

Huntingdon Drama Club

presents

Picasso

at the Lapin Agile

by Steve Martin

plus

Theatre on Canvas

an exhibition
by
Glenn Rossiter

April 2001

Director's Note

Welcome to the Lapin Agile. It's a good thing this play is set in a bar because there have been moments when cast and crew have definitely needed a drink!

I love this play and hope that you do too. Both Einstein and Picasso had an extraordinary effect on the 20th Century. Einstein's unique scientific theories paved the way for the technological world we know today. Picasso is acknowledged as having completely changed the world of art. Both men were geniuses. It is not known that they ever did meet, but I'm sure this is how it would have happened if they did.

The playwright, Steve Martin, is truly a comic genius. He began as a ground-breaking stand-up comedian and went on to star in some of the funniest movies of the 20th Century. Not content with that, he moved on to write, direct and produce even more of same. In "Picasso at the Lapin Agile" he shows us that his talent is not limited to the big screen.

As far as our production is concerned, I have had a wonderful cast who responded to this challenging project brilliantly. I particularly want to thank those who took on duties "above and beyond" in order to make the production a success.

You may be interested to note that this play marks the solo debut of the next generation of technical wizards, as Trevor Morgan takes over the sound and lighting tasks.

Now, what about that "noted European artist"? Glenn Rossiter has joined us from Germany to show where art has arrived at in the 21st Century. Thanks to him for this opportunity to see some splendid modern works. Glenn will be pleased to talk about his work and, of course, all the paintings are available for sale.

That's it. Thanks for coming. And have a great time.

Valerie Gerrard

A bar in Paris, 1904. One year later, Albert Einstein published the special theory of relativity. Three years later, Pablo Picasso painted Les Demoiselles d'Avignon.

Cast in Order of Appearance

Freddy: *John Morgan*

Gaston: *Roger Trencher*

Germaine: *Gaenor Pring*

Albert Einstein (age 25): *J Belander*

Suzanne: *Clair Richardson*

Sagot: *Kimberlee Grayce*

Pablo Picasso (age 23): *Paul Sweeney*

Charles Dabernow Schmendiman: *Nick Waldock*

The Countess: *Donna Porter/Caroline Barratt*

A Female Admirer: *Rachel Greaves*

A Visitor: *Adam Greaves*

Crew

Lighting and Sound: *Trevor Morgan*

Props: *Rachel Greaves*

Director's Assistant: *Caroline Barratt*

Prompt: *Ruth Morgan/Caroline Barratt*

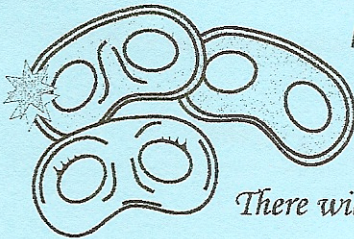
Costumes: *Just about everybody !*

Make-Up: *Paul Sweeney*

Front of House: *Maggie Redgrave,
Dominic Whitehead, Rachel Greaves*

plus

HDC members & supporters



There will be one twenty minute interval

The Picasso and Einstein Story

Steve Martin obviously did his homework before writing this play. Director and cast have been forced to do likewise in order to understand all the references. With apologies for art buffs and science boffins, here are some interesting facts:

Picasso

Was a child prodigy. At the age of 14, he completed the one month qualifying course at the Academy of Fine Arts in Barcelona in one day.

In 1904, when the play is set, he was just coming out of his "Blue Period" and about to enter the "Rose Period".

The painting which the Visitor shows him is *Les Femmes d'Alger (O. J. R. Version O)*. It is considered to have changed the face of 20th century art.

Einstein

Did poorly at school, finding the studies boring and mundane. He is reputed to have not spoken until the age of four, at which time he said, "Please pass the salt". When asked why he hadn't spoken before he replied, "Because I had nothing to say."

He suffered persecution by the Nazis and moved to the United States. Fearful that Hitler would have sole possession of the secrets of the nuclear bomb, he urged President Roosevelt to encourage uranium research by the US. After the war he worked tirelessly for peace and disarmament.

Other Players

The Lapin Agile, in Montmartre, was indeed run by Pere Freddy, who provided a welcoming atmosphere for the artists and intellectuals of early 20th century Paris.

Germaine was the name of the girlfriend of Picasso's best friend, who committed suicide in 1904.

In 1904, Picasso took a 19 year old mistress who became the model for many of his paintings.



Schmendimite was not a success!



An exhibition of
paintings by
Glenn Rossiter

Huntingdon Drama Club is delighted to welcome Glenn Rossiter, who has brought a selection of his paintings to add to the European flair of the evening. In a successful career spanning thirty years, Glenn has exhibited in many countries. He and his group "Three Man" hold regular exhibitions in Germany. His work is to be found in collections across Europe and in America. Here's what he has to say about himself:

"My work is a reflection of what I see in man and nature - the agreements and discrepancies. Light, as a prime medium of perception, plays a major role in these reflections and I use it, together with colour separation, to direct attention to mood and emotion. To take a single observation and play this through several differing viewpoints is the closest I have achieved to theatre on canvas - that is to say, a theme consisting of several acts with a finale. Man's hopes, his dreams, failures and follies, all with one common factor - light creating colour which in turn creates emotion."

Not surprisingly, he greatly admires (and identifies with) Picasso!

Please take the time before or after the play (or in the interval) to have a look. Glenn will be on hand throughout the evening to talk about his work. Oh, and don't be fooled - he *is* English, despite the Einstein-esque accent.

All paintings are available for sale.

A small selection will also be available after Glenn returns to Germany.

Contact Valerie on 01480 382549

Try the Lapin Agile Quiz

Who said?

- a) "I am enough of an artist to draw freely upon my imagination"
- b) "I do not seek. I find."
- c) "I wouldn't call any art bad, though there's a lot of it I don't get..."
- d) "Finally a book about me! I loved this book and fell deeply in love with the central character."
- e) "There is nothing more difficult for a truly creative painter than to paint a rose, because before he can do so he has to forget all the roses that were ever painted."
- f) "Youth is happy because it has the ability to see beauty. Anyone who keeps the ability to see beauty never grows old."
- g) "Without tradition, art is a flock of sheep without a shepherd. Without innovation it is a corpse."

Was it ... ?

- a) Picasso
- b) Kafka
- c) Einstein
- d) Elvis
- e) Churchill
- f) Matisse
- g) Steve Martin

answers below

We would like to thank:

- The Card Gallery, High Street, Huntingdon
- Derek Adams, Manager Medway Centre
- The Barley Mow, Hartford, Huntingdon
- All HDC members and supporters who helped

Answers:

a - b
b - f
c - e
d - p
e - c
f - a
g - c

Picasso at The Lapine Agile

...was produced at RAF Alconbury
in conjunction with the USAF
423 Air Base Squadron
Community Programs



Plus,

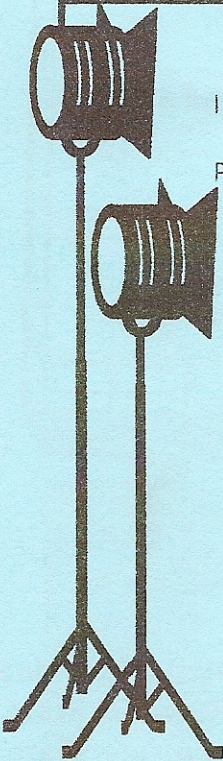
don't miss our special play reading evening 16th May at 7:30 in the Cromwell Room at The George Hotel, Huntingdon. Free to HDC members or £1 for non-members. For more information contact any Committee member or visit our website at huntingdramaclub.co.uk

Did you enjoy tonight's entertainment?

Would you like to be informed of future Huntingdon Drama Club events?

We would be delighted to hear your views and let you know of forthcoming events. Please fill in the short form below and drop it in the box by the door, or hand it to any Drama Club member.

**Or write to:
Roger Trencher
Secretary, Huntingdon Drama Club
29 Claytons Way
Huntingdon**



I would like to know more about Huntingdon Drama Club

Please keep me informed of future productions

Name and Address

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