

A SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB PRODUCTION

Alistair Hewitt directs

THE

# GRADUATE



Benjamin is a little worried about his future

A play adapted by

## Terry Johnson

Based on the Novel by Charles Webb  
and the motion picture screenplay by  
Calder Willingham and Buck Henry

By Special arrangement with

## StudioCanal

Originally produced on the London  
and Broadway stage by  
John Reid and Sacha Brooks

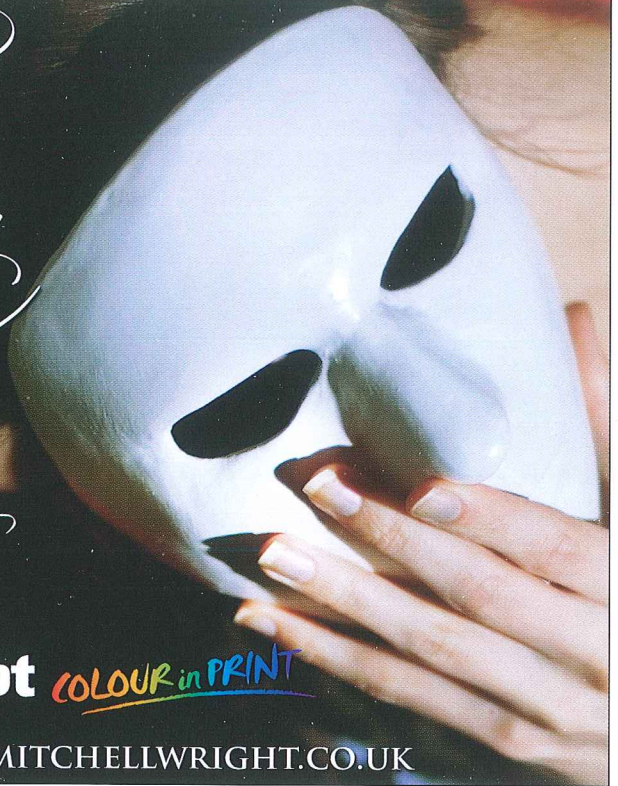
**22nd - 30th Jan 2010**

**7.45pm**



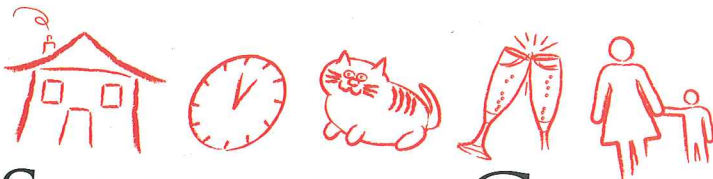
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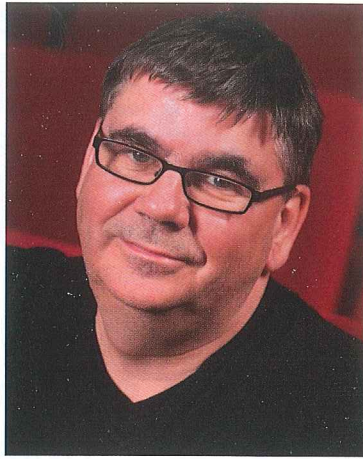
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# Director's Notes

There is always a danger when dramatising a play that is based upon a film, especially a fine and popular film like *The Graduate*, that the public will make comparisons that are uncomplimentary. The trick, I think, as a dramatist, is to change the setting and, sometimes the mood, of the story just enough to make the play stand up on its own, without losing the essence of what the story is meant to convey. Terry Johnson's dramatisation has achieved this admirably and I was very excited, therefore, to be asked to direct it.

There is a similar danger, of course, faced by the actors who have been asked to portray characters



Alistair Hewitt

who have already been immortalised by great screen idols. However, I am delighted to report that my cast are a bolshie lot who, from day one, have shown themselves to be far too strong minded to become mere imitations of

those who precede them.

So you are free to make comparisons if you wish, but we don't care. One of the themes of the story is about people having the strength to make their own decisions. We have done that in this production – and had a lot of fun doing so.

I hope you have a lovely evening.

---

## Acknowledgements

The director would like to thank:  
The Salvation Army, Southport - for the loan of furnishings



# THE GRADUATE



Benjamin is a little worried about his future

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# Charles Webb

Different, eccentric, quirky, non conformist. Pick your own word of that ilk after reading a little about Charles Webb.

Webb has been with his partner Eve, who shaves her head and calls herself 'Fred' for more than 40 years, although they divorced years ago either in protest at the institution of marriage or against the US's lack of marriage rights for gays.

'Fred' was notorious for greeting people at the door naked!

Webb declined an inheritance from his father, a wealthy doctor. They also sold their wedding presents back to their guests and having given away four houses in succession lived on the breadline, taking such menial jobs as cleaners, cooks and fruit pickers, working at K-Mart and living in a shack.

See what I mean? Read on - and it's hereditary it seems!

They have two sons, one of whom is now a performance artist who once cooked and ate a copy of *The Graduate* – with cranberry sauce, of course.

They removed said son from school so that they could tutor them at home. This being an illegal act in California at the time, they fled the state to evade the authorities, going on to manage a nudist camp in New Jersey!

Different?

1963 saw the publication of Webb's first and most famous novel, apparently based on his own affair with an older, wealthy, beautiful and

married Pasadena socialite, which created quite a stir in conservative Pasadena.

Full of wry humour and understatement, it must surely have given the real life "Mrs Robinson" a permanent niche in American history as the archetypal seductive older woman.

In 1967 the novel was made into the hugely successful Mike Nichols film we're familiar with complete with Simon and Garfunkel's accompanying music.

Webb claimed he never felt comfortable with the attention the film brought him because he felt it distracted him from his status as a serious artist.

He sold the film rights for \$20,000!! And afterwards was rarely associated with the publicity or the growth of its reputation, the script writers, Buck and Willingham assuming most of the credit for the work.


The producer, Joseph E Levine later gave an additional \$10,000 – wow!

In later years it was reported Webb had written a sequel entitled "Home School" but publication was bedevilled with problems because of a copyright loophole after his sale of "The Graduate".

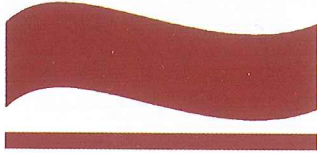
This apparently was resolved and he signed a publishing deal, just in time to save him from eviction from his home for non payment of rent.

He and Fred now live in Hove, East Sussex.

**THE**  
**GRADUATE**



**Benjamin is a little worried about his future**



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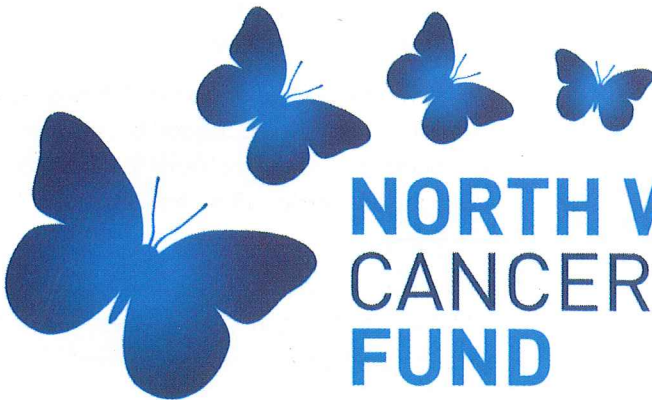
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# The History of The Graduate

The first and most successful novel of **Charles Webb** was written in 1963, being made into the hugely successful film in 1967 by **Mike Nicholls** starring **Anne Bancroft** and an unknown **Dustin Hoffman**.

**Simon and Garfunkel** supplied the title track Mrs Robinson.

It was adapted for the stage both on Broadway and the West End.

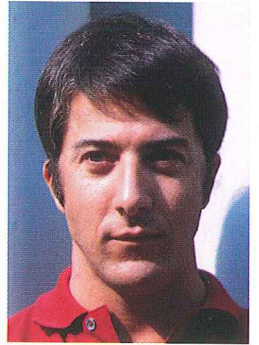
**Terry Johnson** directed his own adaptation of the novel for stage and it has been a considerable hit.

Both in London and Broadway **Kathleen Turner** originated the role of the seductive Mrs Robinson who sets her sights on the young college graduate, Benjamin Braddock played by **Jason Biggs** on Broadway and by **Andrew Williams** here in the UK.

The role of Mrs Robinson was later taken by **Glynis Barber** and has played many theatres including the Giegud, London and also Bradford, Bath, Wycombe, Glasgow, Newcastle and Cambridge.



Anne Bancroft  
1931-2005



Dustin Hoffman  
1937-



# THE GRADUATE



Benjamin is a little worried about his future

# THE GRADUATE



CAST



Benjamin  
Samuel Erskine



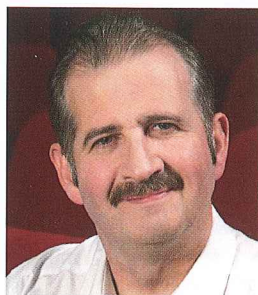
Mrs Robinson  
Samantha Roberts



Mr Robinson  
Ted Bullen



Elaine  
Francesca Rimmer



Mr Braddock  
Ian Robertson



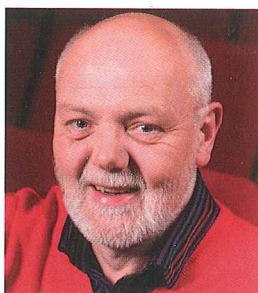
Mrs Braddock  
Helen Bennett



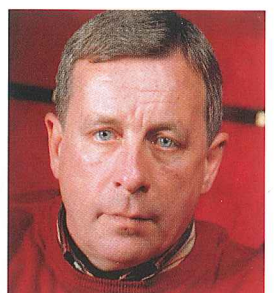
Hotel Clerk/Psychiatrist  
Shirley Rookyard



Stripper  
Jo Howarth



First Man  
Philip Hutchinson



Second Man/Priest  
Robert Jones





## **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 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 GRAD

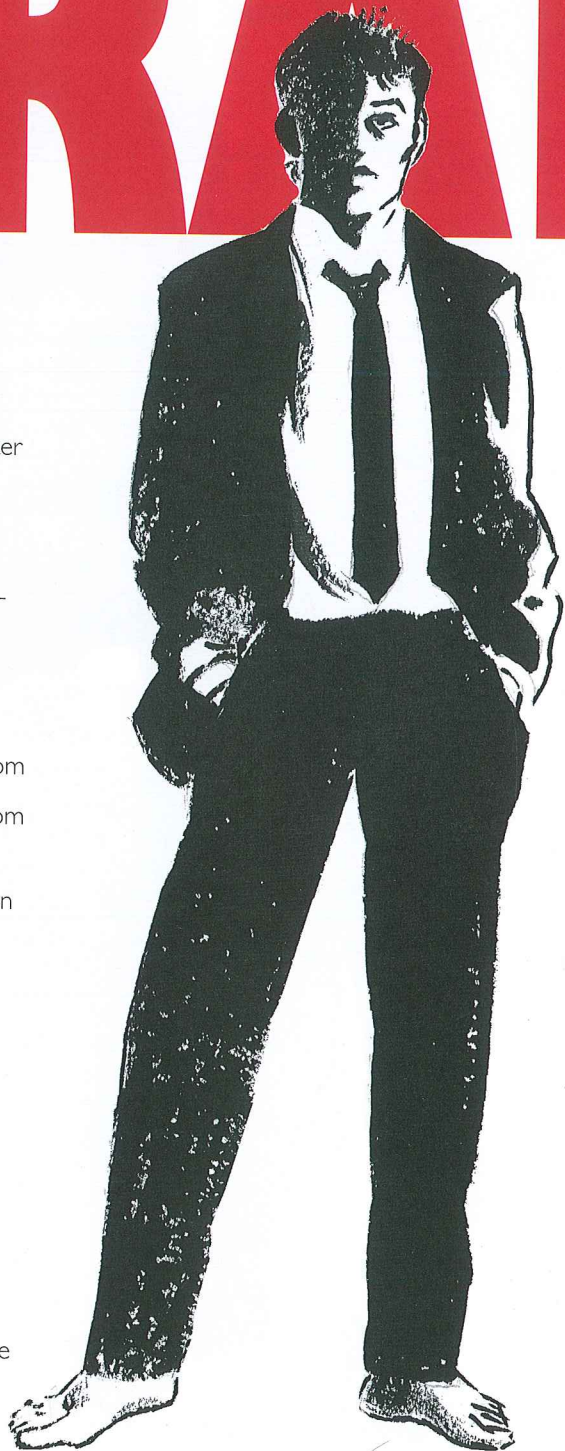
Benja

## Act 1

- Scene 1 – Benjamin's Bedroom
- Scene 2 – Benjamin's Bedroom - Later
- Scene 3 – Lobby of the Taft Hotel
- Scene 4 – Room 515 the Taft Hotel
- Scene 5 – Room 515 the Taft Hotel -  
Later
- Scene 6 – Outside and Inside a  
Strip club
- Scene 7 – The Robinson's Living Room
- Scene 8 – The Robinson's Living Room  
- Later
- Scene 9 – The Braddock's Front Lawn

## Act 2

- Scene 1 – Attic Room, Berkley  
Boarding House
- Scene 2 – Attic room, Berkley  
Boarding House - Later
- Scene 3 – A Psychiatrist's Study
- Scene 4 – A Vestry, First Presbyterian  
Church
- Scene 5 – A Motel Room somewhere  
in Nevada



Hotel

# DUATE

min is a little worried about his future

## Cast

**Benjamin** – Samuel Erskine

**Mrs Robinson** – Samantha Roberts

**Mr Robinson** – Ted Bullen

**Elaine** – Francesca Rimmer

**Mr Braddock** – Ian Robertson

**Mrs Braddock** – Helen Bennett

**Clerk/Psychiatrist** – Shirley Rookyard

**Stripper** – Jo Howarth

**First Man** – Philip Hutchinson

**Second Man/Priest** – Robert Jones

## Staging

**Stage Manager** – Nick Evans

**A.S.M.** – Philip Hutchinson  
Robert Jones

**Prompt** – Jean Watkinson

**Props** – Sandy Town  
Linda Woods

**Set Design** – Sid Coley

**Lighting Design** – Tony Berry

**Lighting Operator** – Roy Carr

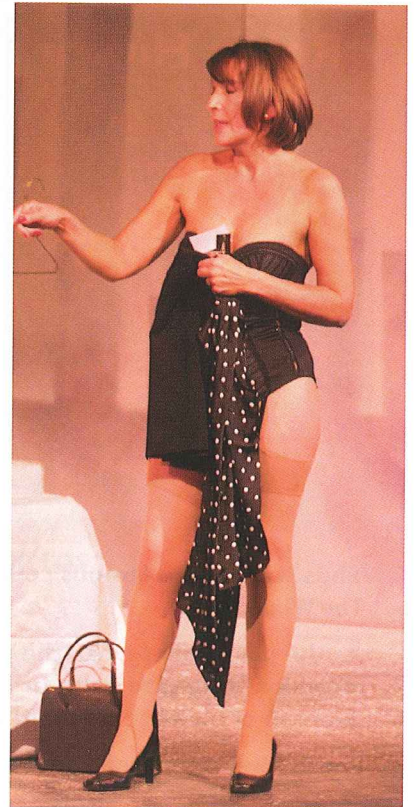
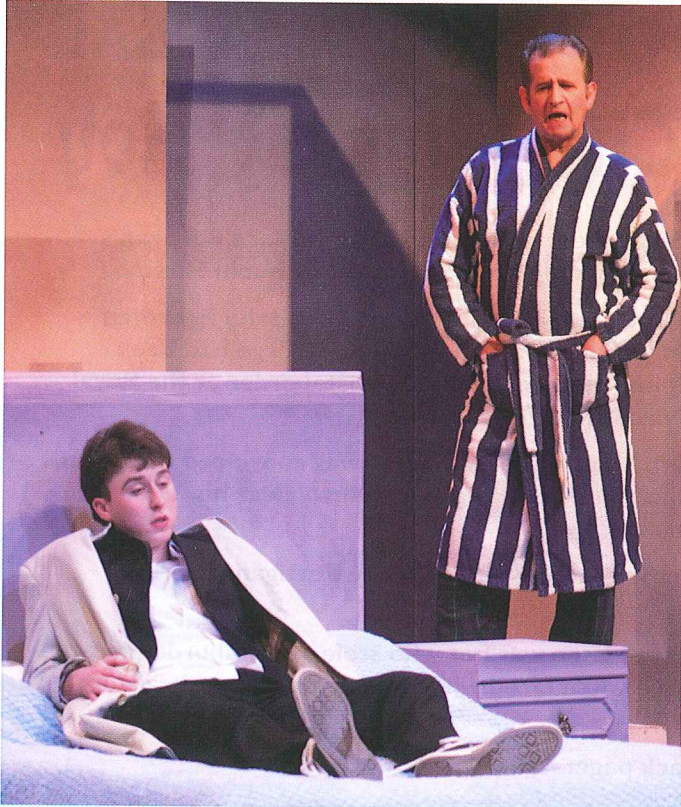
**Sound** – Brian Hodge  
Peter Beswick

**Scenic Artist** – Bob Jessamine

**Set Construction** – SDC Production  
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**Photography** – Creative Mixed  
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# The Winslow Boy

SDC's next production is Sir Terence Rattigan's spell-binding drama directed by Robin Hirsch.

On October 17th 1908 the Admiralty informed Mr.Archer-Shee that his son George had been found guilty of theft of a postal order at the Royal Naval College at Osborne.

Mr.Archer-Shee, however, was convinced of his son's innocence and began a fight to clear his family's name.

Thus started the famous court case that inspired Terrence Rattigan to write *The Winslow Boy*.

As the play makes clear, the point at issue was not who stole a postal order, but the individual's right to fight for justice when faced with the apparently arbitrary decision of bureaucratic authority.

For further details please see back page.

# THE GRADUATE



## MUSIC OF THE SHOW

*California Girls – The Beach Boys*

*Mrs Robinson – The Lemonheads*

*Mrs Robinson – The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra*

*Godan Daginn – Sigur ros*

*Pretty woman – Roy Orbison*

*Mrs Robinson – James Taylor Quartet*

*Mrs Robinson – Simon and Garfunkel*

*Fantasia on Greensleeves – Vaughan Williams*

*Wouldn't it be Nice – The Beach Boys*

*Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G. – J.S.Bach*

*'Haffner' Serenade – W.A. Mozart*

*The Four Seasons 'Summer' – A.Vivaldi*

*Med sut i eyrum – Sigur ros*





# THE GRADUATE



**FACTOIDS\***

## Benjamin's a little worried about his future!

- There was actually only 6 years difference in the age between **Anne Bancroft** and **Dustin Hoffman**, who was 29 at the time of filming but played a 21 year old.
- The leg in the film publicity poster belonged to former Miss Texas **Linda Gray** a.k.a. Sue-Ellen in the long running TV soap "Dallas".
- The film was nominated for a total of seven Academy Awards, but one won only one – Best Director.
- **Warren Beatty**, **Charles Grogan**, **Robert Redford** and **Burt Ward** (who later became Robin in the Batman TV series and latterly a pornography "actor") were all considered for the role of Benjamin, with **Patricia Neal**, **Candice Bergen** and **Doris Day** considered for Mrs Robinson. **Mike Nichols**, the director, also approached **Ava Gardner** for the role.
- According to **Dustin Hoffman**, his friend and former room-mate **Gene Hackman** was cast as Mr Robinson but was fired after a few weeks of work.
- **Ronald Regan** was considered for the role of Mr Braddock.
- **Paul Simon** wrote 2 songs for the film that **Mike Nichols** rejected - *Punky's Dilemma* and *A Hazy Shade of Winter*, but they later appeared in **Simon & Garfunkels** *Book Ends* album. *Mrs Robinson* originally *Mrs Roosevelt* was not written for the film but was re-named and used.
- The red Italian sports car used in the film is a 1966 Alfa Romeo Spider 1600 also known as the Duetto.
- When **Dustin Hoffman** showed up at **Joseph E Levine's** office for a casting interview the producer mistook him for a window cleaner, so Hoffman, in character, cleaned a window.
- In Hoffman & Bancroft's first bedroom scene Hoffman, off script, grabbed Bancroft's breast, deciding it was an awkward schoolboy ploy, and then walked away from camera, banging his head on the wall to stop laughing. **Mike Nicholls** thought it so hilarious he left it in.
- In 2007 the American Film Institute ranked this as the 17<sup>th</sup> Greatest Movie of All time, and the film's line "Mrs Robinson, you're trying to seduce me, aren't you?" as the 63<sup>rd</sup> greatest film quote.

\* *Factoid*: An assumption or speculation that is reported or repeated so often that it becomes accepted as fact; simulated or imagined as fact. (The Oxford English Dictionary)

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An SDC Production  
Sir Terence Rattigan's

## The Winslow Boy

Directed by Robin Hirsch

12th - 20th Feb 2010

Box Office opens: 5th Feb 2010



A Too Friendly Theatre Company Production  
**The Time of Your Life**

by arrangement with Samuel French Ltd

27th - 29th May 2010

Advanced bookings 01704 541306

Box Office opens: 20th May 2010

An SDC Youth Theatre Production

## Teechers

By John Godber

Directed by Hilary Thomson

3rd - 6th Mar 2010

Box Office opens: 24th Feb 2010



A Maghull Musical Theatre Company Production

## The Hot Mikado

By arrangement with Josef Weinberger Ltd

9th - 12th June 2010

Advanced bookings 0151 547 3025

Box Office opens: 2nd June 2010

An SDC Production

Mike Leigh's

## Abigail's Party

Directed by James Hughes-Alty

19th - 27th Mar 2010

Box Office opens: 12th Mar 2010



A Waterloo & Crosby Theatre Company Production

## The Hollow

By Agatha Christie

By arrangement with Samuel French Ltd

16th - 19th June 2010

Advanced bookings 0151 924 0231

Box Office opens: 7th June 2010

An SDC Production

## Stepping Out

By Richard Harris

Directed by Margaret Mann

23rd Apr -

1st May 2010

Box Office opens: 16th Apr 2010



An Old Hall Brass Production

## Old Hall Brass In Concert

20th June 2010

Advanced bookings 01942 715684

A Birkdale Orpheus Society Production

## Hello Dolly !

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Jerry Herman

8th - 15th May 2010

Advanced bookings 01704 564042

Box Office opens: 1st May 2010

A Loreto Bamber Production

## Loreto Bamber Summer Show

25th - 26th June 2010

Advanced bookings 01704 538351

An SDC  
Bar Production

## To Be Announced

18th - 22nd May 2010

Box Office opens: 11th May 2010



A Southport Amateur Operatic Society Production

## Cole Porter's - Anything Goes

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3rd - 10th July 2010

Advanced bookings 01704 228936

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A SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB PRODUCTION

# Sir Terence Rattigan's

*Highly enjoyable middle-class British entertainment.  
Based on an actual court case.*



# The Winslow Boy

Directed by Robin Hirsch

12th - 20th February 2010

7.45pm



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Box Office opens: 5th February 2010, 11am

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