

Hilary Hall School for Boys



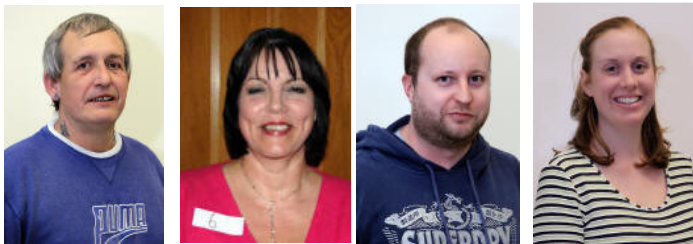
Ronald Stevenson Dean Laccohee Scott Hutchison Michael Black Guy Makey

St Swithin's School for Girls



Jeanette Brown Kelly Mason Katie Hickey Fiona Hunt

Parents



John Morgan Christine Marriott Warren Laccohee Kat Sexton

Huntingdon Drama Club
presents

The Happiest Days of your Life

a farce by John Dighton



Photograph courtesy of Our Newhaven

Programme £1

Past productions – the last 25 years

1986	Arms and the Man Absent Friends Night Must Fall	1999	Rope Working with Amateurs
1987	Lord Arthur Savile's Crime Laburnum Grove	2000	Bazaar and Rummage One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest
1988	Any Number can Die Easy Virtue	2001	Picasso at the Lapin Agile Journey's End
1989	Under Milk Wood Pygmalion	2002	Worlds Apart Mixed Doubles
1990	A Day in the Death of Joe Egg Caught on the Hop	2003	The Real Inspector Hound Wedding of the Year
1991	The School for Scandal Pass the Butler	2004	May-Hem Bobby Dazzler
1992	Lady Windermere's Fan Ghost Train	2005	Fallen Angels From Mafeking to the Millennium
1993	A Chorus of Disapproval Loot	2006	Silhouette Move over Mrs Markham
1994	Tom Jones The Empress of Othernow	2007	Joking apart A murder is announced Jane Eyre
1995	No Sex Please, We're British Out of Sight... Out of Murder	2008	Cold Comfort Farm Hay Fever Ghost Writer
1996	The Importance of Being Earnest Dracula	2009	Separate Tables Absent Friends And then there were none
1997	The Hollow Absurd Person Singular	2010	The Importance of Being Earnest Port Out, Starboard Home!
1998	An Ideal Husband On the Razzle		



Bringing drama to Huntingdon since 1944

Affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association

The Happiest Days of your Life

by **John Dighton**

directed by Richard Meredith

produced by Ann Monk

This play is performed with the express permission of
Samuel French

Thursday to Saturday, 11 – 13 November 2010 at 7.30 pm

in the Commemoration Hall, Huntingdon

The National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) was founded in 1899 and has a membership of approximately 2,500 amateur theatre groups and 3000 individual enthusiasts throughout the UK.

NODA House, 58/60 Lincoln Rd, Peterborough PE1 2RZ
Tel: 0870 770 2480 Fax: 0870 770 2490
E-mail: everyone@noda.org.uk Web: <http://www.noda.org>.

From the Director

The film version of John Dighton's sparkling comedy of misadventure **The Happiest Days of your Life** had long been a favourite of mine, and I was delighted when the Club gave me the chance to bring the original play to the stage. This classic British comedy is, I think, the perfect 'winter warmer' – guaranteed to raise a laugh.

The play was first performed at the Apollo Theatre, London, in 1948, and a very different version of it was filmed in 1950: the cast included Margaret Rutherford (Miss Whitchurch), Alistair Sim (Mr Pond) and Joyce Grenfell (Miss Gossage).

It has been a pleasure to have worked with a cast and crew who have brought such enthusiasm and inventiveness to a tale of misunderstanding, deceit, sabotage and love. Many thanks to the large number of people who have helped to bring this production to the stage.

So please make your way to the assembly hall as the bell rings for the start of the summer term 1946.

Richard Meredith

The action of the play passes in the Masters' Common Room at Hilary Hall School for Boys, in Hampshire

Time: Soon after the end of World War II

Act 1, scene 1: The first day of the summer term, afternoon

Act 1, scene 2: Saturday afternoon, three weeks later

Interval of 20 minutes, when drinks will be available in the foyer

Act 2, scene 1: Immediately afterwards

Act 2, scene 2: Two hours later

Our next two productions



A DOLL'S HOUSE

by Henrik Ibsen

directed by Ronald Stevenson

31 March – 2 April 2011

Commemoration Hall

ABIGAIL'S PARTY by Mike Leigh

directed by Marie Huggins. 21 – 23 July 2011, Commemoration Hall

Please contact us if you'd like to take part, on-stage or off.

For further information visit www.huntingdondramaclub.org.uk, phone Michael Black and John Morgan on 01480-454486, or contact any other Club member.

Booking online

Booking online is very easy: all you need to do is visit the Club's website, click on the ticket symbol, and enter your requirements. Tickets cost the same whether you buy them online, over the phone or at the door.

The Club is currently paying the commission for using the online service, rather than add it to the price of the ticket as many organisations do. We hope we can continue to afford to do this, and can keep ticket prices to their current level.

Each production costs us at least £1,500. To cover costs, we need to sell well over 200 tickets.

To help us keep ticket prices down, there's something simple you can do:

Please spend lots of money on refreshments, the programme and raffle tickets!

Katie Hickey (Joyce Harper)

Katie joined the Club this year, playing the actress Amanda in *Port Out, Starboard Home!* However, this is her last performance here, at least for a while, as she's going to work in Australia in January.

Fiona Hunt (Barbara Cahoun)

This is Fiona's first performance with Huntingdon Drama Club, and we're very grateful to her for agreeing to play the part of Barbara Cahoun, *not* spelt Colquhoun.

John Morgan (The Reverend Edward Peck)

John is an all-rounder – sound, lighting, production and acting. He has performed in several Club productions, including *Separate Tables*, *And then there were none*, *Saints and Sinners* and *St George and the Turkish Knight*.

Christine Marriott (Mrs Peck)

Christine appeared in the Club's productions of *Ghost Writer* and *Separate Tables*. This year she took part in *Saints and Sinners* and *St George and the Turkish Knight*. She has also appeared at Brampton Park Theatre.

Warren Laccohee (Edgar Sowter)

Warren took up acting last year, and has appeared in the Club's last four full-length productions. In *Port Out, Starboard Home!* he played the male lead, a completely different character from Edgar Sowter. His big love is music, and he performs regularly at the Samuel Pepys in Huntingdon.

Kat Sexton (Mrs Sowter)

Kat joined the Club in 2005 and has appeared in several shows since then, the latest being *Ghost Writer*. She's since been in other clubs' productions. Since 2008 she has been busy with motherhood, and is expecting another baby next March.

Richard Meredith (director)

Richard first appeared on stage as smallest rat in *Dick Whittington* in 1960, following which he retired from the stage. A reluctant actor, his are the hands behind hundreds of props for most of the Club's productions since 2005. *The Happiest Days of your Life* marks his directorial debut.

Ann Monk

Ann has produced, created costumes, made props and acted in several plays, including *A Murder is Announced*, *Cold Comfort Farm* and *And then there were none*. She took part in *Saints and Sinners* and *St George and the Turkish Knight*, which was performed at the mediaeval banquet in June.

The Cast

Hilary Hall School for Boys

Dick Tassell, Assistant Master Dean Laccohee
Rupert Billings, Senior Assistant Master Scott Hutchison
Godfrey Pond, Headmaster Ronald Stevenson
Rainbow, School Porter and Groundsman..... Michael Black
Hopcroft minor, pupil Guy Makey

St Swithin's School for Girls

Miss Evelyn Whitchurch, Principal Jeanette Brown
Miss Gossage, Senior Assistant Mistress Kelly Mason
Joyce Harper, Assistant Mistress..... Katie Hickey
Barbara Cahoun, pupil.....Fiona Hunt

Parents

The Reverend Edward Peck, father of Julia Peck..... John Morgan
Mrs Peck, mother of Julia Peck Christine Marriott
Edgar Sowter, father of Cyril Sowter..... Warren Laccohee
Mrs Sowter, mother of Cyril SowterKat Sexton

The Production Team

Director Richard Meredith
Producer..... Ann Monk
Stage manager..... Peter Welsh
Stage crew .. Les Bosworth, Bob Pugh, Heather Boylan, Trish James
Malcolm Lyons, Ann Monk, Kirsty Pickering, Annie Welsh
Sound and lighting..... Mel Pugsley, assisted by Edward Welsh
Costumes Kelly Mason
Make-up Lindsay Kennedy
Properties..... Ann Monk
Prompter June Forway
Front of house manager Tony Burrin
Poster and programme..... Michael Black
Publicity..... Kat Sexton, Linda Spencer
Photography Steve Missen
Particular thanks to the many members of the front of house team

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this production, especially

Jenni and Lydia at Huntingdon Town Council, Malcolm and Roy at the Commemoration Hall, London House Signs, Spotlight Productions, Hunts County Bats, Mick Taylor of Campol, Henry Oldfield, Annette and Derek Andrews, Sue Billings, St Mary Magdalene Church

Our apologies to anyone who has helped us since the programme went to print.

Dean Laccohee (Dick Tassell)

Dean appeared in Club productions in the late 80s, and returned in 2009. Since then he has both acted – most recently in *Port Out, Starboard Home!* – and directed. His first work as a playwright, *The Visitor*, was premiered at this year's Arundel Festival.

Scott Hutchison (Rupert Billings)

Scott returned to amateur dramatics in the Club's production of *Absent Friends* in 2009, followed by *And then there were none*. The author of *Port Out, Starboard Home!* was very enthusiastic about Scott's performance as the obnoxious Brian, describing it as 'very finely judged'.

Ronald Stevenson (Godfrey Pond)

I've acted with Huntingdon and other local clubs for several years. I'm looking forward to playing Godfrey Pond as it's one of my rare chances to play a character much older than my true years! I'll have the pleasure of directing the Club's next play, *A Doll's House*, in Spring 2011.

Michael Black (Rainbow)

Michael played the murderous Sir Lawrence Wargrave in *And then there were none* last autumn. This year he created and performed in *Saints and Sinners* and in July directed the world premiere of *Port Out, Starboard Home!*

Guy Makey (Hopcroft minor)

Hello. I joined Huntingdon Drama Club because I'm passionate about acting and wanted to do something more meaningful than panto – though I had fun appearing in *Alice in Wonderland* and *Treasure Island*. Enjoy the show!

Jeanette Brown (Miss Evelyn Whitchurch)

Jeanette has appeared in several Club productions since 2003, including *Move over Mrs Markham*, *A Murder is Announced*, *Jane Eyre*, *Hay Fever* and *Absent Friends*, directed by Dean Laccohee. She also performs regularly with the Broughton Players.

Kelly Mason (Miss Gossage)

Kelly has played several memorable roles with the Club, including stripping in *Move over Mrs Markham* and throwing herself down the well in *Cold Comfort Farm*. She also made a very successful debut as director with *A Murder is Announced* in 2007.