

THE WHIPS

Registered Charity No: 299657

Family Circles Oct 2005

FAMILY CIRCLES

An early comedy
By Alan Ayckbourn

Directed by
Jack Griffith

12th - 15th October 2005
8.00 p.m.

Polly, Jenny and Deidre come down to their parents' home for the weekend to help them celebrate their anniversary. Polly and Jenny have their husbands in tow and Deidre her current man. Looming over the weekend is a persistent rumour that, despite all appearances to the contrary, something is going seriously wrong between Mum and Dad - indeed, that he is trying to do away with her - and right to the end there are little pieces of circumstantial evidence that may be interpreted as hinting at the truth of the rumour. The scenes of the play cover the arrival of the girls and their men: preparing to leave for the celebration dinner; returning from the dinner, and the following morning. By a theatrical conceit (for it is not intended naturalistically as a wife-swapping exercise), the author has each girl paired with a different man in each of the first three scenes, and in the final scene all nine permutations are intermingled, which makes for a hectic denouement. It is difficult to resist Ayckbourn's own assessment of the play when he says, "It is probably not vintage, but it's got a few good laughs in it, the premise of the play being that,

CAST

EDWARD	JACK GRIFFITH
EMMA	GERALDINE GUTHRIE
POLLY	PAT DAVIS
JENNY	JO REID
DEIRDRE	JULES MCCOLL
OLIVER	PHIL EMBURY
DAVID	STUART SMITH
JAMES	WARWICK HEWSON

As this is rather a complex play, to aid your understanding of the changing partners, we have used matching costume colours for each couple to indicate who is with whom. We hope this will be of help!

The action of the play takes place in the living-room of the Grays' comfortable middle class house.

Time is present day, an August weekend,

Act I	Scene 1	Saturday Afternoon
	Scene 2	Saturday Afternoon, later

INTERVAL

Act II	Scene 1	Saturday Night
	Scene 2	Sunday Morning

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director	Jack Griffith
Producer	June Bailey
Stage Manager	Fran King
Set Design	Jack Griffith
Stage Construction	Members of The Whips
Wardrobe Co-ordinator	Jo Reid
Props	Pam Ellison
Lighting and Sound	Chris Cathles
Prompt	Anthea Wright
Programme Design	Sue Floyd
Front of House	June Bailey
Advance Box Office	Ann Wells
Public Box Office	Courtesy of Wills & Smerdon
Publicity	Colin Bailey
Poster	Sue Floyd

YOU ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SMOKE IN THE HALL