



LITTLE THEATRE

A
SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB
PRODUCTION

Ray Cooney's

Hilarious Sequel to **Run For Your Wife**



Sponsored by
Duncan Sheard
Glass

Caught In The Net

"Even funnier than its
predecessor... a sheer joy
from beginning to end"

Directed by Alistair Hewitt

**23rd September -
1st October 2005**
at 7.45pm


LITTLE THEATRE
SOUTHPORT
HOME OF
THE SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB

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Caught In The Net

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Chairman's Notes



picture by Peter Burroughs

Dear Patrons.

As another season of the Southport Dramatic Club begins I am delighted to welcome you to our first production - *Caught In The Net*.

Many of you will remember Alistair Hewitt's excellent production of *Run For Your Wife* which opened our season last year. *Caught In The Net* is the sequel and this fast-moving, humorous play is bound to start the season well.

Many thanks to all of you, our loyal subscribers, our regulars and new patrons. Sit back and enjoy our new season.

Mrs. Judith Gorse
Chairman



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Director's Notes



When I was a boy, my mother took me to see a double bill including *The Return of the Magnificent Seven* followed by *The Magnificent Seven*. The fact that we saw the films in the wrong order was lost on me at the time, but the experience did introduce me to the idea of The Sequel. The successful secret of The Sequel should be that it is the same, but different. The same, in that it should engender a feel familiar to its predecessor, but still different enough, in terms of its plot and characters, to keep us entertained by its originality.

Caught In The Net is Ray Cooney's sequel to last year's opener *Run For Your Wife*. Set 16 years after the original, I believe that it is sufficiently different to keep you highly entertained for the next two hours, and very much hope that the audience response is the same as last year's, when I heard a lot of laughter and saw a lot of smiling faces. So enjoy the show and then come back to see the rest of what promises to be a thrilling season.

Alistair Hewitt
Director



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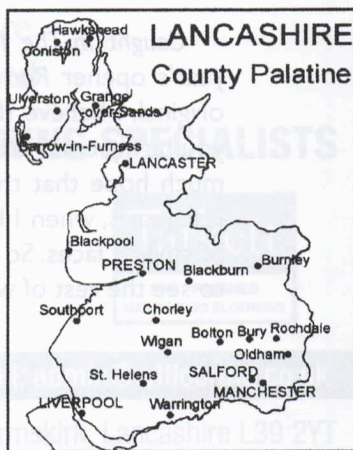
Use it - make the point

Despite changes for administrative purposes no legislation has altered the boundaries of the traditional county of Lancashire.

If you live in the area shown on this map you live in Lancashire - so include Lancashire in your address.

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Notes on the Author



Ray Cooney

Ray Cooney began his theatrical career as a boy actor in *Song of Norway* at the Palace Theatre in 1946. He served his apprenticeship by playing various repertory companies from Worthing to Blackburn before graduating to Brian Rix's company at the Whitehall Theatre in 1956. He later began a writing career which, to date, has produced 17 West End plays including *Not Now Darling*, *Move Over Mrs Markham*, *There Goes the Bride* (all co-written with John Chapman), *Chase Me Comrade*, *Run For Your Wife*, *Out of Order*, *It Runs in the Family* and *Funny Money*.

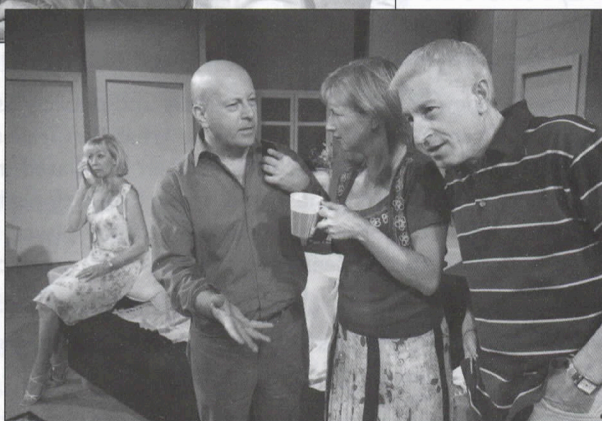
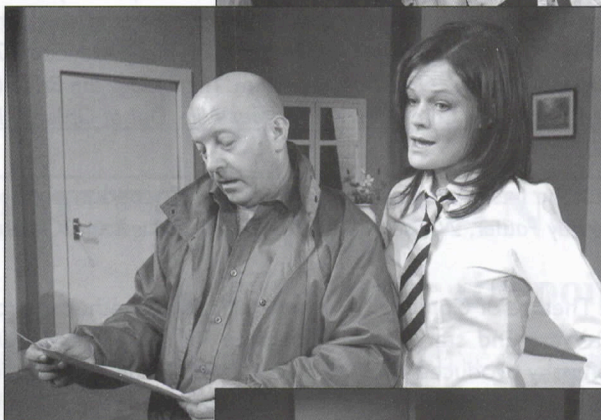
As Producer and Director he has been responsible for over 30 London productions, including *Lloyd George Knew My Father*, *Whose Life is it Anyway?*, *Chicago* and *Children of a Lesser God*.

In 1983, Ray formed the Theatre of Comedy Company (bringing together the founder members consisting of 30 West End stars) and he became its first Artistic Director. During Ray's tenure the company produced over 20 plays including *Run For Your Wife*, *Out of Order*, *Two into One* and the acclaimed revivals of *See How They Run*, *Loot*, *When We are Married* and *Pygmalion* starring Peter O' Toole and the late John Thaw.

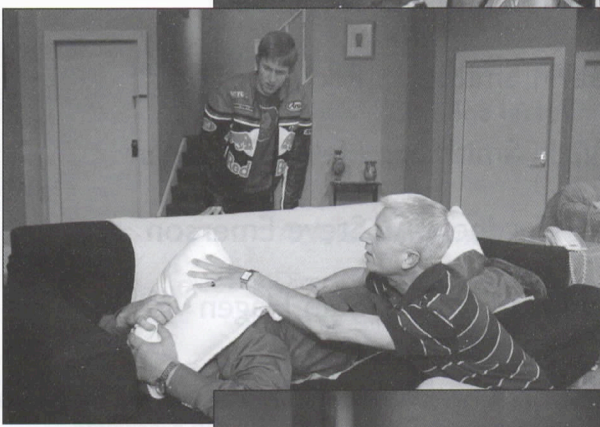
Today, Ray Cooney is recognized theatrically and publicly as 'the master of farce' and a most worthy successor, as an author, to the great Ben Travers, and as a director/actor to Brian Rix. his comedies and farces have been translated into more than 40 foreign languages including Chinese, Japanese and Russian. During his hectic theatrical career he has always found time to continue acting, and recently played in the last year of *Run For Your Wife* in London before appearing in the New York production.

Ray has been married to his wife, Linda for 35 years and has two sons, Danny and Michael. Michael has inherited his father's gift and also writes plays. Danny, his eldest son, lives in Australia with his wife and two children.

Caught In The Net



Caught In The Net



Caught In The Net

by Ray Cooney

Directed by Alistair Hewitt

Cast

Mary Smith Helen Bennett

Barbara Smith Jacquie Wade

John Smith Ted Bullen

Gavin Smith Rikki Spofforth

Vicki Smith Helen Garrahan

Stanley Gardner Steve Emerson

Stanley's Dad Stan Hagen

The action of the play takes place in the Wimbledon home of John and Mary Smith and, simultaneously, in the Streatham home of John and Barbara Smith.

The Time: the present

Act 1 Mid-afternoon on a warm summer's day

Act 2 Immediately following

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between Acts 1 and 2.

Staging

Stage Manager	Lindsay Haywood
Assistant Stage Manager (book)	Jean Watkinson
Props	Kate Leight
	Susanne Denner
Wardrobe	SDC and Cast
Lighting	Tony Berry
	Andrew Connard
Sound	Brian Hodge
	Matthew Woodhams
Set Design	Syd Coley
Set Constructed by	SDC Production Team
Scenic Artist	Bob Jessamine
Photography by	Neil Hickson

Acknowledgements

The Director would like to thank:

The Salvation Army

The management reserves the right to refuse admission to the auditorium after curtain up until a suitable opportunity occurs. First aid facilities are provided at this theatre by St John Ambulance Brigade, whose members give their services voluntarily.

Why not beat the rush and pre-order your interval drinks in the bar?

A new induction loop has been installed in this theatre for the benefit of hearing impaired patrons. Please turn your hearing aid to 'T'.

Please ensure that all mobile telephones are switched off

At the end of tonight's performance you may leave by any of the exits, all of which will be open. In an emergency, this theatre can be emptied in three minutes or less if everyone leaves in an orderly manner.

Smoking is prohibited in the auditorium.

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Friday 9th December

Gary Anthony resident singer and Disco

Saturday 10th December

Tina Ballantino – Superb Tina Turner tribute and Disco

Thursday 15th December

Sally Anne Harmen – Brilliant Vocalist and Disco

Friday 16th December

Gary Anthony – Resident singer and Disco

Saturday 17th December

Gary Anthony – Resident singer and Disco

Wednesday 21st December

Anthony Paul – Live male vocal entertainer and Disco

Thursday 22nd December

Gary Anthony – Resident singer and Disco

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Gary Anthony – Resident singer and Disco

Friday 6th January

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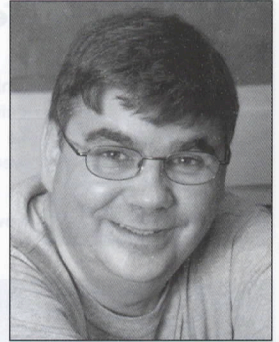
Southport Old Road Formby

Caught In The Net

Cast

Alistair Hewitt *Director*

Alistair has directed a number of main season plays for the SDC including *Breezblock Park*, *Broadway Bound* and, of course, last year's opener *Run For Your Wife*. He has also directed *The Glass Menagerie*, *Loot* and *Betrayal*, in the bar. His own play, *Spending Frank* was performed at the Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough earlier in the year and is due to tour Scotland in 2006.



Helen Bennett *Mary Smith*

Helen is delighted to have been asked to reprise the role of Mary in *Caught In The Net*, and is deeply touched by the director's faith in her - the mad, impetuous fool!

Her grateful thanks go to the SDC Make-up Department who have done an amazing job in ageing Helen the 16 years which are supposed to have elapsed since *Run For Your Wife*.



Jacquie Wade *Barbara Smith*

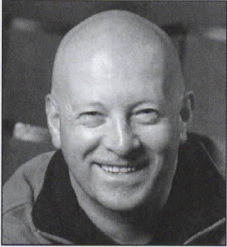
After playing Barbara in the prequel last season, Jacquie is so thrilled to be playing Barbara again that her "cups" runneth over (with a little help from a good bra and extra padding!)

However, she had forgotten what hard work is entailed in getting the extremely fast pace required for a farce but hopefully with such a dedicated and talented director, cast, prompt and crew, the audience will reap the benefits and enjoy it; hopefully!



Caught In The Net

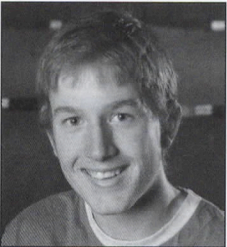
Cast



Ted Bullen *John Smith*

Ted is often cited as the desperate woman's crumpet. Another run-out as John Smith for him, only this time 16 years after the first play, and he will have to age up quite a bit. The ladies seem to have managed this quite easily, such talented people he is working with, even the director has aged, and he's done it all in the last two weeks. Actually he may have overdone it slightly.

So at the time of writing (7.00 o'clock) Ted has a bit of catching up to do, however he might have to rely on some clever lighting.



Rikki Spofforth *Gavin Smith*

Rikki is looking forward to appearing in a main season play, and is especially keen to play a character who does not have luminous orange legs - having played 'Priscilla the Magic Goose' in last season's pantomime, *Mother Goose*. He has been a member of the SDC Youth Theatre for three years and hopes he won't be thrown out following his portrayal of Gavin.



Helen Garrahan *Vicki Smith*

Helen's keen interest in the theatre began at a very early age. Acting since the age of four, she has a wealth of experience to offer. Helen made her SDC debut in 2002, playing the role of Roberta in the Youth Theatre production of *The Railway Children*. She has since been involved in many of the Youth Theatre's productions - playing various principal roles. Helen is delighted to be playing Vicki in her first ever main season production and performing amongst a cast of talented adult members. She feels especially privileged to be working with accomplished playwright and director Alistair Hewitt and is embracing her first ever comedy role with enthusiasm.



Steve Emerson *Stanley Gardner*

Steve was deranged, sorry delighted, to take on the role of Stanley at such short notice. It has been a real challenge for him, both emotionally and physically - mainly the physically (enter gibbering wreck)!

Everyone to do with this production has made him feel very welcome - but they'll soon learn the error of their ways. Hope you enjoy it Steve.

Steve is guesting from Formby Little Theatre, Welcome to SDC (Ed.)

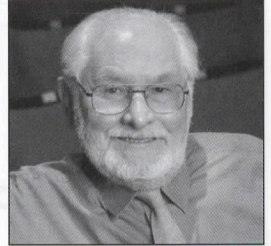
Caught In The Net

Cast

Stan Hagen *Stanley's Dad*

Patrons have had the summer to hopefully forget Stan's appearance as Le Clerc in 'Allo 'Allo. He played an old, senile dodderer. In this production he is called upon to play an old, senile cantankerous dodderer.

Such versatility in one so young.



LITTLE THEATRE
A
SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB
Youth PRODUCTION

Shakespeare



No Holds Bard!

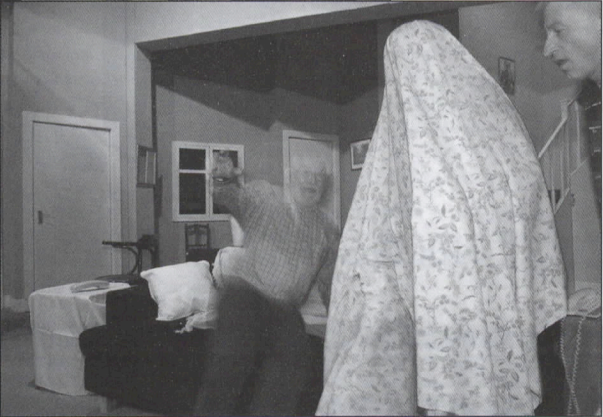
Tickets: £5.00
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Groups: 1 Free
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Directed by Trudi Hirsch & Kate Leight
6th October - 8th October 2005
at 7.30pm

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Opens:
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Caught In The Net





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2nd Half Season's Productions

27th January - 4th February 2006

Billy Liar

by Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall

24th February - 4th March 2006

A View From The Bridge

by Arthur Miller

31st March - 8th April 2006

The Importance of Being Ernest

by Oscar Wilde

28th April - 6th May 2006

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by Michael Frayn

Bar Production

23rd May - 27th May 2006

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