



THE

## WATER

• Funny • Heart-warming • Moving • Poignant •

by Shelagh Stephenson
directed by Margaret Mann

22nd February - 1st March 2008



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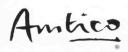
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In this poignant play, everyone in the dedicated cast has been able to relate to some of the experiences, emotions and frustrations of the characters being portrayed. When a close relative dies, as has occurred in this play, one thinks, inevitably, of words not spoken, opportunities missed and, for these sisters, the inability to communicate the depth of feelings they really have for each other and their late mother. Skeletons come tumbling out of the cupboard and fond delusions are shot to pieces as each of their far from perfect lives, are revealed.

It also becomes apparent that the mother, the girls thought they had left behind, still runs through them, like 'wine through water'.

We think you will be happy and sad in equal measure as you experience the play; we certainly have been in rehearsal. There are some hilarious moments, but you may need to have the tissues handy!

My personal thanks to a very talented and dedicated cast and crew, and to you, our audience, for supporting Southport Dramatic Club's current production.

Margaret









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22 Oxford Street, Liverpool L7 7BL Tel: 0151 709 2919 Charity Reg. No. 223598 laywright Shelagh Stephenson was born in Northumberland and read drama at Manchester University. She is the author of several original radio plays written for BBC Radio, including Darling Peidi, The Anatomical Venus and Five Kinds of Silence (1997), which won the Writer's Guild Award (Best Original Radio Play). Recent plays include Life is a Dream and Nemesis, broadcast in 2004 and 2005 respectively.



Her first stage play, *The Memory of Water* (1997), which opened at the Hampstead Theatre, London in 1996, won the Laurence Olivier Award for Best Comedy. This was adapted for film, and produced as *Before You Go* in 2002, Starring Julie Walters, Patricia Hodge, Joanne Whalley and Tom Wilkinson, directed by Lewis Gilbert. Her second stage play, *An Experiment With An Air Pump* (1998), was joint winner of the 1997 Peggy Ramsay Award, and premiered at the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester, in 1998. *Ancient Lights* (2000) was produced at Hampstead Theatre in 2000, and in 2002, *Mappa Mundi* (2002) opened at the Royal National Theatre. Her latest play, *Enlightenment*, opened at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin in 2005.









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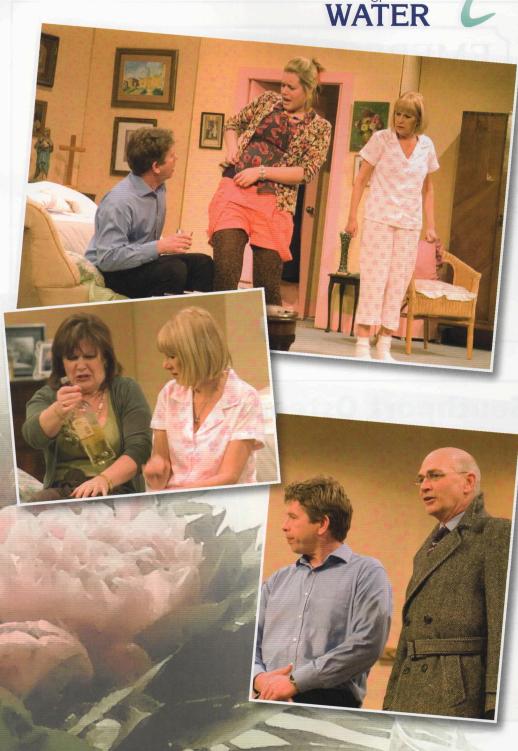
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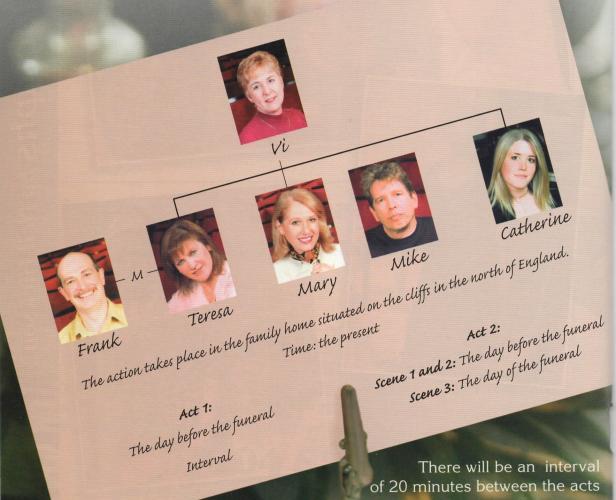








by Shelagh Stephenson
directed by Margaret Mann



Funny • Heart-warming

Why not beat the rush and pre-order

your interval drinks in the bar?

#### Staging

Stage Manager Chris Ratcliffe

Assistant Stage

Manager (Book) Fran Percival

Assistant Stage

Manager (Staging) Susan McCormick

Properties Pat Simpkin

David Harrop Helen Pritchard

Wardrobe James Hughes-Alty

and Cast

Set Design Syd Coley

Lighting Design Tony Berry

Phil Hutchinson

Lighting Operator Andrew Connard

Sound Brian Hodge

Set construction SDC Production Team

Scenic Artist Bob Jessamine

Photographs Neil Hickson

#### Music in this evenings performance

I'll see you in my dreams, performed variously by Sue Raney, Paul Watson and Guy Lombardo Before you go (theme) by Debbie Wiseman and I'll be seeing you, sung by Vera Lynn.

#### Acknowledgements

The director would like to thank personally: 'Beds of Distinction', Eastbank Street, Southport, for supplying the bed.

### 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





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We look forward to seeing you



#### Sue Harrop

Spirited away from other duties at the SDC for a little while, Sue is delighted to be playing the part of Vi in this funny, emotional and poignant play.



#### Helen Pickavance Mary

"What can I say it's been a blast", Helen says.



#### Jan Hale Teresa

Jan has enjoyed playing with such a talented cast in such an interesting play. Any similarity between her character in this play (slightly demented wife to Steve's miserable husband) and the last play they were in together is purely a coincidence!



#### Beccy Beardsell Catherine

Beccy hopes she isn't starting to get typecast at the SDC... taking her clothes off & kissing Steve for the 2nd time this season.

"On a more serious note its been great working with such an amazing cast & crew", says Beccy





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#### Brendan Gillow Mike

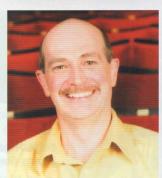
From Women in White to Women in Black, but the difference is much more than just a colour change.

Its been a delight to work with such a talented and beautiful cast.



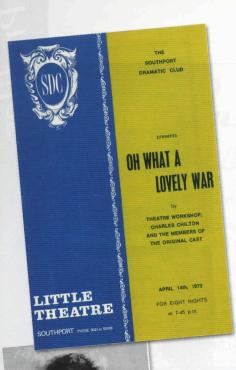
#### Steve Pritchard Frank

Steve has enjoyed playing with such a talented cast in such an interesting play. Any similarity between his character in this play (miserable husband to Jan's slightly demented wife) and the last play they were in together is purely a coincidence!







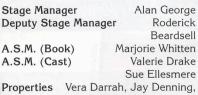


#### Cast

June Evans
John Haynes
Janet James
Ray Mann
Sheila Pook
Tony Owens
Anne Sykes
David Tattersall
Elizabeth White
John Todd
Brian Tooley
Len Brindley
Douglas Turner
Arnold Gorse
John Watkins

Directed by Don Anderson

#### Stage Staff



Wardrobe Olive Blue,
Margaret Campion, Ray Evans,
Dolly Howard, Peggy Ince, Pat Moore
Lighting Syd Coley,
Godfrey Hawkes, Ann Perks
Sound Ron Treanor
Stage Assistants Michael Dow,
Peter Barnett





I have always felt really fortunate to have been part of that production. It different ways; I learned such a lot of history, it was an eye opener. The



Jan James

script was constructed from contemporary writings and was deeply shocking. The numbers of men lost and missing were put up on a newspanel just beneath the proscenium arch and there was a screen with slides providing graphic context; amazing stuff. But there was another side to the experience, I made really good long standing friends during that show, sadly many no longer with us. And, never having been very sporty, it was here where I really learned how to be a team player

There were 15 of us in the cast, ten men and five women. It was a real ensemble production, we were absolutely dependent on each other, especially wardrobe and props and the musicians, Benny Darrah was there on his organ and John Wright on Piano. We had constant changes of hats shoes and skirts, mostly in the dark. I wore a boater that was once worn by Millicent Martin, I remember going on once in odd shoes!! Funny what stays with you.

It was a seminal experience for me and I shall never forget it or the special friends - especially Don Anderson, June Evans and Sheila Pook. I am really proud to have been part of that production. But I was horrified to realise when I went searching for the programme and cuttings that it was over 35 years ago! Heavens how time does fly.

The Southport Visiter April 18th 1972 reported "A splendid production of Oh What a Lovely War is at present running at The Little Theatre". A black comedy about the horror and un-glory of the 1st World War, this 'musical entertainment needs great skill and technique. The Southport Dramatic Club have succeeded completely under the direction of Don Anderson'.





12th Mar -15th Mar 2008



#### **Blood Brothers**

by Willy Russell directed by Hilary Thomson box office opens 5th Mar 2008

4th Apr -12th Apr 2008



#### **A Party to Murder**

by Maria Kash & Douglas E Hughes directed by David Charters box office opens 28th Mar 2008

2nd May -10th May 2008





#### The Full Monty

The Musical

by Terence McNally Lyrics by David Yazbek, directed by Alistair Hewitt box office opens 25th Apr 2008

17th May -24th May 2008

**Birkdale Orpheus** Society **Production** 

#### **Throughly Modern Millie**

by Richard Morris & Dick Scanlan by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Ltd. box office opens 10th May Advanced booking 01704 564042

27th May -31st May 2008



**Bar Production** 

A Day in The Death of Joe Egg

by Peter Nichols directed by James Hughes-Alty box office opens 20th May 2008

4th Jun -7th Jun 2008

Maghull Musical **Theatre Production**  Oklahoma!

by Rodgers & Hammerstein by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Ltd. box office opens 28th May 2008

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Willy Russell's



# Brothers

The Play directed by Hilary Thomson

12th - 15th March 2008

7.30pm

box office opens 5th March 2008









# Party to MURDER

by Maria Kash and Douglas E Hughes

directed by David Charters

All is not what it seems!

#### 4th - 12th April 2008 7.45pm

box office opens 28th March 2008



