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Sir Terence Rattigan's

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Based on an actual court case.*



The Winslow Boy

Directed by Robin Hirsch

12th - 20th February 2010

7.45pm

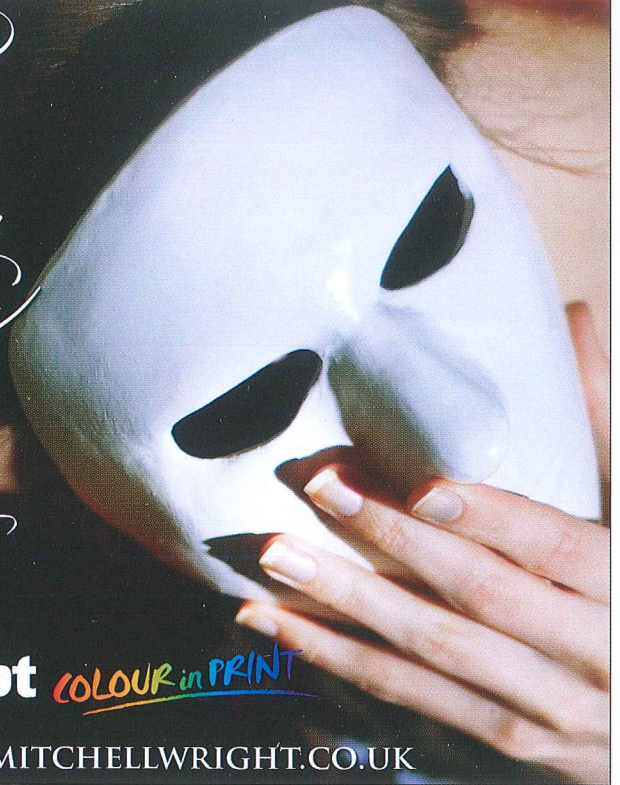


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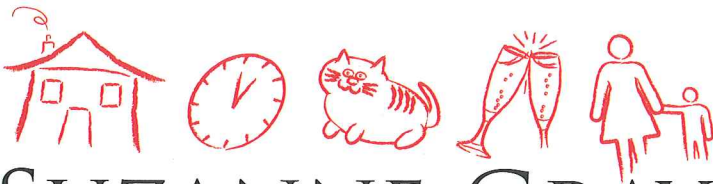
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Director's Notes

Robin Hirsch



Written in 1946 by the inimitable playwright Sir Terence Rattigan, *The Winslow Boy* is one of his strongest plays. As you will see on other pages in this programme, it is based on an actual event, which set a legal precedent.

Above all, this is a play of manners, depicting the strict codes of conduct of the age, based on the imperative desire of the boy's father to clear his son's name for the honour of the boy and of the family.

It is a play of relationships and shows through the action, how the various members of the family are affected by the events that take place over the two years of fighting for "right to be done" and how their individual relationships strengthen and weaken.

It has been an absolute pleasure to work alongside my talented, thoughtful, enthusiastic and hard-working cast. Without the support of the backstage crew and wardrobe team and their attention to details a period play of this nature

would be a shallow thing indeed. They all, combined, have brought this compelling story to life.

We all hope that you, our audiences, will enjoy a glimpse of England prior to World War I and witness one man's dedication to obtaining justice for his son.

Acknowledgements

The Director wishes to thank: Mrs. Pamela Dunnett for her assistance with dancing tuition, and Mr Alan Gosling for the loan and construction of a camera and period fire surround.



The Winslow Boy

By Sir Terence Rattigan

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Sir Terence Rattigan

1911 - 1977



Terence Rattigan was born in London in 1911. He was educated at Harrow and at Trinity College, Oxford, where he read for a degree in Modern History. His parents' plan for a career in diplomacy were thwarted by his own determination to make a career as a writer – preferable a writer of plays – and he left Oxford without sitting his finals.

From boyhood Rattigan had been an avid playgoer and an incorrigible playwright. One of his earliest efforts, a one page playlet in French, written whilst still only a junior scholar at Harrow, met with this criticism: "French execrable: theatre sense first class" – and mark of 2/10! Rattigan himself regarded this comment as significant, feeling that, however different his adult plays might be, they shared a sense of theatre, which he regarded as a prime virtue.

His first play to meet with success in the commercial theatre – and it met with considerable success – was *French Without Tears*, first performed in 1936. It was not until the later years of the Second World War (during which he served as an air gunner in the R.A.F.) that he wrote another play of similar importance. *Flare Path* (1942) was his first serious play, but it was followed by *While the Sun Shines* (1943), another farce along the lines of *French Without Tears*, which like its predecessor, ran over 1000 performances. *Love in Idleness* (1944) was another comedy put together with great care and craftsmanship

and deliberately avoiding the verbal sophistication of, say, Oscar Wilde.

In his next play *The Winslow Boy* (1946), Rattigan temporarily abandoned comedy, turning his craftsmanship to the service of serious theme and meeting

with similar success. This play won the Ellen Terry Award for the best play produced on the London stage in 1946 and in 1947 won The New York Critics' Award for the best foreign play produced in New York that year. Thereafter, although he did not write further comedies, it was the serious plays that were then and still are considered to be more important. Such pieces as *The Browning Version*, *The Deep Blue Sea*, *Separate Tables*, *Ross*, *Bequest to the Nation*, *Man and Boy* and *In Praise of Love* are carefully considered studies of character and social situation, acknowledging Rattigan's allegiance to the well-made play.

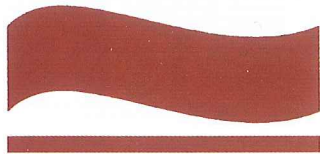
To the end of his life he believed that a play must, above all, entertain, that it should be concerned with characters and narrative rather than ideas. He was antagonistic to the "kitchen sink" dramas of Osborne and Wester which were in critical favour during the latter part of his career, whilst he himself seemed to be out of fashion. Only time will tell if his plays have a truly lasting value.

Terence Rattigan received a C.B.E. in 1958 and a Knighthood in 1971. He died in 1977.

V.P.

The Winslow Boy

By Sir Terence Rattigan



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The Archer-Shees against the Admiralty



George Archer-Shee with his father Martin Archer-Shee

George Archer-Shee had become a cadet at Osborne Naval College in January 1908. The College, in the grounds of Queen Victoria's favourite home on the Isle of Wight, educated and trained Royal Navy cadet, Terence Back another cadet at the College, received a postal order from a relative for five shillings. That afternoon, Archer-Shee received permission to go to the Post Office outside the grounds of the school to buy a postal order and a stamp, as he wished to buy a model train costing fifteen shillings and sixpence. When he got back to the College, the theft of Back's postal order had been reported and the clerk-in-charge of the Post Office, Miss Tucker, was sent for. She produced the cashed postal order for Back, and stated that only two cadets had visited that afternoon: the same cadet who bought a postal order for 15s6d had also cashed the 5s order.

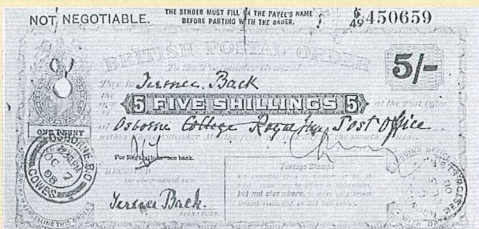
George Archer-Shee's father was a banker and a firm believer in honesty and integrity, but, because of ill health, it was not he who took up the cudgels on behalf of his son. Instead George's champion was his half-brother, Major Archer-Shee. Their father had been twice married. His first wife, an American, had born him one son and two daughters. After her death he had remarried and his second wife had given birth to George and an older sister, Anna.

At the time of the case Major Martin was 36, an active, politically involved man, who was well-suited to fight the honour of the family motto, Vincas Veritas – Truth Conquers. Major Martin obtained the services of Sir Edward Carson as the family's barrister. He was regarded as one of the best barristers in practise at the time, and had a son who had been to Osborne. Before he took the case, Carson subjected the boy to questioning to test his story, and satisfied himself of the boy's innocence.

In the months that followed the initial exchange of letters the Archer-Shee family tried to come to some kind of agreement with Admiralty. By February 1909 officialdom has made up its mind and totally refused to discuss the matter any further. The only alternative left to the family seemed to be to take the matter to court. This, however was far from easy. It was not possible to sue the Admiralty for any wrongdoing in the civil courts, since "The King can do no Wrong" and his servants, in their official capacity, cannot normally be brought to court by another citizen.



The postal order which Archer-Shee indisputably bought



The postal order Archer-Shee was accused of stealing



Osborne House

CONFIDENTIAL

Admiralty
17th October, 1908

Sir,

I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to inform you that they have received a letter from the Commanding Officer of the Royal Naval College at Osborne reporting the theft of a postal order at the College on the 7th instant which was afterwards cashed at the Post Office.

Investigation of the circumstances of the case leaves no other conclusion possible than that the postal order was taken by your son, Cadet George Archer-Shee.

My Lords deeply regret that they must therefore request you withdraw your son from the College.

I am sir,

Your obedient servant,
G.I.Thomas

Sir,

Bristol
18th October, 1908

I have received your "confidential" letter calling upon me to withdraw my son Vadat George Archer-Shee from the Royal Naval College in disgrace as a thief!

Nothing will make me believe my boy guilty of this charge, which shall be sifted by independent experts.

Your obedient servant,
Martin Archer-Shee

However, **Carson** had not obtained his reputation for nothing. The solution he finally found was that of "Petition of Right" an ancient and unusual legal procedure which is the only exception to the rule that the Crown cannot be sued. Under this a case can be brought for breaches of contract. A petition was accordingly drawn up which maintained that the Admiralty was in breach of an agreement with Mr. Archer-Shee to educate his son for the Royal Navy. It was eventually presented to **King Edward VII** who endorsed it with the resonant traditional formula: *fiat justitia*. This Latin phrase was normally translated as "Let right be done".

By July 1910 both sides were ready to come to court. The extent to which the Admiralty's charges would fail became obvious when **Carson** had successfully shown that the elderly postmistress, Miss Tucker, could easily have been mistaken. She admitted that to her, all of the cadets looked alike, and that, in the course of the dealing with one cadet, another could have stepped into his place without her noticing. This was reinforced by the fact that, when given the opportunity, she was not able to point out George Archer-Shee from among other cadets. On the fourth day, July 29th, the **Solicitor General, Sir Rufus Isaacs**, accepted the statement that George Archer-Shee did not cash the postal order:

"and consequently that he is innocent of the charge. I say further, in order that there may be no misapprehension about it, that I make that statement without and reserve of any description, intending that it shall be complete justification of the statement of the boy and the evidence he has given before the court."

Compensation

The family then began to press the Admiralty to pay restitution. The First Lord of the Admiralty said on March 16th, 1911, that he thought the House of Commons would think it inappropriate. The Family then circulated a booklet presenting their side of the case. On April 6th, the Naval Estimates came up for debate. However, as many members of Parliament raised the Archer-Shee case – both for and against – (most supported compensation) The Admiralty were forced to concede a Judicial hearing to decide the matter. Viscount Mersey reported that the family should be paid **£4,120** to cover their costs, and **£3,000** compensation "in full settlement of all demands", and the money was paid that July.

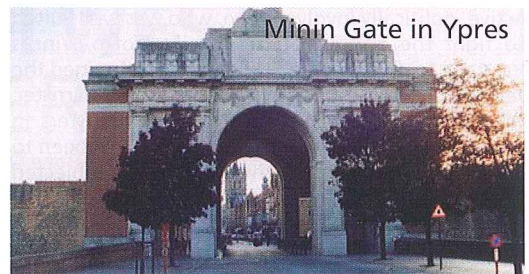
What happened to the involved persons in this real life drama?

After his expulsion from Osborne, Archer-Shee returned to Stonyhurst College, where he had been educated before going to Osborne. He went to the USA to work in the Wall Street firm of Fisk & Robinson, but returned home to enlist in the Army at the start of World War I. He was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the First Battalion, the South Staffordshire Regiment, and was killed in the First Battle of Ypres in 1914.

His name is inscribed on the war memorial in the village of North Woodchester in Gloucestershire where his parents lived. It is said in the Carson Family that he joined the South Staffs at the suggestion of **Sir Edward Carson**, whose nephew, FE Robinson, had recently joined that regiment. Their names are close together on tablet 35 of the Menin Gate in Ypres, Teddy Robinson having been killed 3 days before Archer-Shee.

Cadet Terence Back remained in the Royal Navy and was promoted to be Captain in 1939. He served on the Arctic Convoys during the Second World War.

Source: V.P. & Wikipedia



Minin Gate in Ypres

Brain Teaser

Who was Prime Minister when the Archer-Shee case debated in Parliament in 1911?

Was it:



Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman

Was it:



Herbert H. Asquith

Was it:



David Lloyd George

Unfortunately there is no prize for the right answer, because it can be found on page 13.



The Winslow Family

Sir Terence The Winslows

Cast

In order of appearance

Ronnie WinslowKarl Rawsthorne

Violet (the family maid)Dyan Ensenat

Grace WinslowPoppy Flanagan

Arthur WinslowJohn Sharp

Catherine WinslowTrudi Hirsch

Dickie WinslowJoe Hinds

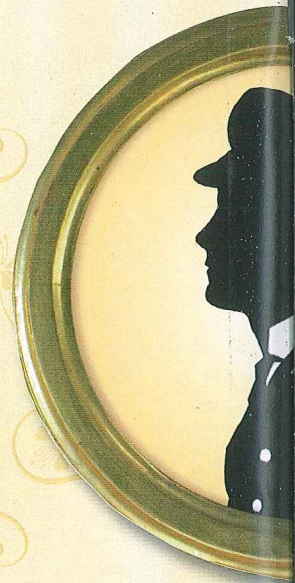
John WaterstoneGiles Davidson

Desmond CurryNorman Hope

Miss BarnesMarilyn Fletcher-Hill

FredRoderick Beardsell

Sir Robert MortonRay Mann



The action takes place in Kensington, London and extends over several years preceding the present time.

Scene 1 A Sunday afternoon

Scene 2 An afternoon (nine months later)

Scene 1 An evening (nine months later)

Scene 2 An afternoon (five months later)

There will be an interval of 20 minutes. Why not beat the rush and arrive in the bar prior to the start of the play.

Rattigan's Slow Boy

Staging

Stage Manager
Roderick Beardsell

A.S.M. (Book)
June Hunter

Set Design
Syd Coley

Lighting Design
Tony Berry

Lighting Operator
Michael Clarke
Beth Hill

Sound Design
Brian Hodge

Sound Operator
Peter Beswick
Lewis Scutt

Properties
Barbara Beardsell
Lynn Gosling

Wardrobe
Sherel Coley
Margaret Horne

Set Construction
SDC production team

Scenic Artist
Bob Jessamine

Curtain
Lewis Scutt

Photographs
Creative Mixed Media

**Programme
Illustration and Design**

David Charters

Editor

Jorgen Petersen

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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

Music used in this production

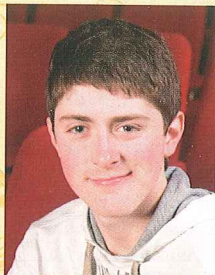
*Irving Berlin's
Alexander's Ragtime Band*
played by the New Orleans Jazz
Orchestra

Hitchey Koo
played by Danny Polo

English Idylls No. 2
by George Butterworth

George Butterworth was recognised as an up and coming English composer, but was sadly killed during the Second World War.

East



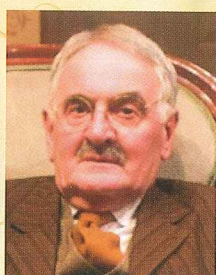
Karl Rawsthorne



Dyan Ensenat



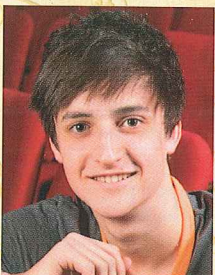
Poppy Flanagan



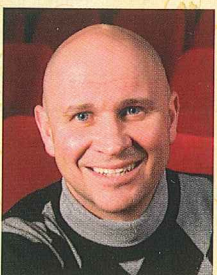
John Sharp



Trudi Hirsch



Joe Hinds



Giles Davidson



Norman Hope



Marilyn
Fletcher-Hill



Ray Mann



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Sir Edward Carson



1854 - 1935

Edward Henry Carson, Baron Carson Privy Councillor, born 9th February 1854 in Dublin, Ireland – died 22nd October 1935, Kent, England. He was leader of the Irish Unionist Party between 1910 and 1921, held numerous positions in the Cabinet of the United Kingdom and served as Lord of Appeal in Ordinary.

Upon his death, in 1935, he was one of the few non-monarchs to receive a United Kingdom state funeral.

Beside the Archer-Shee case he is known for the following famous cases:

Oscar Wilde

In 1895 he was engaged by the Marquess of Queensberry to lead his defence against Oscar Wilde's libel action.

The Marquess accused Wilde of consorting with rent boys. Wilde retaliated with a libel action. Carson's involvement in the case is often portrayed as a de facto prosecution of Wilde. His initial response was to refuse to take the case, but when he later discovered that the Marquess had been telling the truth about Wilde's activities and was therefore not guilty of the libel of which Wilde accused him.

When Oscar Wilde later that year was accused of homosexuality, Carson refused to have anything to do with the prosecution of Wilde, feeling to do so would be vindictive.

On 25th May 1895 Oscar Wilde was convicted of gross indecency and sentenced to two years hard labour.

Cadbury Bros.

In 1908 Carson appeared for the *London Evening Standard* in a libel action brought by George Cadbury.

The *Standard* had in some articles alleged that Cadbury Bros. Ltd. knew of the slave labour condition on São Tomé, the Portuguese island colony from which Cadbury purchased most of their cocoa for the production of their chocolate. They also alleged that the Cadbury family knew that the reason why cocoa from São Tomé was cheaper was because it was grown by slave labour.

The case was regarded at the time as an important political case as Carson maintained that it showed the fundamental immorality of free trade. George Cadbury recovered one farthing in damages in a case described as one of Carson's triumphs.



Hilary Thomson



NOW IN REHEARSAL

Teachers

SDC's next production is the Youth Theatre production of *Teachers* by John Godber and under the directorship of Hilary Thomson.

In the main theatre on the 3rd - 6th March 2010

A comedy involving pupils and their teachers, the play has a wealth of characters from the "School Bully", head boy, a teacher who's always moaning, an eccentric head master, a department head who hates children, and of course the "New" drama teacher.

Anything can happen in a drama lesson, the characters demonstrate that once talent has been trapped in school, the result is often staggering, and as the author states comedies must primarily be funny, but here is a comedy which is also deadly serious.

For further details please see back page.

**James
Hughes-Alty**



NOW IN REHEARSAL

Abigail's Party

Following *Teachers* is the SDC's main season production of Mike Leigh's *Abigail's Party* directed by James Hughes-Alty.

In the main theatre on 19th - 27th March 2010

First performed at the Hampstead Theatre in 1977, the play was devised entirely through improvised workshops by the cast and director and subsequently filmed for television as part of the BBC's *Play for Today* series.

Beverly and Lawrence have invited the new neighbours Angela and Tony for a few drinks and nibbles, and to meet another neighbour, Sue. All starts well, but as the drinks flow the cracks begin to show, and the evening isn't quite the success that Beverly had expected.

The most well known of Mike Leigh's TV work, and acclaimed as the most important TV play of the 70s, *Abigail's Party* has been described as a comedy of bad manners that exposes the petty one-up-man ship and prejudices of aspiring middle class.

For further details please see page 19.

Provenance of The Winslow Boy image

Creating a design for the SDC's posters and programmes often takes a circulative route.



Initially the choice was to use a photograph of Richard Hirsch taken at the time when he played Ronnie. On second thoughts we decided to a different approach.



Then a photograph was taken of current actor cast as Ronnie. Karl Rawsthorne.

Using this image we transformed it into a silhouette shape.

For reference of the mid-shipmans uniform we based it on a photograph of the Duke of Windsor as a boy.

The gilt frame was taken from an old Christmas card.



The wallpaper background was computer generated by our printers Mitchell & Wright.

To replicate the style of the period we chose an art nouveau type-face that Otto Eckmann designed in 1900.

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

LITTLE THEATRE
The Southport Little Theatre

Box Office opens: 5th February 2010, 11am
Box Office Tel: (01704) 53021/030409 www.southportlittletheatre.co.uk Houghton Street, Southport PR8 0PA

Previous SDC Productions of Rattigan's work

French Without Tears, Flare Path, Separate Tables, Bequest to the Nation and The Winslow Boy in 1980 with the following cast:

Directed by Sheila Pook

Ronnie Winslow	Richard Hirsch
Violet	Joan Moore
Grace Winslow	Peggy Ince
Arthur Winslow	Bill Finn
Catherine Winslow	Lesley Bentley
Dickie Winslow	Mark Braithwaite
John Watherstone	Peter Burroughs
Desmond Curry	Mike Stowell
Miss Barnes	Glenys Hoofe
Fred	Peter Beswick
Sir Robert Morton	Don Anderson

Southport Dramatic Club
presents

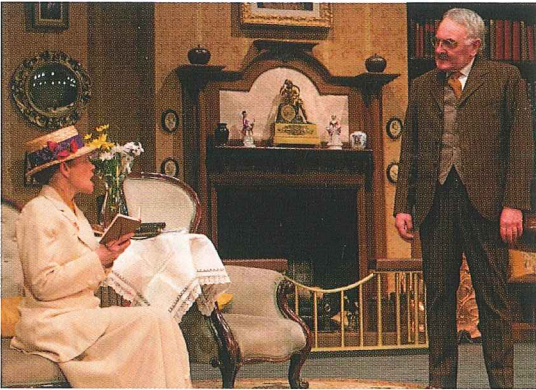
Terence Rattigan's

THE WINSLOW BOY

29th February to 8th March 1980
Nightly at 7.45

The Southport Little Theatre
Tel: 30521

Member of the Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain



FUTURE ATTRACTIONS AT THE LITTLE

An SDC Youth Theatre Production

Teachers

By John Godber

Directed by Hilary Thomson

3rd - 6th Mar 2010

Box Office opens: 24th 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 Production
Mike Leigh's

Abigail's Party

Directed by James Hughes-Alty

19th - 27th Mar 2010

Box Office opens: 12th Mar 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

Stepping Out

By Richard Harris

Directed by Margaret Mann

23rd Apr -

1st May 2010

Box Office opens: 16th Apr 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

A Birkdale Orpheus Society Production

Hello Dolly !

Book by Michael Stewart, Music and Lyrics by
Jerry Herman

8th - 15th May 2010

Advanced bookings 01704 564042

Box Office opens: 1st May 2010

An Old Hall Brass Production

Old Hall Brass In Concert

20th June 2010

Advanced bookings 01942 715684

An SDC Bar Production

My Mother Said I Never Should

By Charlotte Keatley

Directed by Michelle Pappini

18th - 22nd May 2010

Box Office opens: 11th May 2010



A Loreto Bamber Production

Loreto Bamber Summer Show

25th - 26th June 2010

Advanced bookings 01704 538351



SDC 1920 - 2010

Look out for the announcement
of the plays selected for
the SDC's 90th Season

A Southport Amateur Operatic Society Production

Cole Porter's - Anything Goes

By arrangement with Music Scope &
Stage Musicals of New York

3rd - 10th July 2010

Advanced bookings 01704 228936

Box Office opens: 28th June 2010

A SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB PRODUCTION



LITTLE THEATRE
Home of the
Southport Dramatic Club

MIKE LEIGH'S

*Abigail's
Party*

Directed by
James Hughes-Alty

19th - 27th March 2010

7.45pm

Box Office opens: 12th March 2010, 11am

Box Office Tel: (01704) 53021/530460 www.littletheatresouthport.co.uk. Hoghton Street, Southport PR9 0PA.

A SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB
YOUTH THEATRE PRODUCTION

Teachers

By
Jon Godber

directed by
Hilary Thomson

3rd - 6th
March 2010

7.45pm



LITTLE THEATRE
Home of the
Southport Dramatic Club

Box Office opens: 24th February 2010, 11am

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