



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**

Box Office Tel: (01704) 530521/530460 Fax: (01704) 546782
Hoghton Street, Southport PR9 0PA. www.littletheatresouthport.co.uk

1937-2007 SEVENTY YEARS AT THE LITTLE



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Pat Ball
Director

“Thankyou for coming”

Thank you for coming to see *The Woman in White*. Wilkie Collin's fine novel deals with serious Victorian issues which, allied with romance and an element of comedy, should provide an entertaining mix.

The company and I hope you enjoy your evening.

Pat Ball



We hope that you are pleased with our new bigger programmes for this season with all the colour photographs and adverts. We are very grateful to Keith Mitchell of Mitchell & Wright Printers Ltd, for donating this larger and updated programme to us, with out increasing the cost to ourselves and hence to you, our patrons.

Norman Hope

Editor & Chairman,
Publicity Committee

The Woman
In White



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The Woman In White

WILKIE COLLINS

When Wilkie Collins's novel was published in 1860 as a serial in Dicken's journal *All the Year Round* it caused a sensation, so it is not surprising that theatrical managers were quick to see its potential for the stage. In the nineteenth century the only way for an author to retain theatrical rights over his or her novel was to immediately re-write it as a play. And this is just what Bram Stoker did with *Dracula*. Collins, however, did not do this, and consequently, to his fury, many adaptations were made which didn't earn him a penny-piece.

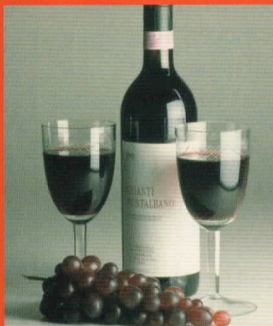
The first of these was put on at the Surrey Theatre, London, almost as soon as the last instalment had come out. The Surrey was well-known for its melodramas, and J.R. Ware's dramatisation of *The Woman in White* didn't disappoint. Several other versions were put on at theatres in London, the provinces, Europe and even Australia before Collins wrote his own adaptation in 1871.

His play was put on at the Olympic Theatre (alas no longer in London) and was a great success. It is strikingly different not only from all previous versions, but also from his own novel. Most noticeably he dispenses with the famous meeting between Walter Hartright and the woman in white at the start of the book, though the basic plot remains the same.

Constance Cox's play, which first appeared at Aldershot in 1952, is one of at least six adaptations written in the twentieth century, and is faithful to the original. More recently there have been film and television versions, as well as Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical, which alter the plot to chime in the modern preoccupations. It is nearly 150 years since the novel was written, but *The Woman in White* continues to entertain audiences and readers alike.

Valerie Pedlar





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Trudi Hirsch,
Marilyn Fletcher-Hill,
Viv Tryer &
Arnold Gorse



Eric Chadwick,
Jon Ellis-Fox
& John Delahunty

Brendan Gillow
& Trudi Hirsch



The Woman In White



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Evenings 7.30pm

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This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Limited

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Brendan Gillow,
John Delahunty,
Jon Ellis-Fox &
Robert Jones



Pat Simpkin,
Marilyn Fletcher-Hill
& Eric Chadwick

Brendan Gillow,
Arnold Gorse



The Woman In White



The Woman In White

**A play adapted by Constance Cox
from the famous Wilkie Collins Novel**

Directed by Pat Ball

Cast

Mrs Vesey.....	Pat Simpkin
Walter Hartright.....	Eric Chadwick
Marion Halcombe.....	Marilyn Fletcher-Hill
Mr Gilmore.....	Robert Jones
Mr Frederick Fairlie.....	Jon Ellis-Fox
Louis.....	John Delahunty
Laura Fairlie.....	Trudi Hirsch
Anne Catherick.....	Louise Pickering
Sir Percival Glyde.....	Brendan Gillow
Count Fosco.....	Arnold Gorse
Countess Fosco.....	Viv Tyrer
Mrs Catherick.....	Ann Richards

The action takes place in the drawing-room of Limmeridge Hall in Cumberland

Time: 1861 and 1862

Act I

- Scene 1: The drawing-room, July 1861, evening.
Scene 2: The same, a month later, early evening.

Act II

- Scene 1: The same, November 1861, afternoon.

Interval of 20 minutes

- Scene 2: The same, two days later, early evening.

Act III

- Scene 1: The same, March 1862, early evening.

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

Staging

Stage Manager Chris Appleton

Assistant

Stage Manager (Book) Jean Watkinson

Props Jan Hale

Costumes The Company

Set Design Syd Coley

Lighting Tony Berry
 Phil Hutchinson

Sound Brian Hodge

Original Painting David Charters

Scenic Artist Bob Jessamine

Photographs Neil Hickson

Music

The Theme music for this production is Adagio Lamentoso from Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6, "Pathétique"

Acknowledgments

The director would like to thank:

The family of the late Jack Donnelly
 for loan of furniture.

Melanie Clarke, Donna Ball and
 Lucille Jackson for their help and support.

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.

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 SUPERVISOR, ALAN
 NEWPORT



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PRESENTS

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Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane
Book by Hugh Wheeler*

**Saturday 3rd - Saturday 10th November 2007 at 7.30pm
Matinee Saturday 10th November at 2pm**

Advance ticket booking - Tel: 01704 564042

*Theatre Box Office opens Saturday 27th October 2007 11am - 5pm
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*This amateur production is presented by arrangement with MusicScope and Stage Musicals Limited of New York
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Pat Simpkin .

Mrs. Vesey

This will be the third time Pat has played a housekeeper- all in the same era and she doesn't wish to be typecast. She is enjoying working with such a talented cast.



Eric Chadwick .

Walter Hartright

After playing Secretary of State William Davison in *Mary Stuart* and the Verger in *Dads Army*, Eric is enjoying playing the hero and hoping that this time he gets the girl rather than a few years in *The Tower*.

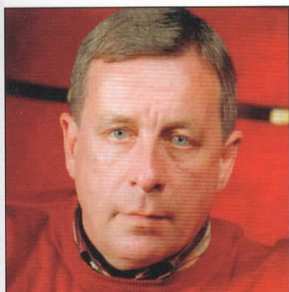


Marilyn Fletcher-Hill .

Marion Halcombe

Marilyn is delighted to be back on stage in another costume drama, especially as she is playing opposite her friend Trudi. She is currently teaching a class of 30 four year olds as well as looking after her own four children. She comes to the SDC for a rest.





Robert Jones -

Mr. Gilmore

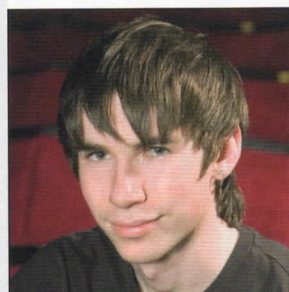
A Yorkshireman, Robert has almost mastered English since moving to Southport. This prepared him for SDC roles in *Pack of Lies* and several one act productions. As Walter Monckton KC in *Crown Matrimonial* he was obliged to bow to Pat Ball's Queen Mary, just as he has to now in her role as Director!



Jon Ellis-Fox -

Mr. Frederick Fairlie

Jon is glad to be back on the SDC stage. His last performance was in the bar production of *Quartet*. 'How can I not do this part?', was his reply when asked to play Mr Fairlie. 'Fabulous I don't even move!'



John Delahunty -

Louis

After appearing in some of our Youth Productions, this is John's first main season play with the SDC and he is finding it very unusual that there is no singing and dancing as he is used to performing in musicals. (Welcome to the SDC John) Ed.



Trudi Hirsch -

Laura Fairlie

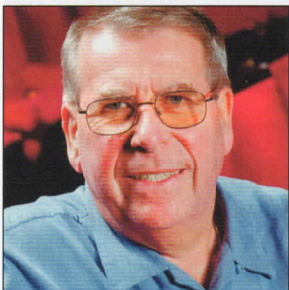
Trudi has thoroughly enjoyed being in another of Pat's productions - the last one being *The Heiress* in February 2000. 'Laura' has the benefit of her victorian family's fortune; very different to Trudi's previous parts of 'Sandra' - the penniless miner's wife with four children in *Brassed Off* last January; but one does wonder if the price 'Laura' has to pay is worth it!



Brendan Gillow -

Sir Percival Glyde

After outings in *Dad's Army* and *Brassed Off* last season, Brendan is delighted to be playing a role with no music or where military training is not required.



Arnold Gorse -

Count Fosco

Arnold is delighted to be swapping frocks for frock-coats and to be playing a 'baddie' for a change, though we hear that it won't be long before the frocks come out again in this year's panto'.



Viv Tryer -

Countess Fosco

Viv appeared in *Dad's Army* in April, with no lines, lots of songs and confusing hand movements. She was the Fairy Godmother in *Cinderella*, and many years before that had lots of roles where she seemed to be required to chuck her clothes off a lot. But she has always wanted to dress up in long frocks and now has her wish.



Ann Richards -

Mrs. Catherick

After playing flighty, flirty Mrs Fox in *Dad's Army* at the close of last season, Ann now takes on a more dramatic role, making a brief but telling appearance. Don't drop off - you might miss her!





Trudi Hirsch &
Brendan Gillow

Eric Chadwick,
John Delahunty
& Jon Ellis-Fox



Eric Chadwick &
Trudi Hirsch

Pat Simpkin &
Eric Chadwick



The Woman In White

2007/8
1st Half
Season



LITTLE THEATRE

Home of The
SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB

OCT
24-27
2007

The King and I

By Rodgers & Hammerstein

Advanced booking Tel: 0151 547 3025

Theatre Box Office opens: Wed 17th Oct 2007, 11am

A Maghull
Musical
Theatre
Company
Production

NOV
3-10
2007

Meet Me In St. Louis

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

Jack and The Beanstalk

Written especially for the SDC by Alex Howarth

Directed by Les Gomersall

The SDC's spectacular family pantomime



An SDC
Production

JAN 6
2008

Party Bookings
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www.littletheatresouthport.co.uk
Booking from
1st October 2007

JAN 25
- FEB 2
2008

Habeas Corpus

By Alan Bennet,

Directed by Ray Mann

An Outrageous comedy

Box Office opens: 18th Jan 2008, 11am



An SDC
Production

1937-2007 SEVENTY YEARS AT THE LITTLE



MEMORIES OF THE LITTLE THEATRE



The New Year

Alas, it was not to be. The following night there was no performance, as the Club were celebrating New Year's Eve in traditional manner, with the bar doing a thriving trade, a disco in full swing, a floor show, a good buffet, and the usual kisses and good wishes at 12 o'clock.

The performance next day was a matinee, which again went well. Vera, who had been helping with wardrobe, and I, left late after the show, and were having our evening meal when my sister-in-law phoned to say that Vera's brother, who was in hospital, was seriously ill. We immediately went round to her flat in Queens Road.

Later, at about 9.45 p.m., as we left her to return home, and as we reached the traffic lights at the corner of Queens Road and Manchester Road, we saw two fire engines turn in front of us into Hoghton Street. We followed them, and one turned off into Mornington Road, but the other pulled up in front of the Little Theatre.

I stopped behind the appliance, and went to offer a fireman, who was already at the front door, a key to get in. 'You're too late', he said, pointing to the glass at the entrance to the Theatre. A brick had been thrown through the door. The fireman went inside, but soon came out again. He said the heat was terrific, and he would need breathing apparatus. While donning the apparatus, he asked us about the layout of the Theatre, with which he was unfamiliar. He went in again, but was still unable to make progress as the heat was too great.

Quoted from Benny Darrah's book, *A History of The Southport Dramatic Club and its Little Theatre, 1913-1997*.

Memories of Mr. Tony Parkinson (a patron)

I think the event that I remember most is when I gave a talk on "The Organisation of D' Day" in the Theatre Bar to raise money for the fire damage fund, I was introduced by the very charming Mrs. Sandra Unsworth who was so very helpful.





LITTLE THEATRE

A
Southport Dramatic Club
Production

The SDC's spectacular family pantomime

Jack and the Beanstalk

*Directed by Les Gomersall
Musical Direction by Paul Williams
Choreography by Nicky Dennis*

**21st Dec 07
- 6th Jan 08**

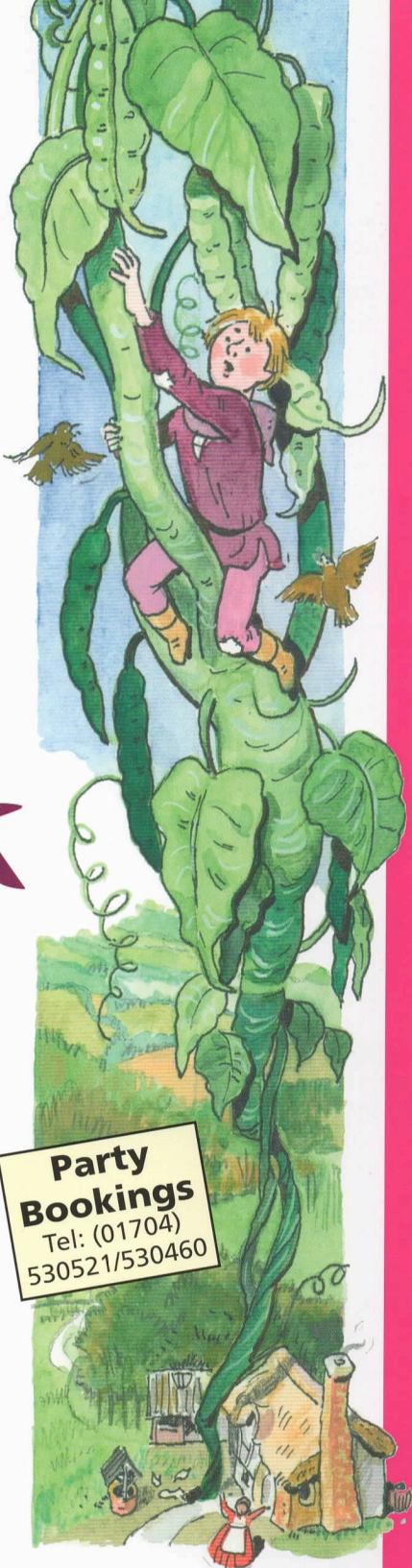
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1937-2007 SEVENTY YEARS AT THE LITTLE





LITTLE THEATRE

A
Southport Dramatic Club
Production



An intriguing tale of sibling-rivalry

Snake in the Grass

By Sir Alan Ayckbourn

Directed by Celia Pope

*23rd November -
1st December 2007*

7.45pm

Box Office opens: Friday, 16th November 2007, 11am

Box Office Tel: (01704) 530521/530460 Fax: (01704) 546782
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1937-2007 SEVENTY YEARS AT THE LITTLE

