



# LITTLE THEATRE

Home of the  
Southport Dramatic Club  
Presents



## *The* **CEMETERY CLUB**

*Delightful - Poignant - Hilarious - Funny*

*By Joan Menchell,  
directed by Robin Hirsch*

**27th March -  
4th April 2009**

**7.45pm**



Box Office Tel: (01704) 530521/530460 Fax: (01704) 546782  
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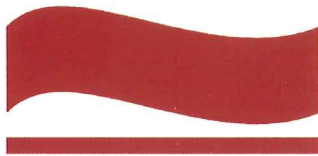
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## Director's notes

One can hardly imagine the human experience of 'bereavement' as a happy subject to base a comedy on. I have to admit to having slight feelings of doubt myself, when originally asked to direct *The Cemetery Club*, but after reading the first few pages and laughing outright at the funny and heart-warming way it was handled, I was smitten.

Interestingly the author, Ivan Menshall, has dedicated this play, I quote, "to the memory and laughter that was my father". As a result, using slick, often hilarious dialogue he has portrayed all three American Jewish widows in his play (not forgetting their friends) with so much tenderness and fun that rehearsals have been a delight, full of laughter and the occasional "choked up" feeling as well. Or was that due to the left-over American "cookies" consumed in the coffee break?

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking my talented cast for their hard work, commitment and patience, the backstage staff for creating lighting and dressing the sets and a personal friend, Mrs. Sharron Roukin, for her helpful advice on the more traditional Jewish customs. Thanks also go to the three "deceased" husbands, not in the cast list, who are to be seen very briefly somewhere throughout the play, in true Alfred Hitchcock tradition.

We all hope you enjoy the results of our labours and have a happy-not-too-sad evening.

*Robin Hirsch*



*Robin Hirsch*  
*Director*

## Acknowledgements

The Director would like to thank:

Mrs Margaret Horne for assistance with wardrobe.

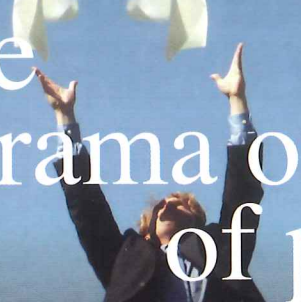
The Warehouse Outlet, for the loan of furniture.

Weatherby (Memorials) Ltd. for templates of Hebrew transcript.

The Manager and staff of the Prince of Wales Hotel, Southport for the use of the ballroom and Mark Felton-Aksoy for extra photography.

Stokers Fine Furnishings for their generous provision of furniture.





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# Ivan Menchell

Born in 1961 Ivan Menchell was educated at the School of Drama at Yale University. His varied career, mostly in the comedy drama genre is that of actor, TV writer and producer.

He has written and produced such works as *Bedtime*, *Good Phil Hunting*, *Phil of the Future*, *The time of your life*, *The Nanny*, *Stuck in the middle with you* and *Pim-Cipal*.

The Cemetery Club was written as a tribute to his mother after his father died, or to quote an unknown:

“His mother stopped singing, so he wrote her a play”.

Cemetery Club has been performed in many countries, later going to film, starring Ellen Burstyn, Olympia Dukakis, Dianne Ladd and Danny Aiello.

He continues his busy and successful career working and living in Santa Monica.



*The Cemetery Club*



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# From the drawing board onwards...

So many people expressed interest in the article written in the programme of our previous play about the famous "Shell seekers" painting that we felt you might like a brief glimpse of how the construction of a set comes about.

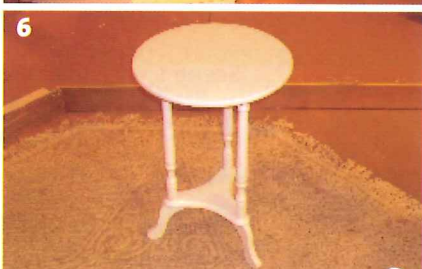
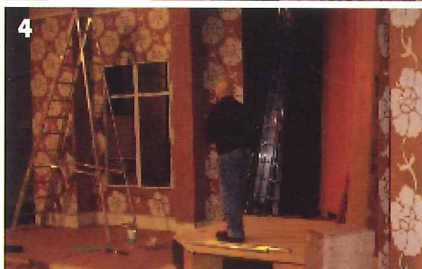
1. Firstly, our Set Designer, Syd Coley, provides the Director with a cardboard model to approve. This is a model of the first scene of "The Cemetery Club".
2. Construction has to start somewhere – the raised floor of the entrance hall in Ida's home in "The Cemetery Club" was started on Monday 16th March 2009. Apparently the construction team must have disappeared to the bar for a well-earned pint.
3. Contemplating the position of the staircase. Are four minds better than one? Chairman Brian Hodge (foreground right) looks as though he has seen it all before.
4. The walls start going up. Stage Manager, Phil Hutchinson checking progress.
5. Nearly there. What a difference a day makes.
6. Props start to arrive. Our props are accumulated for each show individually by different teams of members who are prepared to beg, borrow or loan furnishings to suit the play. This is the first of many items which will finally grace the set.
7. Looking more like home. Members of the cast rehearsing on stage for the first time on Sunday, 22nd March, 2009. – only a week after the first nail was hammered in.

## AND THIS HAPPENS FOR EVERY PLAY PRODUCED



Words: Robin Hirsch Pictures: Phil Hutchinson

continued on page 12 ►





# *The* **CEMETERY CLUB**

*By Joan Menchell,*  
*directed by Robin Hirsch*

## *Cast*

Ida ..... Kathy Felton-Aksoy  
Lucille ..... Vivienne Tyrer  
Doris ..... Margaret Hodge  
Sam ..... Les Gomersall  
Mildred ..... Pat Simpkin

The time is mid-Autumn. The present.

The action takes place in the living room of Ida's house, and at a Jewish Cemetery in Forest Hills, Queens near La Guardia Airport, New York.  
Each Grave denotes a different part of the Cemetery

### *Act 1*

Scene 1      Ida's Living Room - Mid-morning  
Scene 2      The Cemetery - The same day  
Scene 3      Ida's Living Room - Later that day  
Scene 4      The Cemetery - Late afternoon, a month later

### *Act 2*

Scene 1      Ida's Living Room - Later that Autumn  
Scene 2      Ida's Living Room - 2.00am the following day  
Scene 3      Ida's Living Room - Later that day  
Scene 4      The Cemetery - Late afternoon, a month later

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between acts 1 and 2.  
Why not beat the rush and pre-order your drinks in the bar?



# Staging

Stage Manager	Phil Hutchinson
Assistant Stage Manager (book)	June Hunter
Set Design	Syd Coley
Lighting Design & Projection	Phil Hutchinson
Lighting Operators	Patrick Bowes Roy Carr
Sound Design	Brian Hodge
Properties	Colin Hardwick Trudi Hirsch Barbara Beardsell Diane Hutchinson Sandy Threlfall
Wardrobe	Members of the cast and SDC Wardrobe
Crew	Roderick Beardsell Lindsay Haywood Michael Clarke Jeremy Myers
Set Construction	SDC Production Team
Scenic Artist	Bob Jessamine
Company Photographs	Neil Hickson

# Music

The theme music for this evening's performance is "And you shall draw water" and "Lord of the world" recorded by Akiva Ben-Horin and his Jewish Music Ensemble



## 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



# *From the drawing board onwards... continued*

A great deal of rewarding work goes on backstage and more help is always required – should you be interested in joining the Club to help in this capacity, you would be most welcome.

Details and application forms can be obtained from Mr. Peter Burroughs, the Membership Secretary, addressed to the Little Theatre, Hoghton Street, Southport PR9 0PA. Telephone: 01704 530521/530460



## Sponsorship

If you represent a company or institution you might be interested in supporting Southport Dramatic Club by sponsoring one of our productions.

Not only is a sponsorship a great help to the theatre, but it also represents several advantages to the sponsor.

If you would like to hear more please contact the sponsorship secretary.

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**LITTLE THEATRE**  
Home of the  
Southport Dramatic Club



# *The* **CEMETERY CLUB**

## *Kathy Felton-Aksoy - Ida*

Kathy has been acting for over 30 years playing numerous leading roles in plays including Educating Rita and Lady in the Van. Her most recent role for SDC was as Dottie Ottley, the sardine carrying housemaid in Noises Off.

She has thoroughly enjoyed playing Ida with such a fantastic team and director.



## *Vivienne Tyrer - Lucille*

Vivienne started 'her career' in the SDC (many years ago) by dancing and running around the stage in various states of undress before being 'promoted' to more serious parts. After a long absence due to children and career, she seems to have come full circle. Lucille, her character, lives by the motto of 'you're never too old'. We'll leave you to judge whether she's right.

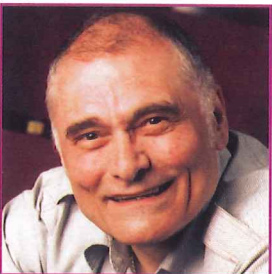
She is thankful to Robin for her faith in her and for all her support, and to the rest of the cast for their support and for all the fun they have had in rehearsal.

## *Margaret Hodge - Doris*

Margaret says, the rehearsals for this play have been a true delight working with friends old and new.

She is sure that you our audience will be as captivated as the cast are with the clever script and it's observation of human nature.

Margaret hopes that you enjoy yourselves.



## *Les Gomersall - Sam*

Last seen in the SDC production The Full Monty, Les is very pleased to keep his clothes on in this very funny, but poignant play.

He says, who couldn't be happy surrounded by so many lovely ladies both on stage and off.

## *Pat Simpkin - Mildred*

Although only on stage briefly, the girls better watch out whilst Mildred is about.

Pat is delighted to be working with such a talented director and cast.



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If you received a white plastic ticket when entering Sainsbury's Car Park you **will not** need it to get out after 7pm.

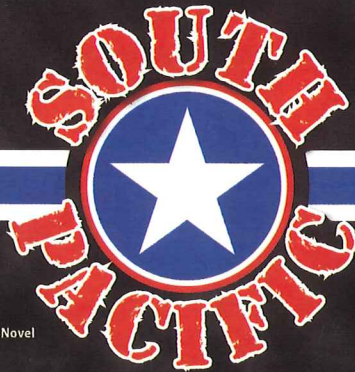
Sainsbury's would prefer to have all tickets returned, so if you have one, please hand it to the box office or one of the stewards.

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# LITTLE THEATRE

## 2nd Half Season

**24th Apr -  
2nd May 2009**  
Box Office opens:  
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**An SDC  
Production**

### **Joan Littlewood's Musical Entertainment Oh What A Lovely War**

By Theatre Workshop, Charles Chilton, Gerry Raffles and  
Members of the Original Cast

Title suggested by Ted Allan  
by arrangement with Samuel French Limited  
directed by Margaret Mann

**9th -16th  
May 2009**  
Box Office opens:  
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**Birkdale Orpheus  
Society Production**

### **South Pacific**

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adapted from "Tales Of The South Pacific"  
by James A Michener

Advanced booking 01704 564042

**19th - 23rd  
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**An SDC  
Bar Production**

### **The Danger of Tobacco**

**An SDC Première**  
of a new play written and directed  
by Alistair Hewitt

**3rd - 6th  
Jun 2009**  
Box Office opens:  
27-5-09

**Maghull Musical  
Theatre Company**

### **Pajama Game**

an Amateur production by arrangement  
with Josef Weinberger Ltd

Advanced booking 0151 547 3025

**11th - 13th  
Jun 2009**  
Box Office opens:  
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**Too Friendly Theatre  
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Production**

### **It's Now Or Never**

by Mike Tredinnick

Advanced booking 01704 560229

**17th - 20th  
Jun 2009**  
Box Office opens:  
8-6-09

**Waterloo & Crosby  
Theatre Company  
Production**

### **Separate Tables**

by Terence Rattigan

by arrangement with Samuel French Ltd  
Advanced booking 0151 924 0231

**26th - 27th  
Jun 2009**  
Box Office opens:  
26-6-09

**Loreto Bamber  
Dancing Academy  
Production**

### **Loreto Bamber Dancing Academy's Summer Production**

Advanced booking 01704 538351





# LITTLE THEATRE

2nd Half Season

**1st - 4th  
Jul 2009**

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**Southport Amateur  
Operatic Society  
Production**

## **Boogie Nights**

Written by Jon Conway, script associates Shane Riche & Terry Morrison

an Amateur production by arrangement  
with Josef Weinberger Ltd

Advanced booking 01704 228936

**5th  
Jul 2009**

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**Old Hall  
Brass - Wigan  
Production**

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# LITTLE THEATRE

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An SDC Première



# The Danger of Tobacco

written and directed by  
Alistair Hewitt

*NO HEALTH WARNING NEEDED*

**19th - 23rd May, 2009**

**7.45pm**

Box Office opens: 15th May, 2009



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# LITTLE THEATRE

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PRESENTS

JOAN LITTLEWOOD'S MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT

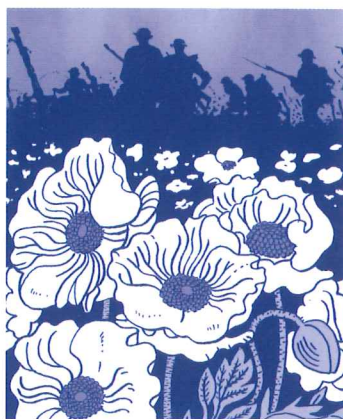
# OH, WHAT A LOVELY WAR

Created by Theatre Workshop, Charles Cilton, Gerry Raffles

and

Members of the Original Cast

Title Suggested by Ted Allan



Directed by MARGARET MANN

by arrangement with Samuel French Limited

24th April - 2nd May 2009  
7.45pm

Box Office open: 17th April 2009



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