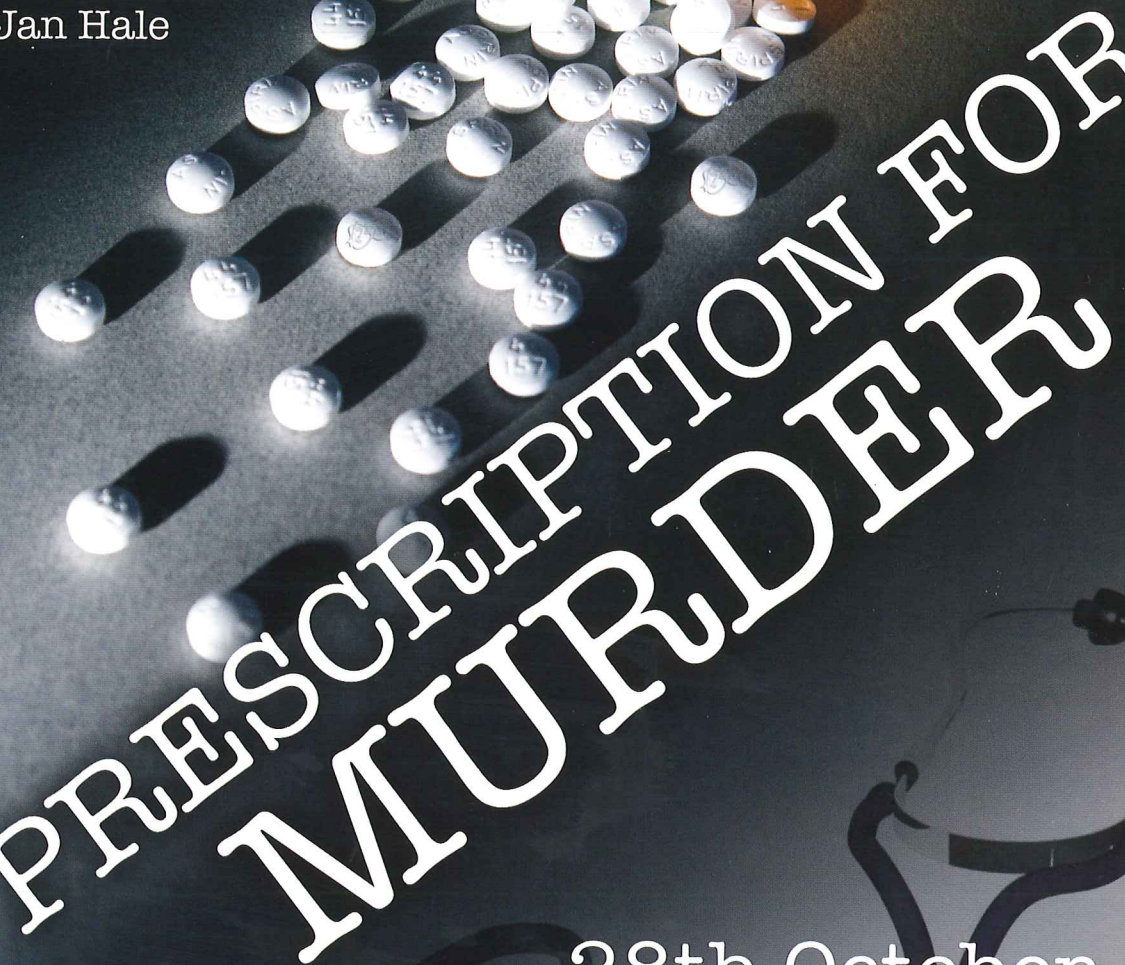


# Southport Dramatic Club

Written by  
Norman Robbins

Directed by  
Jan Hale



# PRESCRIPTION FOR MURDER

28th October -  
5th November 2011  
at 7.45pm

Sponsored by



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Fax: 01704 500113

Email: [southport@dsg.uk.com](mailto:southport@dsg.uk.com)



# Directors notes

Good evening

Welcome to an evening of Mystery, suspense, twists and turns, red herrings and a laugh or two along the way.

Not only the world's most successful and prolific pantomime writer, Norman Robbins has entertained audiences for almost fifty years with his thrillers and comedies. Over ten thousand productions, professional and amateur, have taken his name around the world. During his forty-year acting career, he appeared on stage, television and radio with Ken Dodd, Ronnie Barker, Hilda Baker, Morecambe and Wise, Roy Hudd, Harry Worth, and many others.



**Jan Hale**

Director

Tonight I hope you will be entertained by his recent murder mystery

I am delighted to be presenting this play and

sincerely hope you enjoy the performance as much as I have enjoyed working with a talented and richly experienced cast to bring you to the edge of your seats.

My grateful thanks go to all the hardworking heroes, backstage, sound, lighting, props and front of house, box office all those who contribute greatly to bring our plays to life.

Please sit back in your seats and enjoy this evening's performance

*Jan Hale  
Director*



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# Some doctors who murder their patients

It is a sad fact of life that some people working in the medical profession not only save lives, but they also take lives intentionally. We only have to look back a short time in history to remember Dr. Harold Shipman, who was found guilty of murdering at least 215 of his patients. The true number will never be

known as Shipman continually denied his crimes. He showed no remorse during his trial and we will never know the real reason he took his life whilst in prison.

Doctors are not the only people in the medical profession who have abused their position. Beverley Allitt became known as The

Angel of Death after murdering her patients. Her crime seemed even more shocking as her patients were all young babies and children. Luckily, these murderers are a very, very small minority of the medical profession.



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presents

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Evenings 7.30pm

Saturday matinee 2.15pm

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"Matchmaker"

Director: Ian Culshaw  
Musical Director: John Boydell  
Choreographer: Gaynor Hale

Book by Joseph Stein  
Lyrics by Sheldon Harnick  
Music by Jerry Bock

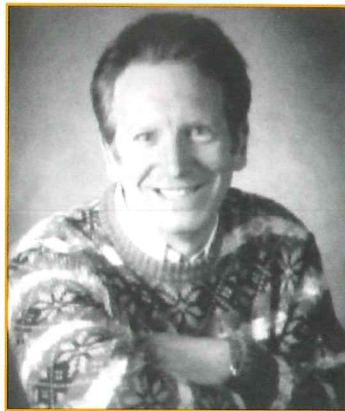
This amateur production is presented by arrangement with JOSEF WEINBERGER Limited  
on behalf of MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL of New York



# Norman Robbins

Norman Robbins was born in Yorkshire in the mid-1930s. He worked for the Yorkshire Evening Post before a County Major Award enabled him to study drama in Birmingham

He made his professional debut in pantomime at the Hippodrome Theatre in 1965, with Ken Dodd. Over the next 15 years, he appeared with many other show business greats such as Roy Barraclough, Jimmy Jewell, Wilfred Pickles and several of the "Carry On" team. He also appeared on television and was seen in "Open All Hours", "Last of the Summer Wine", "Grange Hill" and many, many more. For several years he was on tour in Britain and Canada with Danny La Rue. He was invited to teach drama at Iowa State University as a visiting professor in 1979. During this period he directed one of his own pantomimes, creating a box office record that remains intact to this day. The Des Moines Register hailed it as 'The first



Norman Robbins

Author

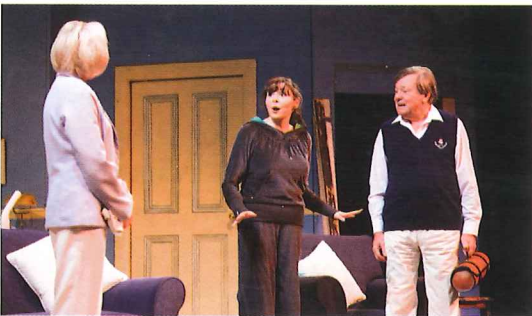
truly successful British pantomime ever performed in America' and a later production of the show became the first British pantomime ever shown on American television.

On his return to England, he appeared on television, radio, film and stage, eventually finding himself in demand as a truly traditional pantomime 'Dame', a role he has now played for over twenty years. With an impressive list of scripts to his name and over ten thousand professional and amateur productions of them to his credit, he shows little sign of slowing down, although he ended his professional

acting days in 1999 at the Hall for Cornwall as an Ugly Sister in "Cinderella". Writing, however, still occupies much of his time and he occasionally directs for amateur dramatic and operatic societies.

His recent book on the evolution of British Pantomime has been highly praised both here and abroad. He was nominated and short listed for two literary awards and continues to sell strongly all over the world. His most recent play "Where there's a Will..." broke all box office records for the Tiverton Dramatic Society (who premiered it in spring 2003) and was published by Kenyon-Dean in 2004.

He and his family live in Devon. He is married to actress Ailsa Robbins and they have two children. Their son is a zoologist and their daughter an opera singer.





# Synopsis of Scenes

The action takes place in the living-room of the Forths' detached house in Bere Knighton, North Devon.

Time: 1930s

Act 1

Scene 1: Friday afternoon

Scene 2: The following Saturday, early evening

Act 2

Scene 1: The following Wednesday, early afternoon

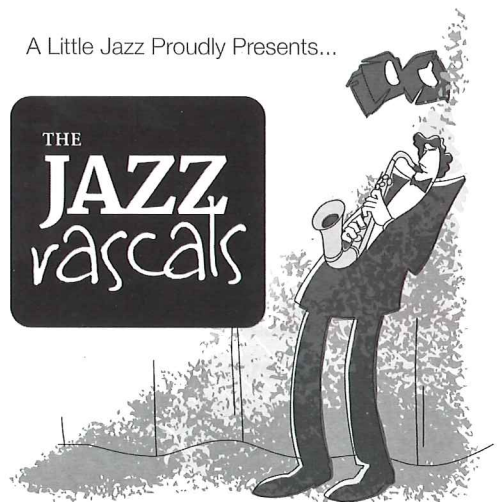
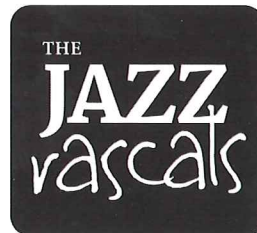
Scene 2: The following Friday morning

There will be an interval of 20 minutes  
between the two acts

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



A Little Jazz Proudly Presents...



Saturday 19th November 2011

8:30pm at the Little Theatre Bar

Little Theatre, Hoghton Street, Southport, PR9 0PA

Tickets only £5 on the door, however we recommend  
booking in advance due to limited numbers call  
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# The cast of Prescr



Catherine Leight

## Barbara Forth

Barbara met Richard on holiday in Switzerland, and following a whirlwind romance, they married there. Unfortunately, she finds day to day living with him in his home not quite what she expected.



Brendan Gillow

## Dr. Richard Forth

Richard arrived in the village of Bere Knighton six years ago following the death of his wife. However, he is regretting his hasty second marriage following their whirlwind romance.



Diane Mackley

## Dorothy Livingstone

Local village resident who earns some extra cash cleaning the larger houses in the area. She made it her duty to welcome Barbara into their close community following her marriage.



Jacquie Wade

## Mary Haigh

Good friend of Richard and Barbara. She is a member of the local Women's Institute and organises charity events in the village as well as her husband's life.



# ption For Murder



Allan Haigh

Mary's long suffering husband. His passion is bowling but his wife doesn't like him talking about it.

Ray Mann



Eric Dawson

Computer salesman from Buxton on a business trip to the area. He is also looking for his ex-fiancé who he believes is married to Richard.

Ronnie Orr

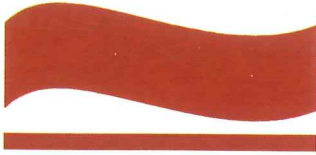


Julia Moore

Village femme fatale, rumoured to be very wealthy. She is in love with Richard and was devastated when he returned from Switzerland with a new wife.

Elaine Cox





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# Staging

Director .....	Jan Hale
Prompt .....	Lynn Hawksworth
Wardrobe .....	Sherel Coley
Properties .....	Sandy Town
	Barry King
	Ann Richards
	Lynn Gosling
Stage Manager .....	Robert Jones
Set Design .....	SDC Construction Team
Lighting Design .....	Syd Coley
Sound Design .....	Brian Hodge
	Pete Beswick
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

## Music in this production:

“Minuet” - Boccherini

“Piano Concerto No21  
in C major 2nd Movement” - Mozart

“Libiamo” from “La Traviata” - Verdi

### 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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# Funny things that have happened...

Here are some stories about patients - I promise, they really are 100% true.

A 28-year old male was brought into the Emergency Room after an attempted suicide. The man had swallowed several nitroglycerin pills and a bottle of vodka. When asked about the bruises about his head and chest he said that they were from him ramming himself into the wall in an attempt to make the nitroglycerin explode.

In Istanbul, a man was recently admitted to hospital with two broken legs, a fractured pelvis, and severe burns to his genitals. Apparently, his wife tried to kill a cockroach first by stamping on it, then by trying to flush it down the toilet, then spraying it with a bug spray whilst it floated in the bowl. The ill-fated gentleman then rushed in to urinate, and dropped his cigarette butt into the toilet. The fumes ignited, causing the aforementioned burns. Paramedics were duly summoned, who put him on a stretcher, and then when told how it had happened, laughed so much that they dropped him down the stairs breaking his legs and pelvis.

In South Africa, The Cape Times reports that every Friday over a period of months a couple of years ago, hospital staff found the patient occupying a certain bed in intensive care lying dead with no apparent cause. At first it seemed coincidental. Then doctors feared a 'killer disease'. Deaths continued. Finally, a nurse noticed the Friday cleaning lady doing her weekly chores. This maid would enter the ward, unplug the life-support system beside the bed, plug in her floor polisher, clean the ward, and once again plug in the patient, leaving no trace of the cause of the patient's death. How many died in the South African Floor Polisher Massacre?

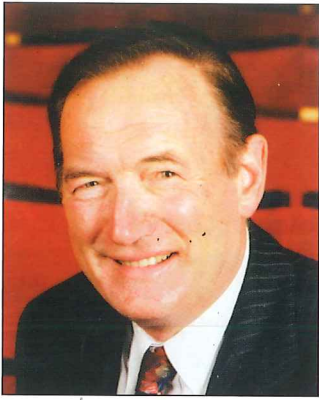
An old lady dialled 999 after falling over in her house at Iffley, Oxfordshire. She didn't wake the other members of the family. As the ambulance men were carrying her out of the front door on a stretcher, her son roused from his slumbers by the noise staggered onto the landing, panicked at the sight of strange men in his home, and tripped all the way downstairs, knocking himself out. His wife came rushing out of the bedroom to see what was wrong.

Observing her husband lying on the hall floor, she promptly fainted and fell downstairs herself. The paramedics now had three casualties to take to A&E instead of one. The tally rapidly became four when the family dog rampaged furiously into the hall, and inflicted an indignant bite on the bottom of one of the ambulance men. 'It was quite a night, actually!'

As a nurse midwife in a hospital, we know babies are slippery. After delivering the baby, the doctor dropped it into the bucket. Fortunately, it wasn't harmed. Then, he dropped it a second time, and again, the baby was unharmed. And what was the doctor's quick remark to the parents? 'Sometimes we have to drop them twice to get them to cry.'

Overhead in a busy clinic as a receptionist spoke to an obviously hard-of-hearing patient: 'No, Mrs Smith, not the hearse, I'm sending the nurse!'

Doctor: 'Are you on HRT?'  
Patient: 'No, income support'.



David Davies  
Director

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**directed by David Davies**

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# Brain Teaser

How did you do last month finding the Harold Brighouse plays in the Wordsearch? Have another try this month and learn other productions written by Norman Robbins! From the list of eight plays and pantomimes below, find them hidden in the grid. They can be vertical, horizontal or diagonal. See how many you can find!

SING A SONG OF SIXPENCE : THE LATE MRS EARLY  
NIGHTMARE : MOTHERGOOSE : TOM THE PIPERS SON  
SNOW WHITE : PULL THE OTHER ONE : CINDERELLA

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

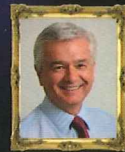
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## The Deep Blue Sea

By Terence Rattigan  
Directed by David Davies

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SDC Production



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Directed by Margaret Mann

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Company  
Production

Box Office opens:  
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8th - 10th March 2012

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Terence Rattigan's classic drama



# The Deep Blue Sea

directed by David Davies

25th November -  
3rd December 2011

7.45pm



Box Office Opens: 18th November 2011 at 11am

Box Office Tel: (01704) 530521/530460

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