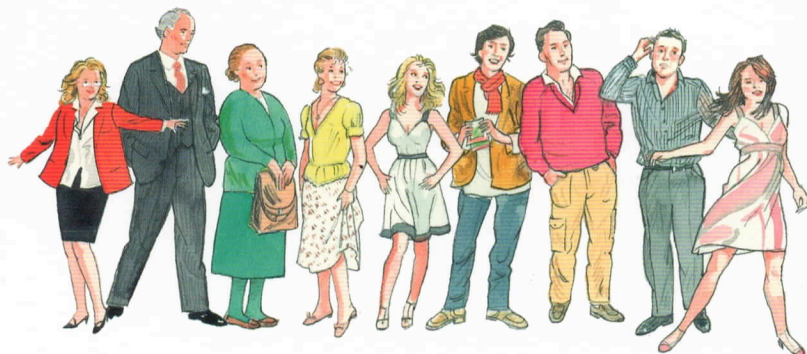




LITTLE THEATRE

A
Southport Dramatic Club
Production

A riotous comedy classic



Move Over Mrs Markham

By Ray Cooney & John Chapman

Directed by Robin Hirsch

**21st - 29th
September 2007**



Sponsored by

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1937-2007 SEVENTY YEARS AT THE LITTLE



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Brian Forshaw
Chairman

Another season, another show...

I am very pleased to welcome you to another main season of plays at the Little Theatre. This is a special year for our theatre in which we celebrate the 70th Anniversary of its opening on 30th September, 1937. As always we have tried to provide variety in our choice of plays and I hope you will enjoy this seasons selection, with the dependable Ray Cooney getting us off to a good start.

So sit back and enjoy - and many happy returns not just to the theatre but to yourselves as you come back for play after play for the remainder of the season.

I look forward to seeing you many times during the coming year.

Thanks for the memory...

In this anniversary year we would like to share your memories of the Little Theatre - a particular play, an amusing story, some event of particular significance to you e.g. did you meet your spouse at the Theatre? Please send them in writing to me at the theatre and we will try and publish them in the programmes, subscribers newsletters etc.

It need only be a sentence or two or, at the most a paragraph. I look forward to hearing from you.

Here is one to get us going:

I have only appeared in one play on the Little Theatre stage in a very minor role - Chairman of the jury - in the courtroom drama *Witness for the Prosecution* in September 1998. I suppose, legally, that in one performance, the case should have been suspended when one of my jury failed to reappear after the interval. She remembered that she had left a chicken cooking in the oven and had to go home to turn it off!

Brian Forshaw.

**Move Over
Mrs Markham**



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Robin Hirsch
Director

"Oh what tangled webs we weave when first we practice to deceive"

Ray Cooney's farce *Move Over Mrs Markham* does just that and more! The cast work very hard 'to deceive' and they certainly get 'tangled'!

We hope you enjoy their antics in this opening play of the 70th Anniversary Season, which has been a great pleasure to direct.

Robin Hirsch



**Move Over
Mrs Markham**



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Ray Cooney

RAY COONEY

He 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 has written 15 plays for stage, screen and radio, he has acted in 18 plays in the West End and America and has similarly directed an amazing 63 shows around the world. Today Ray Cooney is recognized theatrically and publicly as 'the master of farce' and many of his writings have been translated into more than 40 foreign languages including Chinese, Japanese and Russian. He teamed up with John Chapman in the sixties and seventies, at which time together they wrote some of their greatest successes... *Chase Me Comrade*, *My Giddy Aunt*, *Not Now Darling* and *Move Over Mrs Markham* written in 1971.

JOHN CHAPMAN

trained initially as an actor at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. After three years, he decided to write for the theatre instead. His first play *Dry Rot* opened at the Whitehall Theatre, London in 1954 and was a resounding success, running for three and a half years, a total of 1,475 performances.

He has in all, written 27 plays for the stage, but is known equally for his connection with the BBC, having written over 200 comedies for BBC and Thames television, writing for many famous comedy actors and actresses such as June Whitfield and Terry Scott.

As noted above he and Ray Cooney, had a very successful writing partnership with a series of long-running London shows to show for it. John Chapman is married to Actress Betty Impey and they have four sons.

**Move Over
Mrs Markham**





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Henry and Philip



Sylvie and Alistair

Philip and Henry



**Move Over
Mrs Markham**



Move Over Mrs Markham

By Ray Cooney & John Chapman

Directed by Robin Hirsch

Cast

Joanna Markham	Emma Hitchcock
Alistair Spenlow	Will Cain
Sylvie	Holly Donoghue
Linda Lodge	Helen Pritchard
Philip Markham	Peter Forshaw
Henry Lodge	Simon Armstrong
Walter Pangbourne	Steve Pritchard
Olive Harriet Smythe	Irene Trim
Miss Wilkinson	Becky Beardsell

The action of the play takes place in Philip and Joanna Markham's top floor London flat.

Time: The present.

Act 1

About 7pm on a warm summer evening.

Act 2

The same as Act 1. The action is continuous.

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between the two acts.
Why not beat the rush and pre-order your interval drinks in the bar?

Staging

Stage Manager Chris Ratcliffe

Assistant

Stage Manager (Lift) Sabrina Regazzoni

Assistant

Stage Manager (Book) Fran Percival
..... Sherel Coley

Props June Hunter

..... Julie Whelan

..... Jeremy Myers

Costumes SDC Wardrobe & Cast

Set Design Syd Coley

Lighting Tony Berry

..... Chris Hutchinson

Sound Brian Hodge

..... Bernie Howat

Set Construction Roderick Beardsell

..... Pete Beswick

..... And Team

Scenic Artist Bob Jessamine

Photographs Neil Hickson

Acknowledgments

The director would like to thank:

Stokers Special Furnishers, Hoghton Street,
Southport and Settle UK, Eastbank Street,
Southport.

The Little Theatre - Home of the Southport Dramatic Club.

The SDC wishes to ensure that all our patrons enjoy a comfortable, enjoyable and safe visit to our theatre. We should be grateful for your cooperation in helping us to achieve this. Please note the following:

- Should you arrive after the performance has started, you will be guided to your seats when a suitable opportunity occurs.
- At the end of the performance, exits will be open at both the front and back of the auditorium.
- First Aid assistance is regularly provided by volunteers from the St. John's Ambulance Brigade. Should you require help, please advise our stewards on duty in the Foyer.
- Patrons with hearing impairments should note that the auditorium has an Induction Loop System for your assistance. Hearing wands are also available from our stewards.
- Cameras and recording equipment may not be operated during performances
- **KINDLY ENSURE THAT YOUR MOBILE PHONE IS SWITCHED OFF.**

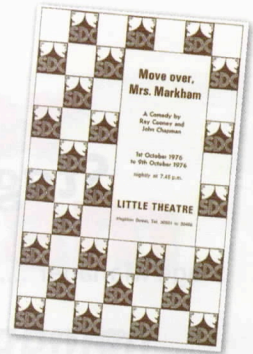
Thank you.

DESIGNATED PREMISES
SUPERVISOR, ALAN
NEWPORT



THE SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB presents
Move over, Mrs. Markham

A comedy by
 Ray Cooney and John Chapman



CHARACTERS

(in order of their appearance)

- Joanna Markham.....Eileen Huxtable
 Alistair SpenlowKeith Tyrer
 SylvieVivienne Tyrer
 Linda Lodge.....Shelia Furlong
 Philip Markham.....Ray Mann
 Henry LodgeBrian Tooley
 Walter PangbourneFrederick Harding
 Olive Harriet SmytheMary Croll
 Miss Wilkinson.....Ann Stowell

The play produced by Thelma Falls-Hand



From left to right: Vivienne Tyrer, Ray Mann and Brian Tooley
 1st - 9th October 1976

**Move Over
 Mrs Markham**

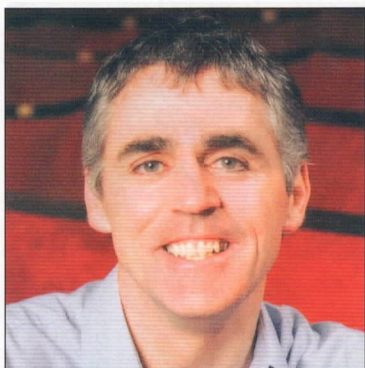


Emma Hitchcock

Emma Hitchcock -

Joanna Markham

It's been 5 years since Emma was last seen on the SDC stage. You may be more familiar with her services to the club behind (and "in front of" for that matter) the theatre bar! Luckily Mrs Markham is also partial to the odd G&T so she should feel right at home!



Will Cain

Will Cain -

Alistair Spenlow

Will hopes that you will like his handy work, both in the lounge and the bedroom. He says that it has been hard work with all the 'Goosing', the catalogues, and messing about with the key hole. It's a miracle he's got time to do any decorating at all

Will hopes you will, enjoy!



Holly Donoghue

Holly Donoghue -

Sylvie

Holly has appeared in some of our Youth Productions, but this is Holly's first main season production and what an education it's been for her.

She didn't know what a goose really was until she experienced one first hand!

(Welcome to the SDC Holly) Ed.





Henry, Philip and Alistair



Sylvie and Alistair

The full cast



**Move Over
Mrs Markham**



Helen Pritchard

Helen Pritchard -

Linda Lodge

Helen and Linda have a lot in common... they both love champagne, chandeliers, shopping, and Walter!

The similarities end there. Helen could never be a scatterbrained match-making flirt!

But she can't do a thing until she's had a cup of tea.



Peter Forshaw

Peter Forshaw -

Philip Markham

Peter has discovered many things during rehearsals for this play, not least his dislike of children's books, a fear of ladies' suspenders and a fondness for 'Goose'!

Over the past 20 years, Peter has enjoyed many highlights at the SDC but perhaps his proudest moment was seeing his Dad recently installed as the Club Chairman.



Simon Armstrong

Simon Armstrong -

Henry Lodge

Simon has found playing the role of Henry Lodge, an English Gentleman (albeit not always a perfect gentleman!), a refreshing change from the string of foreign accents he has had to adopt in his most recent appearances at the Little Theatre.

Simon would just like to point out that if his wife asks, he is out "entertaining an important client" this week! Mum's the word.



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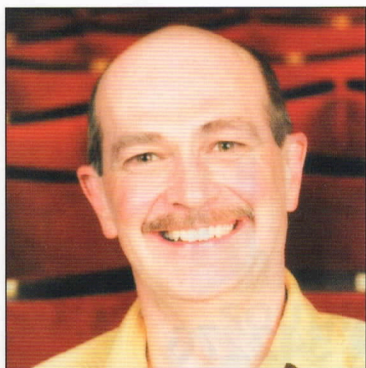
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Steve Pritchard

Steve Pritchard -

Walter Pangbourne

This is the second play in a row that Steves' character only appears in the second act, so please come back after the interval as things start to hot up!



Irene Trim

Irene Trim -

Miss Smythe

Irene is delighted to be appearing on the 'big' stage again. The last play was *Quartet* a bar production five years ago. In the meantime she is usually seen selling coffee or selling chocolate.



Beccy Beardsell

Beccy Beardsell -

Miss Wilkinson

Beccy is having a ball back at the SDC and is excited to start the season by taking her clothes off...

Brace yourselves!



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SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB

OCT
12-20
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The Woman In White

A play adapted by Constance Cox
From the famous Wilkie Collins novel, directed by Pat Ball
Box Office opens: 5th Oct 2007, 11am



An SDC
Production

OCT
24-27
2007

The King and I

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Advanced booking Tel: 0151 547 3025
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A Maghull
Musical
Theatre
Company
Production

NOV
3-10
2007

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Music and Lyrics by Hugh Martin & Ralph Blane,
book by Hugh Wheeler
Advanced booking Tel: 01704 564042,
Theatre Box Office opens: Sat 27th Oct 2007, 11am

A Birkdale
Orpheus
Production

NOV 23
2007

Snake In The Grass

By Sir Alan Ayckbourn
Directed by Celia Pope
An intriguing tale of sibling-rivalry Box Office opens: 16th Nov 2007, 11am



An SDC
Production

DEC 1
2007

DEC 21
2007

JAN 6
2008

Jack and The Beanstalk

Written especially for the SDC by Alex Howarth
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An SDC
Production

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1937-2007 SEVENTY YEARS AT THE LITTLE





LITTLE THEATRE

A
Southport Dramatic Club
Production

A Victorian ghost story of romance and mystery



The Woman In White

A play adapted by Constance Cox
from the famous Wilkie Collins novel

Directed by Pat Ball

12th - 20th
October 2007
7.45pm

Box Office opens: Friday, 5th October 2007, 11am

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1937-2007 SEVENTY YEARS AT THE LITTLE

