



noda
Professional support for amateur theatre

Bringing drama to Huntingdon since 1944

Affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association

A Fête Worse than Death

by **Richard James**

directed by Michael Black

produced by John Morgan and Michael Black

Thursday to Saturday, 29 – 31 March 2012 at 7.30 pm
in the Commemoration Hall, Huntingdon

www.huntingdondramaclub.org.uk



www.facebook.com/HuntingdonDramaClub

The Cast

Malcolm, *contender for Thornton's Biggest Marrow*..... Phil Green
Bunny, *his wife*Kirsty Pickering
Nigel, *historical re-enactor*..... Dean Laccohee
Trish, *fête organiser*.....Kelly Mason
Father Mike, *the vicar*..... Bob Pugh
Miss Parmenter, *spinster of the parish* Jeanette Brown
Ray Martin, *an actor* Scott Hutchison

The action takes place over a couple of hours in the
Country Produce tent of the Thornton Village Fête

Time: the present

Act 1: The afternoon of the fête

*Interval of 30 minutes, when drinks will be available in the foyer and
our own fête will continue*

Act 2: A few minutes later

The Production Team

Director Michael Black
Producers.....John Morgan, Michael Black
Stage manager.....Peter Welsh
Stage crew Paul Waldron, Les Bosworth, John Morgan
Sound and lighting..... Mel Pugsley, assisted by Michael Linford
Properties..... Ann Monk
Hair and make-up Kirsty Pickering, Kelly Mason
Costumesthe cast
Prompter Jane Crittenden
Front of House..... John Morgan, Tony Burrin and team
Poster and programme cover Jane Cucurbita
Programme Michael Black
Publicity..... John Morgan

*Many thanks to everyone who has helped us put on this production,
especially*

Jenni at Huntingdon Town Council

Marilyn, Malcolm and Roy at the Commemoration Hall

Tony Burrin and Les Bosworth for providing the set

Great Stukeley Village Hall

Ellington Gala Committee

London House Signs

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

Bob Pugh (Father Mike)



Bob first started working with Huntingdon Drama Club in 1984. He's since performed many times both on and back-stage, with the Club, Shakespeare at the George, Panto '89, Brampton Park Theatre Company, OARS and others. He played Rochester in *Jane Eyre* alongside his daughter, Anwen, as Jane. Bob has recently changed from being a forensic scientist to a house-husband, so has had more time to learn his lines – we hope!

Dean Laccohee (Nigel)

Dean's recent acting credits for Huntingdon Drama Club include Torvald in *A Doll's House*, Captain Lombard in *And Then There Were None* and John Malcolm in *Separate Tables*. He has also directed *Absent Friends* and *Pack Of Lies* for the Club. His first play as a playwright, *The Visitor*, was premiered at the Arundel Arts Festival in 2010.



Jeanette Brown (Miss Parmenter)



Since joining the Club in 2003, I've played a wide variety of roles, from loving mother of the bride to cold-blooded killer (and from pantomime villain to potential murder victim with Broughton Village Players). Miss Parmenter has been a delight to play, but while I also live in a small village and admit to making the odd jar of chutney, I have never pickled an egg.

Kelly Mason (Trish)

Last year Kelly played the lead in Mike Leigh's *Abigail's Party*, followed by the American spy Helen Kroger in *Pack of Lies* – in which role NODA's reviewer described her as 'outstanding'. You might also remember her as Miss Gossage ('Call me sausage') in our production of *The Happiest Days of your Life*.



Kirsty Pickering (Bunny)



Kirsty first trod the boards at the age of six 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 Ibsen. Kirsty joined the Club in 2009, playing the maid in *And Then There Were None*, and Nora in *A Doll's House* last spring.

Phil Green (Malcolm)

Phil is looking forward to performing in another Richard James comedy, after playing the gay entertainments officer Wayne in *Port Out, Starboard Home!* ... not quite sure what Malcolm would think of Wayne! The character of Malcolm also represents a radical departure from the darkness of Krogstad in Ibsen's *A Doll's House*.



Scott Hutchison (Ray Martin)



Scott enjoys playing a variety of roles, and he's certainly managed that in his three years with Huntingdon Drama Club. They include parts in *Absent Friends*, *Port Out, Starboard Home!* *The Happiest Days of your Life*, *A Doll's House* and most recently Stewart in *Pack of Lies*.

From the Director

I'm delighted that we're able to present the world première of *A Fête Worse than Death* – or to be precise, the joint world première, as it's being performed in Stratford-upon-Avon at exactly the same time as in Huntingdon. Not by the Royal Shakespeare Company, unfortunately (not yet, at any rate), but by the Avonside Players.

We can claim full honours for launching *Port Out, Starboard Home!* though, another delightful comedy by Richard James that we performed in July 2010, with many of the same cast.

A Fête Worse than Death pokes gentle fun at some of the obsessions of our time – the cult of celebrity, the enduring appeal of detective stories – and at that constant of village life, the fête where all's fair in love, war and the Biggest Marrow competition.

Our links with Richard James – a Godmanchester lad – go back to his appearance in our 1988 production of *Any Number Can Die*. Soon afterwards he left for the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, graduating in 1992. A couple of years ago he and Dean Laccohee performed two of Richard's one-act plays, *Vision Impaired* and *I Am Hamlet*, in the Commemoration Hall.

Richard has appeared many times on television and in films, and later this year we'll be able to see him in the new film of *Great Expectations*, alongside Ralph Fiennes and Helena Bonham Carter.

As always, a lot of people have worked very hard to put on this production: not just the cast, but many others behind the scenes, and I'm very grateful to them all. In particular, my thanks to John Morgan, who has not only taken on many of the chores that fall to the producer, but has also organised the front-of-house fête that I hope you've been enjoying. He also created the Nerve Tester.

I hope you enjoy our production of *A Fête Worse than Death*. Thank you for your support for Huntingdon Drama Club.

Michael Block

Our next production

Travels with my Aunt

Graham Greene's comic novel,
adapted for the stage by Giles Havergal
directed and produced by John Morgan and Michael Black

Performances: Friday 13 July at 7.30 pm, Saturday 14 July at 2.30 and 7.30 pm, in the Commemoration Hall

Auditions: Wednesday, 4 April at 7.30 pm.

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

john.ccz@btinternet.com, michael.black@btinternet.com, or phone 01480-454486.

Huntingdon Commemoration Hall Charity

The Commemoration Hall is managed by a Board of Trustees, including John Morgan, who is the Chair, and Mel Pugsley. It is partially grant-funded by Huntingdon Town Council. The hall has been home to Huntingdon Drama Club since 1960.

The first phase of a stage lighting update plan has just been completed, in a partnership between the Trustees and users of the stage. In the next phase, high efficiency LED lights will be installed. These can produce a spectrum of colour and will reduce running costs. The lighting bars will also be up-dated.

In addition, the Trustees and Daybreak Church are looking at the construction of a 'technical' platform at the back of the hall, so that sound and light control equipment can be left connected and not interfere with other users.

Please talk to Mel or John if you're interested in finding out more, or have some ideas for raising the necessary funds!

Past productions – the last 25 years

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! The Happiest Days of your Life
1998	An Ideal Husband On the Razzle	2011	A Doll's House Abigail's Party Pack of Lies
1999	Rope Working with Amateurs		
2000	Bazaar and Rummage One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest		

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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