



Stage Whispers

Copyright: The Whips

Nov **2017**

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SPRING PRODUCTION

The Spring production will be Role Play, a great 2001 comedy by Alan Ayckbourn, directed by Jack Griffith.

Cast Justin Lazenby 30,
Julie-Ann Jobson *His fiancée*, 23,
Paige Petite *An ex-dancer*, 29
Micky Rale *An ex-boxer*, 40,
Derek Jobson *Julie-Ann's father*, 50s
Dee Jobson *Julie-Ann's mother*, 45,
Arabella Lazenby *Justin's mother*, 50s

From Ayckbourn's trilogy 'Damsels in Distress', RolePlay is a laugh out loud play with dark undertones; a vintage dinner-party from hell....A young well-to-do couple, living in a posh docklands apartment, have planned a civilised occasion where they hope to introduce their respective parents and also announce their engagement. The tense situation escalates with the arrival of two unexpected guests, a feisty lap-dancing gangster's moll and her burly gun-toting minder. What her parents (a bigoted northern stereotype and his dim twittering wife) and his mother (a toy-boy chasing lush) find when they arrive reveals that the bourgeois guests, under their respective veneers, are far more frightening than the gate crashers.

Ayckbourn is a master at handling people divided by class, accent, habits and race and here we see each of his characters playing a role to escape reality with hilarious effect.

Casting Meeting Thursday 7th December in the Village Hall...please contact Jack on jackgriffith6@gmail.com if interested

THE WHIPS
Reg. Charity 2004057
www.horsleyamdram.org An Amateur production by arrangement with Samuel French

A Comedy by Alan Ayckbourn
ROLE PLAY
Directed by Jack Griffith

18th-21st April 2018 at 8.00 PM
West Horsley Village Hall

Box Office: Wills & Smerdon, Estate Agents East Horsley, 01483 28 4141
or online at www.horsleyamdram.ticketsource.co.uk

PLAYREADINGS



The next playreading will be at Colin Bailey's house Foxcombe Nightingale Road, East Horsley, KT24 5EW 283372 at 8PM sharp on Thursday 30 Nov

It's always the same generous folk who volunteer to host these evenings, I organise the whole thing and get the books from the Performing arts Library however that facility, nice and convenient as it was, is in doubt as the council are looking for large cuts and the P.A.library will be the first to go!

But if you would like to host an evening, please contact Jack

STAGE WHISPERS CHRISTMAS BASH

It's that time again! Come & join us at the King 'Billy' on Thursday December 14th 7.30 drinks for 8pm start
Send me an Email with your menu choices to jackgriffith6@gmail.com
EG. C,A,B means Goats Cheese starter with Roast Turkey main course and Fudge cake sweet
Go for it!



To Start...

A ___Roast Leek & Cheddar Soup___
With Granary Bread & Butter

B ___Smoked Salmon & Creme Fraise Crab Cocktail___
With Toasted Ciabatta

C ___Goats Cheese, Chargrilled Vegetables & Walnut Salad___
With A Honey Balsamic Dressing

D ___Duck, Pork & Port Paté___
With Toasted Ciabatta & A Homemade Caramelised Cranberry Relish

...For The Main Course...

A ___Traditional Roast Turkey___
With Pigs In Blankets, Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Stuffing & White Wine Gravy

B ___Baked Cod Steak___
In a Prawn & Parsley Sauce, With Buttered New Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetables

C ___Slow Roasted Pork Belly___
With Smashed Apple & Parsnip Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables & White Wine Gravy

D ___Homemade Roasted Root Vegetables & Mixed Nut Roast___
With Roast Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables, Stuffing & Cranberry Gravy

...& For Pudding

A ___Traditional Christmas Pudding___
With Brandy Sauce

B ___Black Forest Fudge Cake___
With Chocolate Sauce & Vanilla Ice Cream

C ___Winter Fruit Cheesecake___
With Blackcurrant Coulis & Whipped Cream

D ___Cheese Board___
With Homemade Chutney & Crackers

A Selection of Hot Drinks, Liqueur Coffee & Desert Wine Are Also Available

Meerkats noted for 25/10/17

- The Whips 70th Anniversary will be held next year possibly in July. Details will follow
- The new black 'legs' recently purchased were used in the Autumn production . They were very successful and really enhanced the stage
- The coach house tidy up is continuing and more props have come to light (a lot of wall lights!)
- The Whippets are staging 'The Addams Family' 22-24 March 2018. Rehearsals are underway and going well . A total of 33 children are taking part
- Whips Youth Theatre are putting on a play about Guy Fawkes for the Raleigh School on Sunday 5th November
- The Spring production will be 'Role Play' by Alan Ayckbourn in April 2018. Casting for this will be on Dec 7th at 8.00pm in West Horsley Village Hall
- The Autumn production will take place 10-13th October 2018
- The Autumn production of 2 one act plays was very successful . This included 2 supper nights and one BYO night
- Money has been donated to Cherry Trees from the Horsley Fete where the Whips had a stall
- There is a quiz proposed on January 13th 2018 . Tickets from www.ticketsource.co.uk/horsleyamdram
 . Tables of 8 are needed . The cost is £15.00 inc supper

As you may be aware we had planned to run the next Whips quiz on Saturday November 18th 2017. As it turns out there is another quiz scheduled in the village for that date and several other quizzes run by local organisations have happened in October. With this in mind the Committee felt that we would probably struggle to get a full audience and that it would be better to postpone the WHIPS quiz until January 13th 2018 when we have time before the next production by the Whippets (The Addams family 22nd – 24th March 2018). The proposed new date for the quiz is Sat 13th January 2018. Our apologies for any disappointment this postponement may have caused.

Colin Bailey
Chairman

AUTUMN PRODUCTION CRIT.

A Dog's Life

There were a few sniffles and handkerchiefs at the end of this cleverly thought-out play. Indeed, some people, somewhat subdued, as they began their excellent meal, were looking forward to the frothy nonsense of "Hands Across the Sea, which elicited quite a few laughs and titters.

The Dog cages were well designed and we quickly believed in the various characters taking on their doggy personas. Stuart Tomkins was very convincing and amusing as the bouncy pup, but as we soon realised, each dog had a sad story to tell; his, the death by drowning of his siblings, though he didn't understand this, thank goodness. Kevin Tomkins, as the old German shepherd, never happier than on duty, when walking the "perimeter", was unable to adjust to a restricted life, and Kevin carried this part well. I would have liked him to have spoken in a more aggressive Germanic accent. Pam Campbell as the poodle, Fifi, was charming and poignant, in her chubby and pink fluffiness. Again, a stronger French accent would have been preferred. Colin Bailey played the old companion of a tramp, now passed on, whom he truly loved and had never got over his loss. The unexpected bite he gave the Visitor's hand and his rapid decline into death was moving. Jack Griffith as the Kennel-keeper and Miffy Davis were good supporters for the principal characters.



- **“Hands Across the Sea”**

seemed somewhat baffling at first as a series of unexplained characters filled a very crowded drawing room. However, the misunderstanding about who the guests, Colin Bailey and Barbara Firth were, turned this little trifle of a play into a delicate farce.



The “business” with the telephone line was well handled. No-one seemed aware of exactly what they were doing to Mrs. Wadhurst, and she had to cope with near-strangulation in an upper-class, nonchalant manner. Colin also had to brush off the ruination of his suit with spilled drinks in a similar way.

- Jack Griffith and Richard Johnson played off each other as naval friends efficiently and neatly. Richard cleverly mastered an apparently impromptu song to a recorded piano, while questioning who the guests were, in a pseudo music-hall number. The maid, played by Jan Hudson had to cope, which she did well, with the cluttered set and a large numbers of actors. Stuart Tomkins was a suitably discrete young office boy, completely out of his depth in this madhouse. Carol McGlone elegantly interspersed the random social chit-chat with an acerbic wit. Tony Thompson made a lot of cocktails and had to answer the phone, talking to unknown persons, while the conversation criss-crossed from phone to room without a pause.
- This brings me to Frances King, who had an enormous and complicated part to play, constantly changing mood and direction with phone-calls and discussion with her guests, husband and friends. She carried off this challenging part with aplomb, and surely we can forgive her a few prompts. Overall, both plays made for a good evening’s entertainment.
- The directors, Soo Tomkins and Jan Hudson should be pleased with the results of their efforts and thanks should be passed on to all the production team, too many to name, for the sets, design, sound, lighting, publicity, costumes, and Box Office, together with the Stage Manager and his assistants behind and in front of the curtain.
- **The Humble Scribe**



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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30 th November	Playreading Colin Bailey's House
7 th December	Spring Production casting meeting
14 th December	Whips Christmas Bash
13 th January	Whips Quiz WHVH
18 th January	Playreading Barbara's house
8 th Feb	Playreading Anna,s house
18 th -21 st April	Spring Production (revised date)
22-24 th March	Whippets: The AddamsFamily
21 st July(Possibly)	70 th Anniversary night WHVH (Possibly)

CONTACTS

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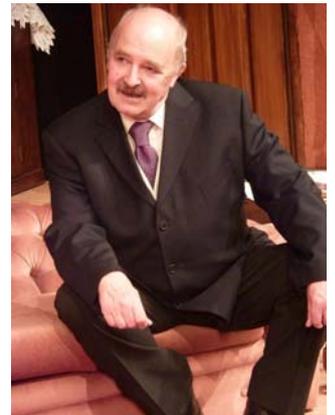


Wally Ross-Gower

Sad news that Wally Ross-Gower died recently from Cancer and his funeral was on Tuesday 17th October in Norbury. Wally directed several plays for the Whips as well as acting . A great director and a very likeable person.

Geraldine Guthrie who knew him well went to the funeral and sent this tribute:-

When Anthea and I bravely attended an audition at the Nomad Theatre early in 2007 for their production of Separate Tables and we both met the director Wally Ross-Gower, we thought it was for the first time. However he took one look at me and said 'I remember you'. The way he said that gave me a moment of panic wondering where, when, and how long ago! It transpired it was when he was but a schoolboy and I had a part time job in a South Croydon coffee bar which he frequented. It was a new venture by friends of mine who paid me the princely sum of 2/6d per hour to supplement my London salary, so indeed a long time ago. From then on we shared many happy memories of those days and talked about people and places we remembered.



Apart from being a gentle and kindly person Wally was also a great director and actor. I rated my performance as Mrs Railton-Bell in Separate Tables as one of my best thanks to Wally, and Anthea was a delightful Miss Meacham. I encouraged The Whips to invite Wally to direct for us which he did with a memorable production of 'Last Tango in Whitby' in 2007. He followed that with an equally successful production of 'Habeas Corpus' at the Village Hall in 2009. In 2010 I persuaded Wally to audition for the part of Rough which I would be directing at the Electric Theatre, and I personally felt it was his finest hour. It was my final production with The Whips before we moved, and Wally's final production for The Whips was 'Murder in Play' in 2012.

John and I were very sad to hear from Jack that Wally had died and were glad we were able to drive to the church in Norbury, South London on Tuesday to say our farewells to him. It was a large church and Wally had the full house he deserved, including several people I recognised from the Nomads. Wally's wife Carol and sons Sam and Ben had arranged a very thoughtful service for him with lovely music, and his baby grandson Sidney behaved impeccably. The church was full of love and memories, and Wally will obviously be greatly missed by many people apart from us. R.I.P.....Geraldine Guthrie

AND FINALLY

A young Scottish lad and lass were sitting on a low stone wall, holding hands, gazing out over the loch.

For several minutes they sat silently.

Then finally the girl looked at the boy and said, "A penny for your thoughts, Angus."

"Well, uh, I was thinkin'... perhaps it's about time for a wee kiss."

The girl blushed, then leaned over and kissed him lightly on the cheek..

Then he blushed. The two turned once again to gaze out over the loch.

Minutes passed and the girl spoke again. "Another penny for your thoughts, Angus."

"Well, uh, I was thinkin' perhaps it's about time for a wee cuddle."

The girl blushed, then leaned over and cuddled him for a few seconds.

Then he blushed. And the two turned once again to gaze out over the loch.

After a while, she again said, "Another penny for your thoughts, Angus."

"Well, uh, I was thinkin' perhaps it's about time you let me put my hand on your leg."

The girl blushed, then took his hand and put it on her knee. Then he blushed.

Then the two turned once again to gaze out over the loch before the girl spoke again.

"Another penny for your thoughts, Angus."

The young man glanced down with a furled brow.

"Well, noo," he said, "my thoughts are a wee bit more serious this time."

"Really?" said the lass in a whisper, filled with anticipation.

"Aye," said the lad, nodding.

The girl looked away in shyness, began to blush, and bit her lip in anticipation of the ultimate request.

Then he said, "Dae ye nae think it's about time ye paid me the first three pennies?"



This has been another 'Rush it out swiftly before the clocks go back' production!



