting, scenery, wind machine (very effective, and easily controlled), ships, flying birds and other effects. Scenes from its foundation – such as a conversation between the founder and Elizabeth Croon, one of the original shareholders – were enacted, in costume.

The event culminated in a performance of *The Dream*, a Gothic drama by Joanna Baillie, published in 1812. The play was put on by teenagers on the theatre's summer drama course. Despite rehearsing for only three weeks, they were very impressive, and the onstage beheading was remarkably effective.

Following on from this, a small group from the Club went to Bury to see a professional production of *Wives as they were, and maids as they are*, a comedy by Elizabeth Inchbald, from 1797, performed with her earlier farce *Animal magnetism*. Huntingdon's Michael Burrell acted in both plays, and his yokel clothing, accent and wild hair disguised him so well in the farce that one of his friends failed to recognise him. Both plays were very enjoyable, and the combination of 18th century costumes and perspex cabinets in *Maids* showed that period pieces can work very well without traditional sets and props.

Going to performances at the Theatre Royal is a very enjoyable experience. It's an intimate space, seating under 500 people, so it's easy to see and hear from every part of the house. The theatre is quite accessible – an hour's drive from here, with the adjacent Greene King car park available in the evenings. And on both the above occasions we had an excellent meal (with very friendly service) at the 18th century Dog and Partridge, five minutes' walk from the theatre.

Michael Black



Georgian Wind Machine



Looking from the stage of the Theatre Royal

Member News

Daisy Spencer is now Mrs Rudy Duhmke, following not one but two weddings! Congratulation from us all.

Congratulations also go to Kelly and Aaron on the birth of Joe's brand new brother, Dan.

If you have news you would like to share with the Club let me know.

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