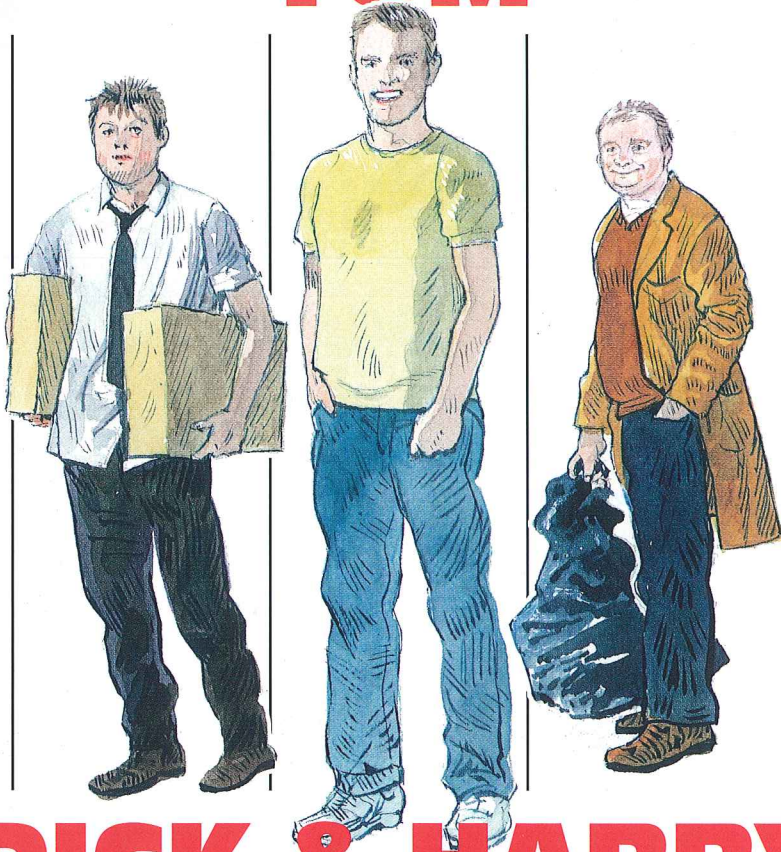


A SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB PRODUCTION

RAY & MICHAEL COONEY'S

Hit West End comedy

TOM



DICK & HARRY

Directed by Ray Mann

27th November - 5th December 2009

7.45pm

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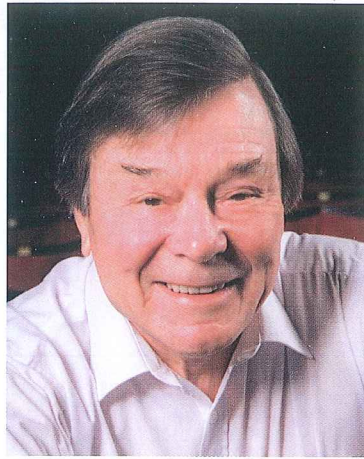
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Director's Notes



**Ray
Mann**

Elsewhere in this programme, thanks to the work of our tireless Publicity Committee, you will find background information about the authors of the play and details of its production. So what more can the director say?

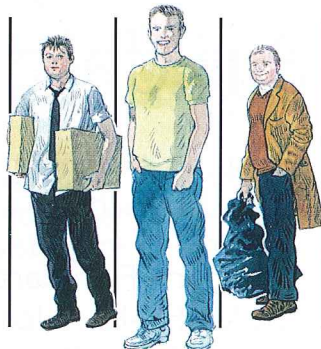
I suppose you might find an insight into how the rehearsals have progressed to be of interest. Well, they have been both hectic and hilarious in equal parts. Playing such fast comedy requires a speed of thought and lightness of movement that challenges the most experienced and talented actors - and certainly I have a cast full of those in abundance!

Again, comedies of this type need a robust set, full of 'slammable' doors, plus a plethora of hand and stage

props capable of withstanding robust treatment, as well as a menu of peculiar sound effects. Thanks to our expert technical team, we are very suitably equipped for purpose.

One person who won't be seen and should not be heard, is our prompt, Sherel, who has also supervised the cast's wardrobe. We are grateful to her and also to James and his team for dressing the set so appropriately.

Which brings me back to you, the audience. Most of us have hobbies and pastimes with which we can indulge ourselves without the need to have some 400 people in attendance. Not so in our case. Thank you for coming; we need you desperately, for without your laughter and enjoyment, our performance would be **a bit of a farce!**



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Hit West End comedy

TOM, DICK & HARRY

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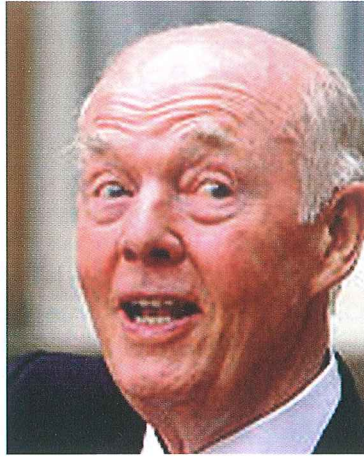
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Ray Cooney &

Ray Cooney served his apprenticeship by playing in various repertory companies from Worthing to Blackburn before graduating to Brian Rix's company at the Whitehall Theatre in 1956. He played *Dry Rot* and *Simple Spymen* and then began a writing career which, to date, has produced seventeen West End plays including *One for the Pot* (co-written with Tony Hilton), *Not Now Darling*, *Move Over Mrs Markham*, *There Goes the Bride* (all co-written with John Chapman), *Chase me Comrade*, *Why Not Stay For Breakfast?*, *Wife Begins at Forty*, *Run for your Wife*, *Two into One*, *Out of Order*, *It Runs in the Family* and *Funny Money*.

As Producer and Director he has been responsible for over thirty London productions, including *Lloyd George Knew My Father*, *Whose Life is it Anyway?*, *They're Playing Our Song*, *Duet for One*, *Bodies*, *Chicago*, *Clouds* and *Children of a Lesser God*.

In 1983, Ray formed the Theatre of Comedy Company (bringing together the founder members consisting of



Ray Cooney

Michael Cooney

thirty West End stars) and he became its first Artistic Director. During Ray's tenure the company produced over twenty plays including *Run for Your Wife*, *Out of Order*, *Two into One*, *Passion Play*, and the acclaimed revivals of *See How they Run*, *Loot*, *When We are Married* and *Pygmalion* starring Peter O'Toole and John Thaw.

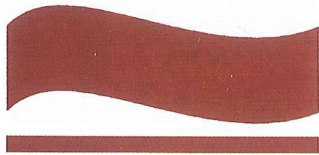
During Ray's hectic theatrical career he has always found time to continue acting and played the last year of *Run for your Wife* in London before appearing in the New York production. Recently he played the lead in *It Runs in the Family* and *Funny Money*.

Tom, Dick and Harry marks the first time that he worked with his son, screenwriter and playwright **Michael Cooney** whose credits include *Identity* and *Murder in Mind*. After starting out as an advertising copy writer Michael followed his father into the world of writing, concentrating primarily on plays and short stories. He lives in west of Ireland and ascribes the plays of Harold Pinter as a major influence on him.

RAY & MICHAEL COONEY'S

Hit West End comedy

TOM, DICK & HARRY



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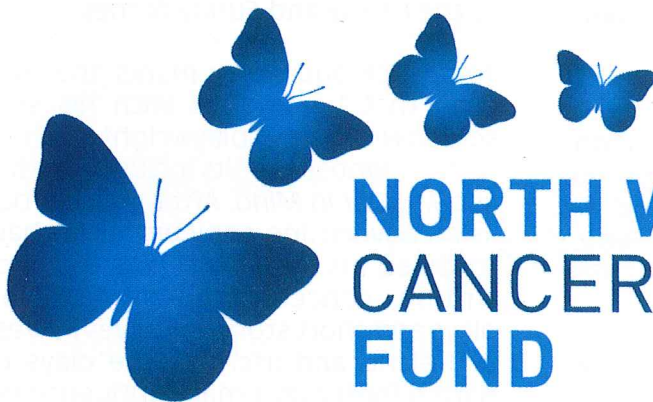
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Comedy styles

To be pedantic and unfunny, comedy in the theatre can be described as a dramatic performance which pits two societies against each other in an amusing conflict. The essence of comedy has been described as a struggle between a relatively powerless person and the conventions that pose obstacles to his/her hopes; in this sense, the person is understood to be constrained by his lack of social authority, and is left with little choice but to take recourse to ruses which provoke laughter. Much comedy contains variations on the elements of surprise, incongruity, conflict, repetitiveness, and the effect of opposite expectations.

There are various recognized styles of comedy such as satire, parody, black comedy and farce. Satire uses ironic comedy to portray persons or social institutions as ridiculous or corrupt, thus alienating their audience from the object of humour. Parody borrows the form of some popular art work but uses certain ironic changes to critique that form from within (though not necessarily in a condemning way). Black comedy is defined by dark humour that makes light of so called dark or evil elements in human nature.

Farce is typified by women running around in their underwear, men's trousers falling to the ground, secret

lovers on the verge of being found out, doors opening and closing with gunfire rapidity...we are all familiar with the ingredients of farce. It is a humorous drama that can sometimes be difficult to distinguish from comedy. But in farce the human figures tend to be stereotypes, rather than fully developed characters, and the fun arises from the ingenious manipulation of intricate situations – situations that are usually to do with love, or at least sex.

Farce as we know it today was developed in the nineteenth century, by Feydeau in France and Pinero in England. British theatre in the twentieth century saw two famous series of farces. In the 1920s Ben Travers's plays, such as *Cuckoo in the Nest*, were performed at the Aldwych by Tom Walls, Ralph Lynn and Robertson Hare, amongst others. And the Whitehall theatre under the management of the actor Brian Rix was the home of such plays as *Reluctant Heroes*, *Dry Rot*, *Simple Spymen*, *One for the Pot* and *Chase Me Comrade!* in the 1950s and 1960s.

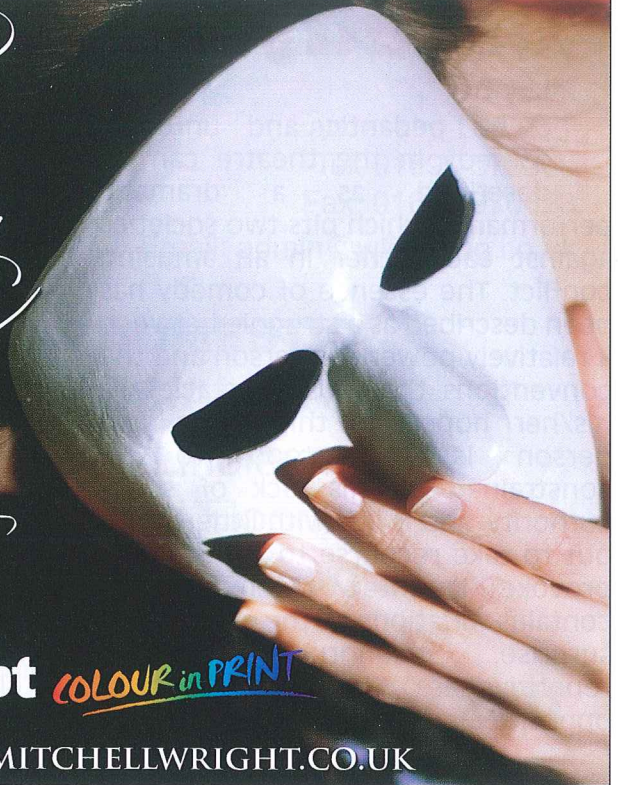
Ray Cooney writing with his son Michael have created in *Tom Dick & Harry* a hilarious comedy which combines various style elements but also reflects the Whitehall theatre traditions that Ray was involved with in the earlier part of his life.

RAY & MICHAEL COONEY'S

Hit West End comedy

TOM, DICK & HARRY

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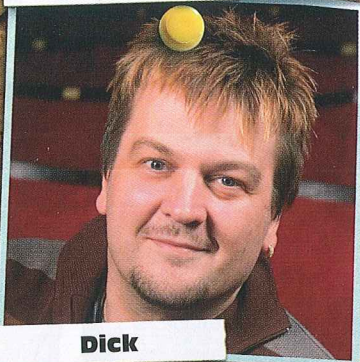
The Kerwoods



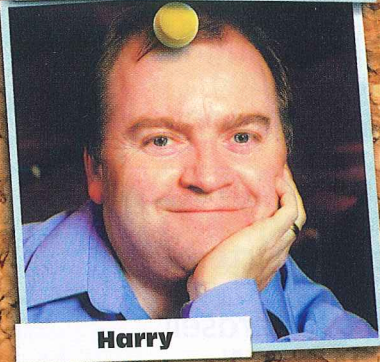
Tom



Linda

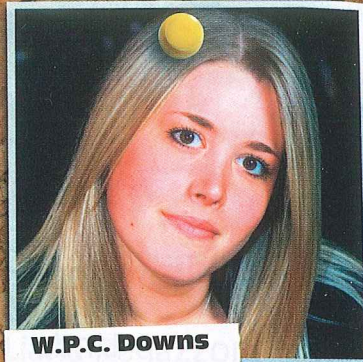


Dick



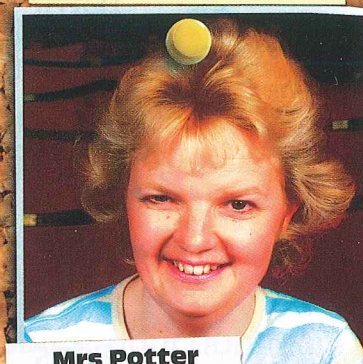
Harry

The Law



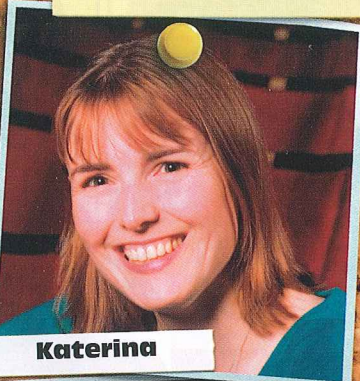
W.P.C. Downs

The Agency

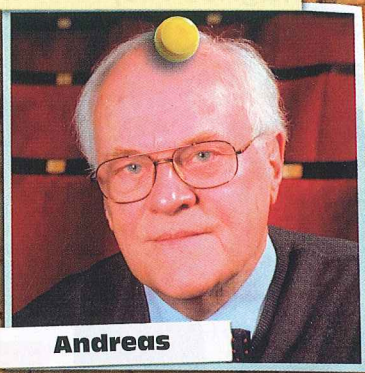


Mrs Potter

The Albanians



Katerina

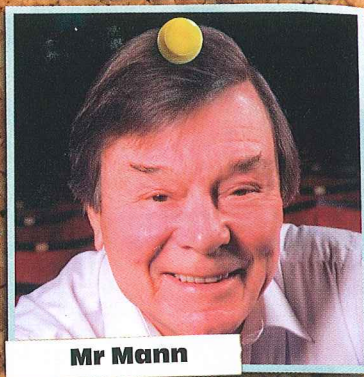


Andreas

The Director



Boris



Mr Mann

Synopsis of scenes

The action takes place at Tom and Linda Kerwood's home in the London Borough of Lambeth.

Time: 2005

- Act 1 The morning of a bright spring day
Act 2 Immediately following

Music

The theme music in this evening's performance is:
I want to be Happy - Ken Colyer
Final Curtain: Yes Sir, that's my baby - Frank Sinatra

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A SOUTHPORT DRAMA

RAY & MICHA

Hit West E

Cast

Tom	Peter Forshaw
Linda	Catherine Leight
Dick	Stephen Hughes-Alty
Harry	Barry Johnson
Katerina	Ceri Watkins
Andreas	David Charters
W.P.C. Downs	Beccy Beardsell
Mrs Potter	Trudi Hirsch
Boris	James Hughes-Alty



DICK &

Directed by

The director worked with
Altrincham Garrick for their
David Ballinger and James Hughes-
upholstering
Cliff Ray for the trump
Wigan I.T.P. Service for
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THEATRIC CLUB PRODUCTION

WEL COONEY'S

and comedy

COM



HARRY

Ray Mann

and like to thank:

valuable technical assistance,
y for their skilful construction and
the sofa-bed,
playing sound effects,
the loan of the trumpet,
r Harry's uniform

Staging

Stage Manager	Colin Haynes
A.S.M.	Beth Hill
	Liana Regazzoni
A.S.M. (Book)	Sherel Coley
Set Design	Syd Coley
Lighting Design	Tony Berry
Sound Design	Brian Hodge
Sound Operator	Lewis Scutt
Properties	James Hughes-Alty
	Karen Nicholson
Wardrobe	Cast members & SDC Wardrobe
Set Construction	SDC Production Team
Scenic Artist	Bob Jessamine
Photographs	Neil Hickson

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Thank you.

DESIGNATED PREMISES SUPERVISOR,
ALAN NEWPORT

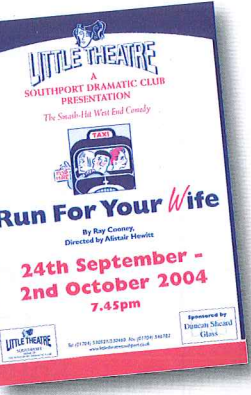
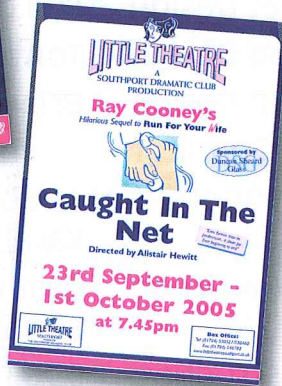
SDC Productions of Ray Cooney comedies that you have enjoyed in the last 10 years at the Little Theatre



Directed by
Robin Hirsch

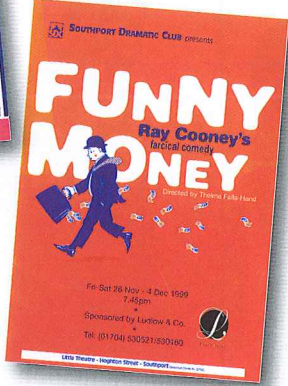
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Directed by
Alistair Hewitt



Directed by
Alistair Hewitt

Directed by
Thelma Falls-Hand



First professional production of **Tom, Dick & Harry**

First performed at the Theatre Royal, Windsor on 21st, October 2003, with the following cast.

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Tom Kerwood | Bradley Walsh |
| Linda Kerwood | Jenny Funnell |
| Dick Kerwood | Joe Pasquale |
| Harry Kerwood | Richard Gauntlett |
| Katerina | Sarah Wateridge |
| Andreas | Royce Mills |
| W.P.C. Downs | Jeffrey Holland |
| Mrs Potter | Louise Jameson |
| Boris | David Warwick |

Directed by Ray Cooney
Designed by Douglas Heap



Benny Darrah

1914 - 2009

Chairman of the SDC 1959-60

Benny served the Club for over sixty years, sharing his remarkable range of talents in all areas of the Little Theatre. Over the years, as Vice President, Chairman and Board of Management and Executive member, Benny gave his colleagues the undoubted benefit of his wisdom, experience and enthusiasm.

As a talented actor and director, Benny was a major creative force. Added to which, his musical attributes served the Club for very many years in the capacities of musical director, accompanist and, as Uncle Benny, playing the organ for countless pantomimes. Benny's last role on stage, at the age of ninety, was as the pianist in Rene's café in our recent production of "Allo,Allo"!

One can't think of an aspect of the Club's life, which has not benefited from Benny's love of our Little Theatre. Above all, Benny will be remembered for his smile and his friendship.

Ray Mann

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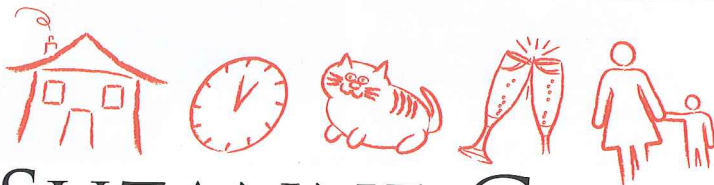
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Directed by James Hughes-Alty

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Box Office opens: 12th Mar 2010



Terrance Rattigan's The Winslow Boy

Directed by Robin Hirsch

12th - 20th Feb 2010

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Stepping Out

By Richard Harris
Directed by Margaret Mann

23rd Apr - 1st May 2010

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Alistair Hewitt directs

THE

GRADUATE



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FAMILY PANTOMIME

22ND DECEMBER
2009 -

10TH JANUARY
2010

Specially written
& directed by
Stephen Hughes-Alty

Musical direction by
Paul Williams

Choreographer
Pippa Morris



Beauty
AND THE
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