

HUNTINGDON DRAMA CLUB PRESENTS

A Doll's House



BY HENRIK IBSEN

PROGRAMME £1



BRINGING DRAMA TO HUNTINGDON SINCE 1944

AFFILIATED TO THE NATIONAL OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC
ASSOCIATION

A DOLL'S HOUSE

BY HENRIK IBSEN

IN AN ANONYMOUS TRANSLATION

DIRECTED BY RONALD STEVENSON

PRODUCED BY MICHAEL BLACK

THURSDAY, 31 MARCH – SATURDAY, 2 APRIL 2011 AT 7.30PM
IN THE COMMEMORATION HALL, HUNTINGDON

THE CAST

TORVALD HELMER, A LAWYER.....DEAN LACCOHEE
NORA, HIS WIFE KIRSTY PICKERING
DR RANK SCOTT HUTCHISON
MRS CHRISTINE LINDEJEANETTE BROWN
NILS KROGSTAD PHIL GREEN
ANNE, THE CHILDREN'S NURSE..... ANN MONK
HELEN, THE HOUSEMAIDJANE CRITTENDEN
PORTER GUY MAKEY

OPENING POEM 'HER – UNTITLED'
WRITTEN BY RONALD STEVENSON, READ BY KIRSTY PICKERING

EXCERPTS FROM GRIEG'S PIANO SONATA NO. 3 IN E MINOR AND
ROSSINI'S LA DANZA, PLAYED BY MICHAEL BLACK

THE ACTION TAKES PLACE IN THE HELMERS' FLAT, IN NORWAY
TIME: THE 1870S

ACT 1: DECEMBER 24TH (THE MAIN CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION IN
NORWAY)

THERE WILL BE A SHORT PAUSE BETWEEN ACTS 1 AND 2

ACT 2: CHRISTMAS DAY

*INTERVAL OF 20 MINUTES, WHEN DRINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN
THE FOYER*

ACT 3: DECEMBER 26TH

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR RONALD STEVENSON
PRODUCER..... MICHAEL BLACK
STAGE MANAGER PETER WELSH
STAGE CREW..... BOB PUGH, LES BOSWORTH, TRISH JAMES
SET DESIGN RONALD STEVENSON
SOUND AND LIGHTING MEL PUGSLEY
COSTUMES AND MAKE-UP..... KELLY MASON
PROPERTIES.....MICHAEL BLACK, ANN MONK, GUY MAKEY
PROMPTER MIKE PLEWS
FRONT OF HOUSE TONY BURRIN AND TEAM
POSTER CLAIRE NEWMAN, RONALD STEVENSON
PROGRAMME MICHAEL BLACK
PUBLICITY.....LINDA SPENCER

ASSISTED BY OTHER CLUB MEMBERS

MANY THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HAS HELPED US PUT ON THIS PRODUCTION, ESPECIALLY

JENNI AND LYDIA AT HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL, MALCOLM AND ROY AT THE COMMEMORATION HALL, GEORGE COTTAM, PAUL HOLDEN, PAUL TELFORD, SPOTLIGHT PRODUCTIONS

OUR THANKS AND APOLOGIES TO ANYONE WHO HAS HELPED US SINCE THE PROGRAMME WENT TO PRINT.

DEAN LACCOHEE (TORVALD HELMER)

Dean's recent appearances with the club include John Malcolm in *Separate Tables*, Captain Lombard in *And Then There Were None*, Dick Tassell in *The Happiest Days of your Life* and Alexandro (the Greek waiter) in *Port Out, Starboard Home!* Dean also directed Alan Ayckbourn's *Absent Friends* for the club in 2009 and later this year will direct J.B. Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*.

KIRSTY PICKERING (NORA)

Kirsty first trod the boards at the age of 6 in *The Sound of Music*. Having trained in musical theatre she worked professionally in that field for three years. She then discovered absurd theatre and, ironically, Ibsen. She went on to study the playwright and perform as the 'anti-heroine' Hedda Gabler in her native North Yorkshire. Kirsty joined Huntingdon Drama Club in 2009, playing the maid in *And Then There Were None*. She is thrilled to be performing an Ibsen again.

SCOTT HUTCHISON (DR RANK)

A Doll's House marks Scott's sixth appearance with Huntingdon Drama Club since his return to the amateur stage in 2009, with memorable roles in *Absent Friends*, *And Then There Were None*, *Port Out, Starboard Home!* and most recently, *The Happiest Days of your Life*. Scott has enjoyed the challenge of playing a very different role in this play from the ones he has played so far.

JEANETTE BROWN (MRS CHRISTINE LINDE)

Jeanette has appeared in many of the Club's productions since 2003, including *Move over Mrs Markham*, *A Murder is Announced*, *Jane Eyre*, *Cold Comfort Farm*, *Hay Fever*, *Absent Friends*, *Port Out, Starboard Home!* and last November's *The Happiest Days of your Life*.

PHIL GREEN (NILS KROGSTAD)

Nils Krogstad represents a radical change in character from Phil's last role as the camp entertainments officer Wayne in the premiere of *Port Out, Starboard Home!* Previous credits also include the nervous Dr Armstrong in Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None*, Simon Bliss in Noël Coward's *Hay Fever* and the posh but dim Richard Hawk-Monitor in Stella Gibbons' *Cold Comfort Farm*.

ANN MONK (ANNE)

Ann joined Huntingdon Drama Club in 2005. She is surprised to realise that she has been involved in 11 of the 13 productions since then. No wonder she has little spare time! She has acted, most recently in *And Then There Were None*, where she was injected with a lethal dose of poison whilst attempting to do her knitting. Although acting is her first love she has also produced, been responsible for costumes – including creating OTT hats for Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of Being Earnest* – and made props for *Cold Comfort Farm* and last autumn's *The Happiest Days of Your Life*.

JANE CRITTENDEN (HELEN)

This is Jane's first ever play other than an appearance as a tree in a school nativity play aged 5. She is celebrating both her children now going to school and thought 'being in a play would be fun.' Having discovered how much she enjoys acting, she's unlikely to go back to being a tree.

GUY MAKEY (PORTER)

Having recently made my debut with the Club as the scheming Hopcroft Minor in *The Happiest Days of Your Life*, I am taking more of a supporting role with this production. Never before has the placing of a Christmas tree on stage been of such importance to me! As well as undertaking the role of the porter in *A Doll's House* I will also be working backstage as you watch the show tonight, ensuring that all props and stage furniture are in their correct place. I very much hope you'll enjoy the show.

RONALD STEVENSON (DIRECTOR)

I have been an active member of Huntingdon Drama Club for many years. This, however, is only my second time directing a full-length play – and what a challenge it has been!

MICHAEL BLACK (PRODUCER)

This is my first time producing one of the Club's plays, and it's reminded me how much we depend on the help and goodwill of a large number of people, both Club members and others. Thank you all – without you, we wouldn't have any productions! In particular, Ann Monk and John Morgan have both helped enormously in numerous ways.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

A Doll's House, first performed in 1879, was hailed as the first feminist play and heralded the birth of realistic dialogue in theatre. Out went the sentimental romanticism of the late 19th century, and in came the radical realism of “Ibsenism.” The subject matter of a failing marriage coupled with the strong willed heroine Nora was considered a step too far and shocked audiences of the day, there were even calls for a different ending to the play.

The furore which the play caused twenty years before the formation of the suffragette movement can now only be imagined by modern day audiences. It is perhaps easier to think of Ibsen as a founding father who lit the flame of realistic and everyday dialogue in theatre. This purposeful shocking and unsettling of audiences can be seen still burning in the eyes of John Osborne’s angry young man in *Look Back in Anger* (1956) right through to present day playwrights such as Alan Ayckbourn and Mike Leigh who continue to fan the flames by wilfully peeling back the flimsy social facades of the middle classes to often great theatrical effect.

In terms of construct, the play is a standard three acts, but was anything but standard in its day in having a woman as the main protagonist. Such is the complexity of Nora’s character it is hard to believe that it was actually written by a man. In terms of importance the character of Nora ranks alongside the greatest literary creations of its era and most readily recalls the granite strength of Chris Guthrie in *Sunset Song* by Lewis Grassic Gibbon, another enduring literary heroine interestingly also written by a man.

I was therefore understandably thrilled to be asked by the club to direct such a landmark play, and have been privileged to work with such a talented cast and crew, without whom tonight’s production would not have been possible. I personally thank each and every one of you for your dedication and sheer hard graft over the last few months. It has been a long bumpy road, but ultimately a fruitful one!

It is hard indeed to think of a more challenging female lead role than that of Nora Helmer. I was thus more than fortunate to uncover an Ibsenite in our very midst with the drive and enthusiasm to undertake what may actually be *the* most demanding female lead role in theatre.

On a more personal note the short poem which you will hear prior to the play commencing was written over a year ago whilst considering a failed relationship. I did not write it with the play in mind, but upon rereading it this spring came to the conclusion that it was just too fitting to omit. Perhaps at the point of writing it I too had briefly held the still flaming baton of Ibsenism.....

Ronald J. Stevenson

OUR NEXT TWO PRODUCTIONS

ABIGAIL'S PARTY

BY MIKE LEIGH, DIRECTED BY MARIE HUGGINS
THURSDAY TO SATURDAY, 21 – 23 JULY 2011

AN INSPECTOR CALLS

BY J.B. PRIESTLEY, DIRECTED BY DEAN LACCOHEE
THURSDAY TO SATURDAY, 10 – 12 NOVEMBER 2011

PLEASE CONTACT US FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR IF YOU'D LIKE TO GET INVOLVED.

- WWW.HUNTINGDONDRAMACLUB.ORG.UK
- WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/HUNTINGDONDRAMACLUB
- 01480-454486 (MICHAEL BLACK AND JOHN MORGAN)
- ANY OTHER CLUB MEMBER

BOOKING ONLINE

It's very easy: just visit the Club's website, click to book tickets, 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 the 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!

PAST PRODUCTIONS – THE LAST 25 YEARS

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		
1998	An Ideal Husband On the Razzle	2010	The Importance of Being Earnest Port Out, Starboard Home! The Happiest Days of your Life
1999	Rope Working with Amateurs		

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.

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DEAN LACCOHEE



SCOTT HUTCHISON



KIRSTY PICKERING



PHIL GREEN



JEANETTE BROWN



ANN MONK



JANE CRITTENDEN



GUY MAKEY