



LITTLE THEATRE

A
SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB
PRESENTATION



H.E. Bates

The

Darling Buds of May

Directed by Matthew Woodhams
with Thelma Falls-Hand (Consultant)

22nd - 30th
September 2006
7.45pm



Box Office: Tel: (01704) 530521/530460 • Fax: (01704) 546782 • www.littletheatresouthport.co.uk

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Chairman's Notes



Dear Patron,

It is my pleasure and privilege to bid you the warmest of welcomes to this, the opening production of our 2006/2007 season – an interesting and varied season it certainly promises to be.

You may be an old friend renewing a long-standing acquaintance with us, if so, let me thank you for your continued support. Should this be your first visit to our Theatre, then I hope it will be the first of many, without the interest and support of you all, where would we be?

During the 'closed season' we have again been making improvements to our facilities repairing and renewing, adding to your comfort and enjoyment of the 'Little'.

May I therefore invite you to sit back and share our varied programme of mystery, laughter and tears, during the coming months.

Yours sincerely



Marianne Hardy
Chairman



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Director's Notes



Welcome to May 1957.

A time when the weather was finer, the beer tasted better and the children were all little angels.

Sit back and relax as the infectious charms of the Larkin's hospitality envelops you and we all feel like one of the family.

Perfick !

Matthew Woodhams
Director





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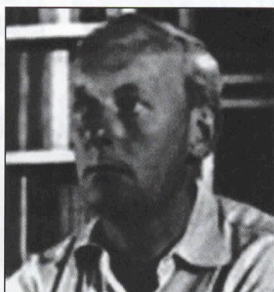
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H.E. Bates



Herbert Ernest Bates was born in May 1905, in Rushden, Northamptonshire.

His first novel, *The Two Sisters* was probably inspired by his love of long midnight walks around the countryside in Northamptonshire whilst working during the day time, briefly, for the local newspaper, in Wellingborough, and then in the local shoe factory.

During the second World War he was commissioned to write a series of novels for the RAF, under the name of "Flying Officer X". Under his own name he wrote *Fair Stood The Wind For France* (his best war novel).

In 1947, his novel *The Purple Plain* was made into a film starring Gregory Peck.

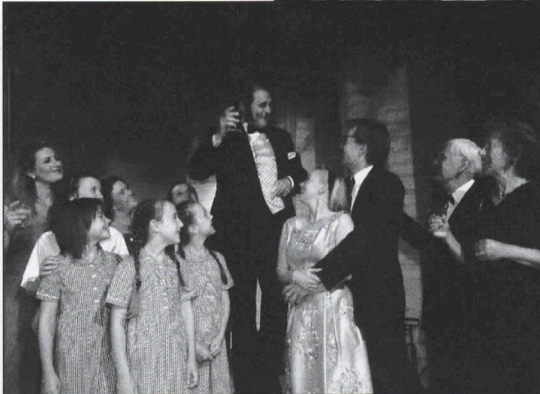
One year, whilst on holiday in Kent, Bates observed a local character, in a shop, purchasing Easter eggs and ice cream, with a huge wad of banknotes, for his many children all seated in a trailer behind his van, and "Pa Larkin" was born in the novel *The Darling Buds of May*, and its sequel *My Uncle Silas*. The success of the TV series of these books sadly only came after Bate's death in January 1974.

Other novels included *Love of Lydia*, *The Jacaranda Tree*, *The Day of The Tortoise* and many many more.



H.E. Bates

The Darling Buds of May




H.E. Bates

The Darling Buds of May



H.E.Bates

The Darling Buds of May



by H.E. Bates,
directed by Matthew Woodhams
with Thelma Falls-Hand (Consultant)

Cast

Pop Larkin LES GOMERSALL
Ma Larkin MANDY FINDLAY

Their Children

Mariette CORINNA DAVIES
Montgomery ANDREW PARRY
Primrose ZOE FINDLAY
Petunia CORINNE PAUL
Zinnia MARIAH PAUL
Victoria GABRIELLE BYRNE

Mr Charlton (Charley) PETER FORSHAW
Miss Pilchester SUE PALMER
Pauline Jackson LAURA TRAMANTANO
Angela Snow CLAIRE KELLY
The Brigadier PETER HESLIN
Sir George Bluff-Gore ERIC RIMMER
Lady Bluff-Gore SHEILA FURLONG
Tax Inspector PETER BUCK

The action takes place in the Larkin household, set in luscious woodland countryside in southern England.

- Act 1**
- Scene 1 The Larkin household. May, 1957. Friday afternoon
 - Scene 2 The same. Later that evening
 - Scene 3 The same. The following Sunday morning
- Act 2**
- Scene 1 The same. Evening, four days later
 - Scene 2 The same. Evening, three weeks later
 - Scene 3 The same. Later that evening

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between the acts.

Staging

- Stage Manager Chris Ratcliffe
- Assistant Stage Manager (Book) June Hunter
- Props Lynn Gosling, Trudi Hirsch
- Wardrobe SDC Cast
- Lighting Tony Berry, Andrew Connard
- Sound Brian Hodge, Bernie Howat
- 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 Tony Sutcliffe Antiques

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.

DESIGNATED PREMISES SUPERVISOR, ALAN NEWPORT

H.E.Bates

The Darling Buds of May



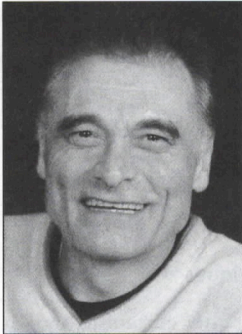
Cast



Matthew Woodhams *Director*

Matthew first read this play when an old version was used as a prop for another play he was in. After having to read it for seven nights in a row he loved it just as much as the first time.

After then suggesting it as a play that the club would revisit (after nearly 40 years) he was honoured to be asked to direct it. Play selection also thought it was a good way to get him off stage!



Les Gomersall *Pop Larkin*

Best known to SDC audiences for his various roles in Pantomime Les makes a return to the SDC stage after an absence of nearly two years. In his most recent production he directed his favourite Musical *West Side Story* performed at the Little Theatre in May for Birkdale Orpheus Society.

Pop Larkin is his most demanding part for several years but he is enjoying every minute describing the role as "perfick".



Mandy Findlay *Ma Larkin*

After having appeared in the SDC panto as Fairy Fuddles for two years she has decided to hang up her wellies and take on a slightly more subtle comedy role as Ma Larkin.

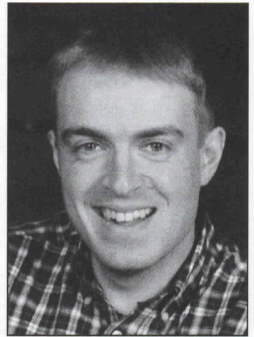
She says "rehearsals really have been like one big happy family, absolutely perfick".

H.E.Bates
**The Darling Buds
of May** 
Cast

Peter Forshaw *Mr Charlton (Charley)*

This isn't the first play where Peter has been directed by Matthew, nor the first time that he's been a 'right Charley' on stage (thanks to numerous years in panto!)

He would like to think that playing a boring, humourless official has required a lot of acting though others would probably beg to differ!!!



Corinna Davies *Mariette*

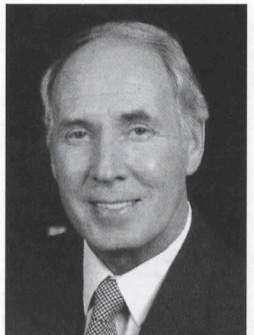
This is Corinna's first production with the SDC and she is very much looking forward to playing the part of Mariette. Corinna has really enjoyed her time in the Larkin household and hopes she can do justice to the role. (Welcome to the SDC, Corinna) Ed.



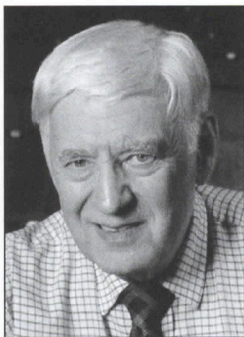
Peter Heslin *The Brigadier*

Peter has been involved both on stage and backstage for a number of years. He has taken both large and small roles at the Little Theatre including *Shadowlands*, *Business Affairs*, *The Perfect Murder* and *Star Quality*.

He has also appeared in musicals for local operatic societies and has happy memories of *Kiss Me Kate* and *South Pacific*. He enjoys serious productions as well as comedy. He was last seen at the Little in *Billy Liar*.



H.E. Bates **The Darling Buds of May**
Cast



Eric Rimmer *Sir George Bluff-Gore*

Having played a number of leading character roles in Musicals he is now looking forward to playing his second character cameo for SDC.

Recently elected a life member of the Maghull Musical Theatre Company and awarded NODA Gold Long Service Medal for Services to Amateur Theatre in the North West.



Sheila Furlong *Lady Bluff-Gore*

Having played Miss Marple in *A Murder is Announced* last season at the Little Theatre.

Sheila is now enjoying the peace and quiet of the country side.



Peter Buck *Tax Inspector*

Peter's first appearance on the SDC stage, earlier this year, as a 1950s docker in *A View from the Bridge*. He feels quite honoured/contrary* to now have the part of a senior Tax Inspector from the same decade/era* (in the days long before self-assessment).

Peter has even grown a moustache to help add a few years!

P.S. Mr Gorridge says: "Remember to get your tax return in by the end of September"!

*Please delete where applicable

H.E. Bates **The Darling Buds of May** 
Cast

Sue Palmer *Miss Pilchester*

Sue has been in amateur dramatics for twenty three years mostly in musicals. She has been a member of SDC for five years and appeared in the pantomime *Sleeping Beauty*.

She is delighted to be playing the part of Edith Pilchester and she promises to give the role everything she's got.



Laura Tramantano *Pauline Jackson*

This is Laura's second show with the SDC and her first one with an adult cast.

She says its been difficult for her to play the part of a character quite different from herself, but she has enjoyed the challenge.



Claire Kelly *Angela Snow*

As a youngster, Claire was a member of SONG and played Rizzo in *Grease*.

After a fifteen year break, this is her first play. Claire says she is enjoying playing this character and also happy to be following in her mum's footsteps. (Frieda Kelly who passed away in April 2005).



H.E. Bates **The Darling Buds of May** Cast



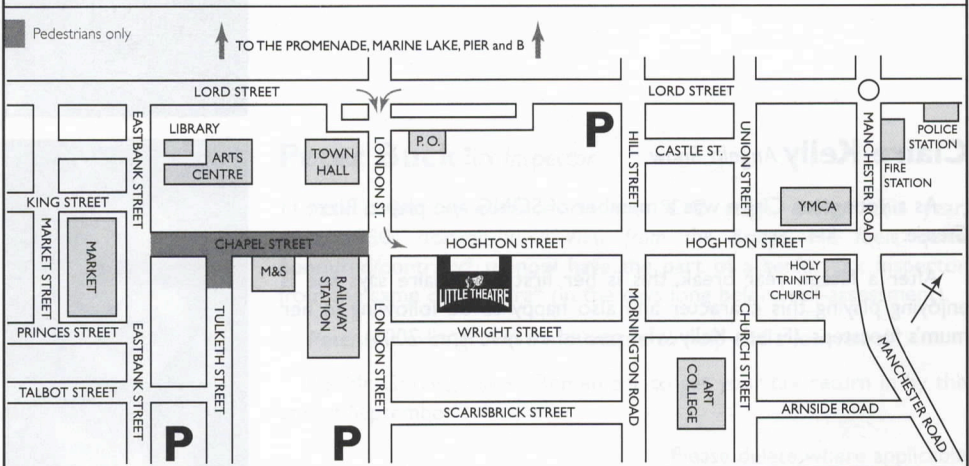
Back row left to right

Corinne Paul *Petunia*,
Gabrielle Byrne *Victoria*,

Front row left to right

Andrew Parry *Montgomery*,
Mariah Paul *Zinnia*,
Zoe Findlay *Primrose*,

SUGGESTED PARKING FOR THE LITTLE THEATRE



H.E. Bates The
Darling Buds
of May





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 **An SDC Production**

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by Craig Warner, adapted from the Novel by Patricia Highsmith
directed by James Hughes-Alty, Sponsored by Master Lock and Safe

 **An SDC Production**

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ALADDIN

written by Alison Tarpey, directed by Elsbeth Fisher
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 **An SDC Production**

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