
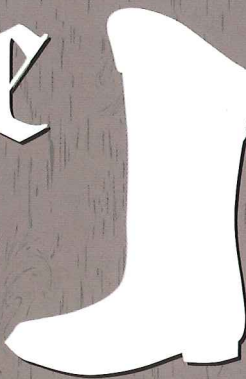


# Southport Dramatic Club



**Hobson's  
Choice**  
by Harold  
Brighouse



Directed by Poppy Flanagan

23rd September - 1st October 2011



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Southport Dramatic Club

Box Office opens: 16th September 2011

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# A message from the Chairman

It's my pleasure to welcome you to the new season of productions by the Southport Dramatic Club. We have chosen a variety of plays, old and new, for your enjoyment and entertainment.

To our regular patrons and subscribers we thank you for your continued support of our 'Little' theatre. If this is your first



**Chris Ratcliffe**  
Chairman

time we hope you will want to return to see our other plays.

During the closed season the Bar has been refurbished so please visit it and admire the new décor.

I look forward to seeing you at the Box Office during the year.

*Chris Ratcliffe, Chairman*





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# Director's Notes

I have seen and enjoyed several productions of 'Hobson's Choice' over the years, and like a lot of you, have seen the film with Charles Laughton and John Mills many times. It wasn't until I was asked to direct tonight's play that I actually read the script. What a gem it is! The characters jump off the page, the language is rhythmic and lyrical, and like any well written material, one is compelled to read to the end.

When the play was first performed in 1916 it created a lighter, relaxed



**Poppy Flanagan**  
**Director**

atmosphere in the theatre world. People could go to the theatre and laugh at a time when life was

particularly hard to bear. The cast and I hope that our efforts this evening will brighten up your evening in the current harsh economic climate.

The back stage crew will be very busy during the run changing the scenes. I would like to thank them, my team of actors and everyone who has helped with this production, for the time they have dedicated to getting things done.

*Poppy, Director*

# Tradition of Clog Making

The wearing of clogs in Britain really took off with the Industrial Revolution, when workers in the mills, mines, iron, steel and chemical works, workshops and factories needed strong, cheap footwear. The heyday of the clog in Britain was between the 1840s and 1920s and, although traditionally associated with Lancashire, they were worn all over the country, not just in the industrial North of England. Clogs were not just made in the standard sizes of cloggers 'men's', 'women's', 'middles' and 'children's' but they were also made to measure.



**Jeremy Atkinson**  
**Master Clogmaker**

He would carefully measure the customer's foot and make up a paper pattern. He would then

hand carve the soles of the clog. The leather uppers cut out in accordance with a paper pattern, the method of working being the same as clicking in bootmaking, inserting stiffeners at the heels, lace holes and eyelets fitted and then assembled with the wooden soles.

Clogs are still made in Britain today. Jeremy Atkinson is the last person in England following a centuries old craft. Others use machine soles but Jeremy still practices the old traditions.



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Music by Jerry Bock

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# Harold Brighthouse

Harold Brighthouse was born in Eccles, Salford, the eldest child of John Southworth Brighthouse, a manager in a cotton – spinning firm, and Charlotte Amelia Brighthouse née Harrison, a headmistress. Harold went to a local school, and then won a scholarship to Manchester Grammar School. He left school aged 17 and started work as a textile buyer in a shipping merchant's office. In 1902 he went to London to set up an office for his firm. There he met Emily Lynes and married her in Lillington, Leamington Spa in 1907. He was promoted at work and returned to Manchester but in 1908 he became a full time writer.

His first play was *Lonesome Like*, but the first to be produced was *The Doorway*. This was performed in 1909 at Annie Horniman's Gaiety Theatre in Manchester and produced by Ben Iden Payne. Horniman and Payne gave strong support to Brighthouse in the early stages of his career. Many of his plays were one-act pieces; three of the best of these were published together as *Three Lancashire Plays* (*The Northerners*, *Zack* and *The*

*Game*) in 1920. All of these plays were set in Lancashire but Brighthouse also wrote plays of a different type, such as *The Oak Settle* and *Maid of France*. His most successful play was *Hobson's Choice*, first produced in 1915 in New York where Payne was working. It was first produced in England in 1916 at the Apollo Theatre, London, where it ran for 246 performances. The play was made into a film, directed by David Lean, in 1953, and it was produced at the National Theatre at the Old Vic, London in 1964. The *Crucible* Theatre, Sheffield staged a revival in June 2011 directed by Christopher Luscombe and starring Barrie Rutter, Zoe Waites and Philip McGinley.

Brighthouse also wrote novels, including *Hepplestalls*, concerning a Lancashire mill-owning family in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In addition he wrote many reviews and other pieces for the *Manchester Guardian*. He was a member of the *Dramatists' Club* and in 1930-31 was chairman of the *Society of Authors'* dramatic committee. After 1931 he wrote no more full-

length plays. His autobiography *What I Have Had* was published in 1953.

In the First World War, Brighthouse was declared unfit for combat, but joined what later became the Royal Air Force, and was seconded to the Air Ministry Intelligence Staff, where in his spare time he wrote *Hobson's Choice*. In 1919 he moved to Hampstead, London. In 1958 he collapsed in the Strand and died the following day in Charing Cross Hospital.







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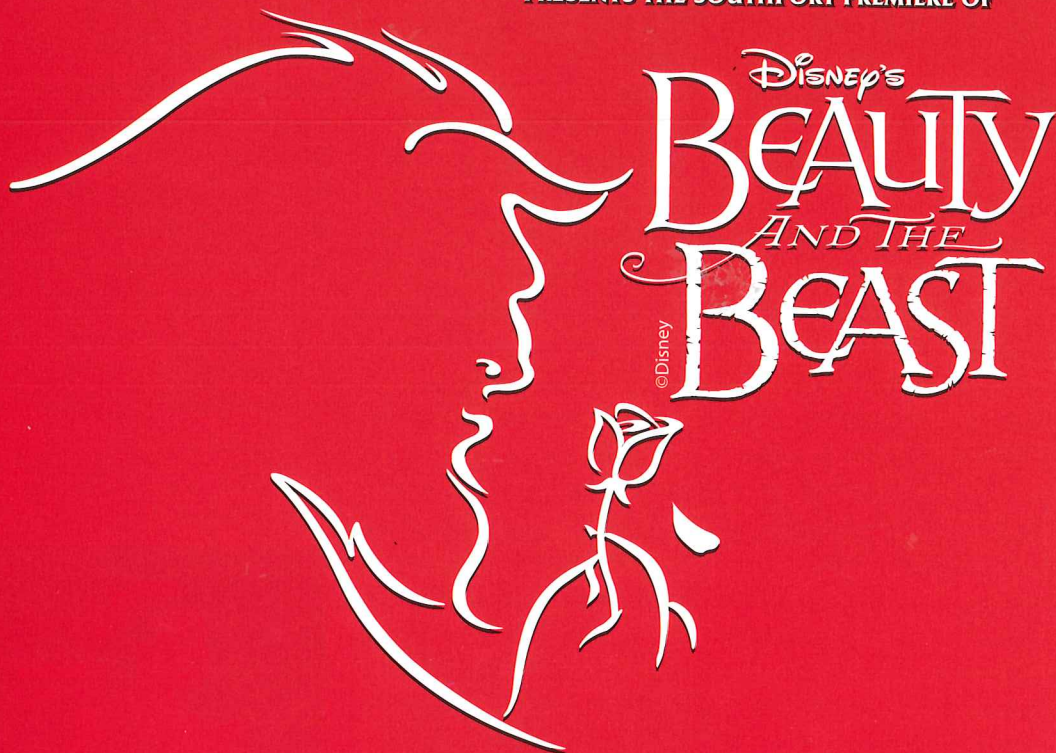
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Lyrics by

Book by

**Alan Menken   Howard Ashman & Tim Rice   Linda Woolverton**

Directed on Broadway by

Originally Produced by

**Robert Jess Roth**

**Disney Theatrical Productions**

## LITTLE THEATRE, SOUTHPORT

**Saturday 8th - Saturday 15th October, 2011**

**Evenings start at 7.30pm**

**Matinee Saturday 8th & 15th at 2.00pm**

**Advance Ticket Sales Tel: 01704 564042**

**Theatre Box Office opens Saturday 1st October 2011.**

**11am - 2.30pm Tel: 01704 530521**



# Synopsis of Scenes

The action takes place in Salford, Lancashire,

Time: 1880



Act I

Interior of Hobson's Shop in Chapel Street

Act II

Interior of Hobson's Shop in Chapel Street

Act III

Will Mossop's Shop

Act IV

Living-room of Hobson's Shop



There will be two intervals, one between Acts II and III and a short interval between Acts III and IV to allow for a change of scenery

We recommend that you beat the rush and pre-order your drinks in the bar prior to the performance.

# The cast of *V*



**Alice Hobson**

The middle daughter of Henry Hobson. She is in love with Albert Prosser. While she works in the shop, she does not have the ability to do any worthwhile work, as proved when she has to take over Maggie's job.

**Kate Hargreaves**



**Maggie Hobson**

The proof of the saying that "behind every great man is a great woman." She is the backbone of Hobson's business but is extremely under-valued by her father. Maggie has ambition and she intends to fulfil her life's ambitions and doesn't mind who she upsets to get what she wants.

**Helen Bennett**



**Vicky Hobson**

The youngest of the Hobson girls and can wrap her father round her little finger. Along with her sister, Alice, she is 'window dressing' in the shop. She is in love with Freddie Beenstock and is keen to settle down and have a family of her own.

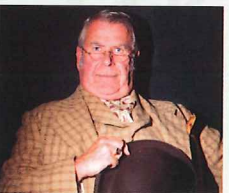
**Ceri Watkins**



**Albert Prosser**

A local solicitor in love with Alice Hobson. He regularly visits her at the shop and falls prey to Maggie's sales techniques.

**Eric Chadwick**



**Henry Horatio Hobson**

Owner of Hobson's Bootmakers. Now a widower, he relies on his daughters to look after him and run his home and shop. He loves the sound of his own voice and regularly expresses his opinions at the local pub. However, his drinking and his pride leads to his downfall.

**Arnold Gorse**



**Mrs Hepworth**

A local wealthy customer who will only allow Willie Mossop to make boots for her and her daughters.

**Ann Richards**



# Hobson's Choice



**Timothy Wadlow (Tubby)**

Faithful worker in Hobson's workshop who is not keen to take responsibility for business decisions.

**Ed Robinson**



**William Mossop**

Worker in Hobson's workshop who has a natural talent for making magnificent quality boots. He is engaged to Ada Figgins and quite contented with his life until Maggie decides to turn his world upside down.

**Adrian Roberts**



**Jim Heeler**

Best friend of Henry Hobson and a regular drinking partner who enlightens Hobson of what is expected of a father when marrying off his daughters.

**Jacky Samuels**



**Ada Figgins**

Daughter of the owner of the house Will Mossop lodges at. She has set her eyes on Will and, albeit reluctantly, Will has agreed to be tokened to her.

**Laura-Jane Palmer**



**Fred Beenstock**

Local corn merchant who is in love with Vicky Hobson. An accident at his father's business premises turns out to be a blessing in disguise.

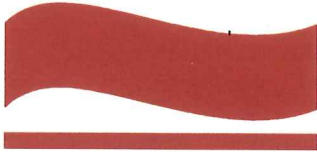
**Simon Hawkins**



**Dr McFarlane**

Local GP who delivers Hobson some bad news.

**Gregory Russell**



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# Staging

Director .....	Poppy Flanagan
Prompt .....	Jean Watkinson
Wardrobe .....	Celia Timmington Geoffrey Timmington
Properties .....	Celia Timmington Geoffrey Timmington Elizabeth Littlejohn Derek Littlejohn
Stage Manager .....	Alan Morris
Set Design .....	Peter Beswick
Lighting Design .....	Syd Coley Alan Gosling
Sound Design .....	Brian Hodge
Set Construction .....	SDC Construction Team
Scenic Artist .....	Bob Jessamine
Photographs .....	Fletcherhill Photography
Programme Editor .....	Jacquie Bolshaw
Programme Content & Research .....	Sallyanne Smerdon
Programme Layout and Design .....	Mitchell & Wright (Printers) Ltd

The music in this evening's performance was *Hobson's Theme* and *Maggie and Willies Theme* by Malcolm Arnold and *Clog Dance* from *La Fille mal Gardée* by Nicholas Ferdinand Herold.

## Acknowledgements

The director would like to thank:

Celia and Geoffrey Timmington for the time they have spent driving around the country sourcing costumes and props.

The boys and girls back stage for bringing together THREE sets with which to open the season.

To the cast, for putting up with me changing my mind and to Jean Watkinson, our prompt, for attempting to keep us on the right page.

Cameras and recording equipment may not be operated during performances. Kindly ensure that your mobile phone is switched off.

## 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 co-operation 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.

Designated premises Supervisor,  
Alan Newport



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# History of the Guardian Newspaper

The Guardian newspaper started life as the Manchester Guardian. It was founded in 1821 by John Edward Taylor with the intention of promoting the liberal interest in the aftermath of the Peterloo Massacre and the growing campaign to repeal the Corn Laws that flourished in Manchester during this period. It was a weekly publication until the abolition of stamp duty on newspapers permitting a subsequent reduction in cover price (to 2d) allowing the paper to be published daily.

The Guardian achieved national and international recognition under the editorship of C. P. Scott, who held the post for 57 years from 1872. Scott bought the paper in 1907 following the death of Taylor's son and pledged that the principles laid down in

the founder's will would be upheld by retaining the independence of the newspaper. He outlined those principles in a much-quoted article written to celebrate the centenary of the paper: "Comment is free, but facts are sacred... The voice of opponents no less than that of friends has a right to be heard".

Unable to pay crippling death duties, Scott's son handed over ownership of the Guardian to the Scott Trust. The Scott family kept an interest in the running of the company until 1984 when, aged 70, Richard F Scott retired from the chairmanship of the Trust.

The editor of the paper moved to London in 1964, committing the Guardian to an uncertain future in the national market, and shortly afterward financial problems

came to a head. The paper relied heavily on the Manchester Evening News for financial support, and in the mid-60s the threat to the paper's future grew severe enough for the chairman of the Scott Trust to approach the Times to discuss the possibility of a merger. The Times was in a similarly perilous financial situation, and many were of the opinion that there was only room for one competitor for the Telegraph. Eventually the talks came to nothing, but not before a serious examination of the logistics involved had been considered on both sides. Alastair Hetherington, the editor at this time, remained a staunch advocate of the Guardian's independence, and the modern paper owes much to his leadership and vision during this period.







**Jan Hale**

Director

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# Prescription For Murder

By Norman Robbins

Set in the quaint English village of Bere Knighton in north Devon, it's a fine example of cleverly constructed murder mystery delivered by elegantly carved characters that may or may not have something to hide.

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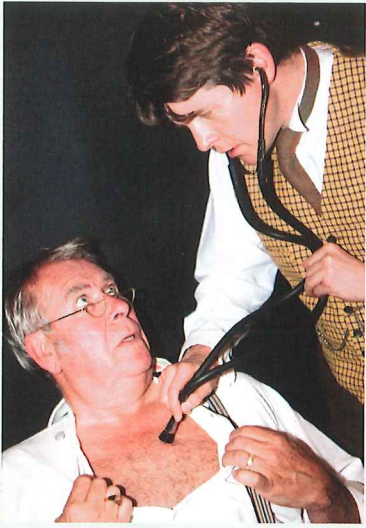
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# Brain Teaser

Why not exercise your brain and learn about a few more plays written by Harold Brighouse? From the list of eight plays below, find them hidden in the grid. They can be vertical, horizontal or diagonal. See how many you can find!

THE NORTHERNERS - HOBSON'S CHOICE - LONESOMELIKE  
ONCE UPON A HERO - ZACK  
THE GAME - GRAFT - GARSIDES CAREER

H D J M S C G A R S I D E S C A R E E R  
O L T W R G B M K J S Q A Z D F R O M H  
B V M G Q D X N K R U W S J O M G Q E P  
S R E N R E H T R O N E H T V N D S G H  
O M R U G A D E U N O P M H F S E T M X  
N F D W M R F M K C G F W F C Z S W T M  
S F E H K L N T R E E R B F D E H K L P  
C F D F R H Y I O U P W F Y J K M W R Y  
H G J L T E G M L P D E H Y M K Q A F G  
O H K O U T E W G O V K C G J L Y E J R  
I F H T K J F S G N C B F Q Y J H E T U  
C E H G H L M V R A R E Y F D W X F H P  
E D E W Q T R M Z H C N M I T S Q O R Y  
R Q J Y O L G E A E V X C E T U W T F E  
F D W Y F J I P N R R F S H I H F H R Q  
W C G J K R S V F O V L R Q E R U E V N  
G S D Y K P M H F H K M C X A E T G Z T  
W T U D J K P W G C R A H K U W R A B X  
G S D T R J C U T R Z U K M H T U M U Q  
K P F Y E O L O N E S O M E L I K E F M



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By Norman Robbins

Directed by Jan Hale

**Maghull Musical  
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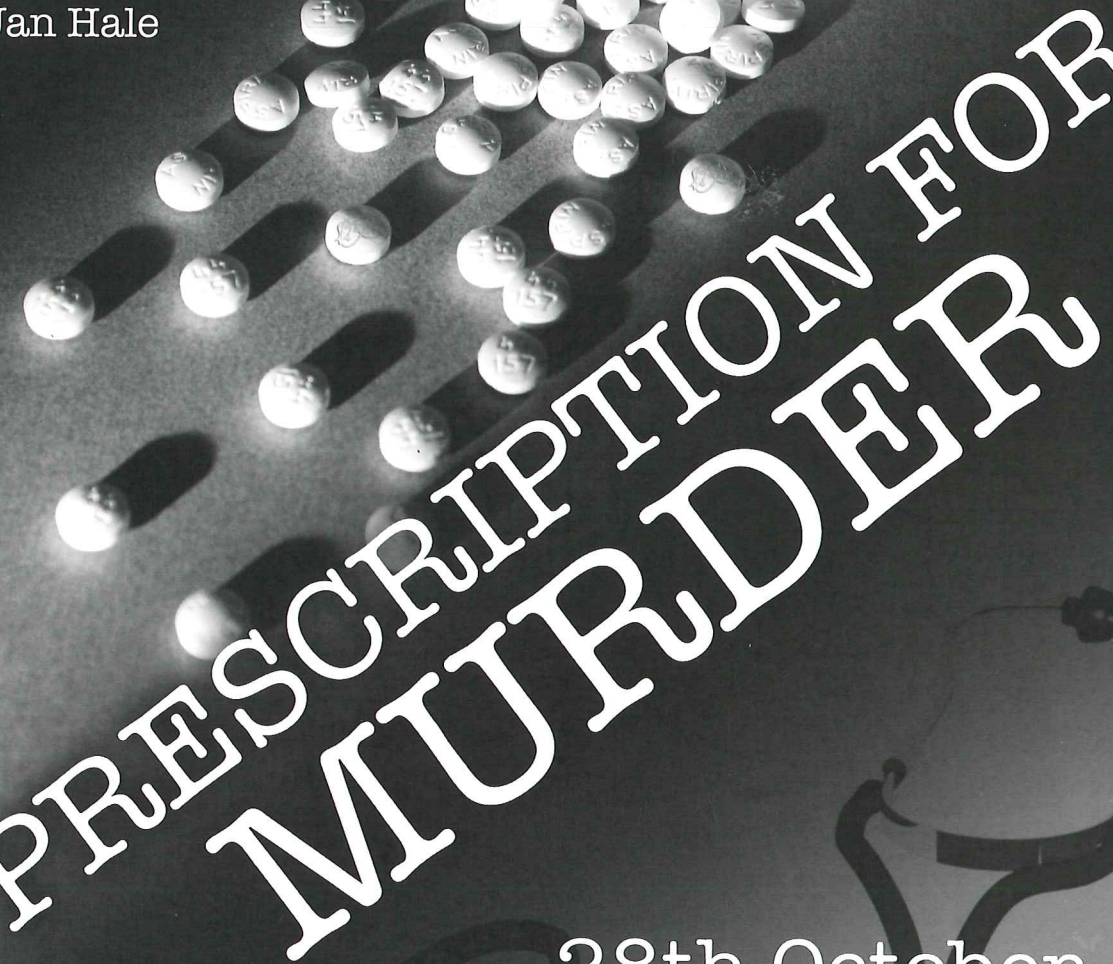
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# Southport Dramatic Club

Written by  
Norman Robbins

Directed by  
Jan Hale



# PRESCRIPTION FOR MURDER

28th October -  
5th November 2011  
at 7.45pm

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**LITTLE THEATRE**  
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Box Office Opens: 21st October 2011 at 11am

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