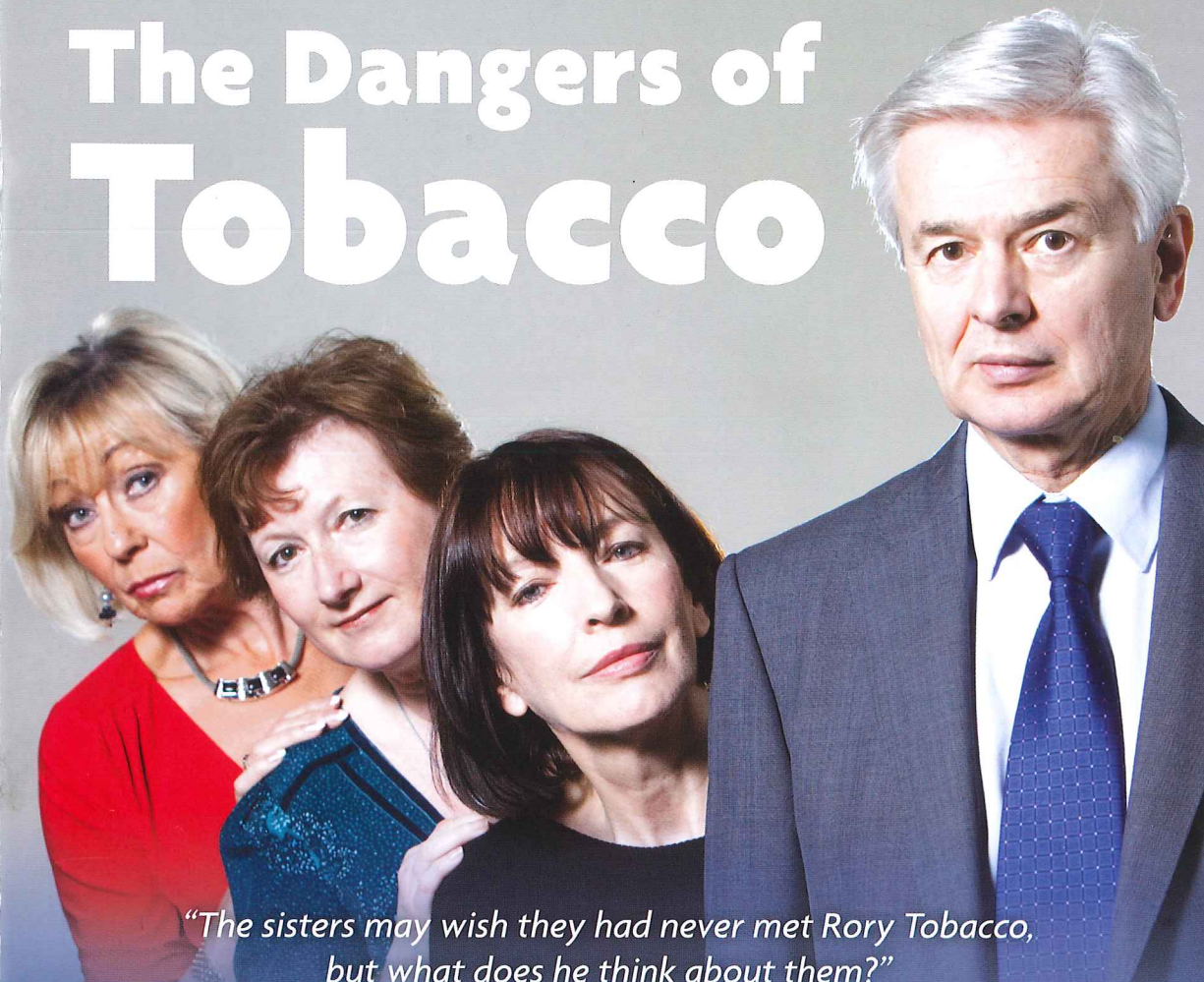


Southport Dramatic Club

LITTLE THEATRE
75th
ANNIVERSARY 1937 - 2012

A comedy written and directed by Alistair Hewitt

The Dangers of Tobacco



"The sisters may wish they had never met Rory Tobacco, but what does he think about them?"

4th - 12th May 2012

7.45pm

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Home of the
Southport Dramatic Club

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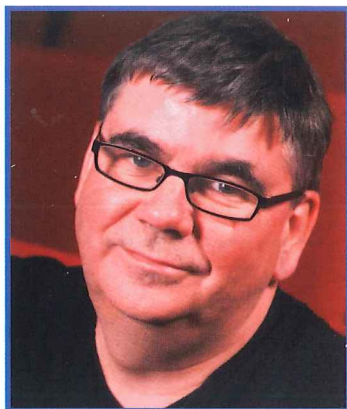
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Director's notes

It is always an honour and a delight to direct a play for the Southport Dramatic Club and being able to direct a play 'what I wrote' has doubled the thrill of it all.

Of course, only a tiny part of what you see tonight is down to me and I would like to thank everyone, from the cast to the backstage and technical crew, to the people who sold and checked your tickets and those who served you drinks. Because all of



Alistair Hewitt
Writer & Director

them work so hard, throughout the season, to make this Little Theatre the place that it is.

I simply hope that some of the pleasure that we have had, putting this production together, is shared by you, the audience, as you watch it.

What I am trying to say is, enjoy the show...

Alistair Hewitt
Writer & Director



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Alistair Hewitt

Alistair Hewitt began his writing career in earnest in 1999, when he took an M.A. in 'Writing for Film and Television' at Sheffield University, where his personal tutor was the late, great Jack Rosenthal.

Realising that there was little chance of getting a film script produced, he quickly turned to writing plays that he could direct and produce himself. His first adult play was *Spending Frank*, a story about a woman's desperate desire to have a child. Written for SDC friends past and present, it was first performed at the Unity Theatre in Liverpool. A

re-written version of the play was later produced professionally at the Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough, to some acclaim, and later by Borderline Theatre in Scotland, where it enjoyed a month long tour.

In 2008 Alistair wrote a community play, *Tales From the Melling Road*, for Liverpool's European Year of Culture and a second production followed, performed by the SDC Youth Theatre.

The Dangers of Tobacco was originally written for the SDC out of season bar

production in 2009. Now he is delighted to be able to put the play on to the main stage. The version you will see tonight is updated from the original, but has most of the same cast.

Alistair has been a member of the SDC since 1989. He has acted in and directed many plays in this time and is very honoured to have been chosen as the next chairman of the club.

Alistair is Assistant Headteacher/Director of Performing Arts at Maghull High School, where he has worked for 24 years.





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Music by **RICHARD RODGERS** Lyrics by **OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II**

Book by **HOWARD LINDSAY** and **RUSSEL CROUSE**

Suggested by 'The Trapp Family Singers' by Maria Augusta Trapp

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with **JOSEF WEINBERGER LTD.**

on behalf of **R&H Theatricals of New York**

Artistic Director

Liz Clarke

Musical Director

Tom Chester

Choreographer

Mandy Evans

LITTLE THEATRE
HOGHTON STREET, SOUTHPORT

Saturday 26th May - Saturday 2nd June, 2012

Evenings start at 7.30pm

Matinee Saturday 2nd June at 2.00pm

Advance Ticket Sales Tel: 01704 564042

Theatre Box Office opens Saturday 19th May 2012

11.00am - 2.30pm Tel: 01704 530521



A look at The Dangers of Tobacco

THE Dangers of Tobacco is a comedy, not about smoking, but about relationships. It revolves around three sisters and one man, Rory Tobacco. It was first staged as a Bar/Studio production in the Little Theatre Bar in May 2009 by the Southport Dramatic Club.

The action takes place on a summer's day in the conservatory of Marie, who is the eldest of the three sisters. The play opens with Marie and Cissie (another one of the sisters) talking about Rory and we learn that Marie is divorced from Rory. Both sisters have had a 'phone call from Eva, the youngest sister, insisting they meet at Marie's.

Marie provides a lot of the laughs in the play and the playwright, Alistair Hewitt, uses malapropisms in Marie's speech as a way of introducing the comedy: for example she says, "*I would not have attended a single one of his tediously sycofranco dinners.*"

Cissie is very confident and we learn that she has had a lot of boyfriends. Eva, who is a local councillor, and bossy, is less experienced with men than Cissie and Cissie likes to make fun of her because of this.

Rory Tobacco does not make his first appearance into the action until almost half way through the play, and by then the audience knows a

lot about him. They know he is a local businessman and involved with the Chamber of Commerce, the Round Table and the Town's Mens' Guild.

As Marie, Cissie and Eva are sisters they can speak their minds and Alistair Hewitt in the programme for the original 2009 production wrote that he chose sisters as he thought this might make for good drama.

Although The Dangers of Tobacco is a comedy, there are serious and thought-provoking moments as well.

At the end of the play will the three sisters still be talking and what will be the fate of Rory Tobacco?



Maghull Musical Theatre Company

presents

Jekyll & Hyde

The Musical
at the Little Theatre, Southport PR9 OPA

Book and Lyrics by Leslie Bricusse

Music by Frank Wildhorn

Conceived for the stage by Steve Cuden & Frank Wildhorn

Orchestration by Kim Schamberg Arrangements by Jason Howland

Wednesday 13th June - Saturday 16th June 2012

Evenings 7.30pm Saturday Matinee 2.15pm

Directed by: Neil Townsend

Musical Director: Andrew Standeven

Choreographer: Betty Hall

*This amateur production is presented by Josef Weinberger Limited on Behalf of
Music Theatre International of New York*

Ticket Prices £10 to £12

Advanced Bookings until 5th June to Betty and Graham on

01695 632 372

and then from 6th June to the Little Theatre Box Office, PR9 OPA

(11.00am - 5.00pm) 01704 530 521

Synopsis of Scenes

Act 1

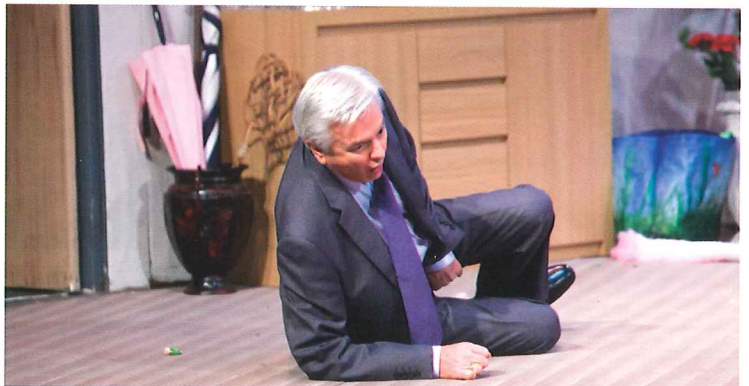
The action of the play takes place on a Summer's afternoon in the conservatory of Marie Tobacco.

Act 2

The same 5 minutes later

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.



The Dangers

cast (in order



Marie
Jacquie Wade



Cissie
Samantha



Rory Tobacco
Mike Yates

s of Tobacco

of appearance)



ssie
a Roberts



Eva
Helen Bennett



Natalia
Michelle Pappini

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Staging

Stage Manager	Lindsay Haywood
Assistant Stage Manager (Prompt)	Jean Watkinson
Properties	The Props. Team
Wardrobe	Sherel Coley
Michelle Pappini's Make-up	Samantha McMullen
Lighting Design	Alan Gosling
Sound Design	Brian Hodge
Set Construction & Design	SDC Construction Team
Scenic Artist	Bob Jessamine
Photographs	Fletcherhill Photography
Programme Editor	Jacquie Bolshaw
Programme Content & Research	Henry James, Alistair Hewitt & Margaret Mann
Programme Layout and Design	Mitchell & Wright (Printers) Ltd

Music in this production

Shostakovich - *Ballet Suite No. 1*

Acknowledgements

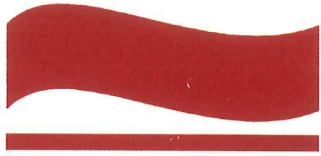
The Director would like to thank: Lady Green Garden Centre
for the loan of foliage for the set.

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.

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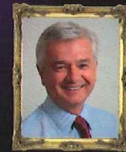


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The Little Theatre Guild



During the weekend of 18th – 20th May we shall be welcoming delegates from amateur theatres throughout Britain to the National Conference of the Little Theatre Guild. The Guild consists of a group of one hundred and four prestigious theatre companies, all of which have sole control over their theatres. We are delighted that Southport Dramatic Club will be hosting this event in this our seventy - fifth anniversary year. The S.D.C. joined the L.T.G. in 1967. Then , as a young, mini skirted, member, I was asked by those who were organising the event, to help. I did so and, since then, I have been heavily involved in the Guild, organising subsequent conferences and being National Chairman of the Guild in the nineties.

The Guild's Patron is the charismatic, superb actor, Sir Ian McKellan. He is very involved with the Guild's activities and visits our theatres whenever his international commitments permit. At present, he is working in New Zealand so he will skype or record a message to the delegates here in Southport. I was



Margaret Mann with the Guild's Patron, Sir Ian McKellan

fortunate to be the first person during Sir Ian's patronage to be made an Honorary Associate of the Guild.

Many famous actors and directors started their careers on the amateur stage, for example: Sir Ian at Bolton, Mandy Richardson, here. At National Conferences (which occur annually) a programme of workshops and lectures is provided by the host theatre which are conducted by a range of well-known experts. We shall also be welcoming the President of the Southport Dramatic Club, Ian Judge, who is currently directing opera in Hollywood, and will be a guest speaker. As well as the

workshops, our conference programme will include a presentation by our Youth Theatre members and we are proud that the production which the delegates will attend on the Saturday evening, "*The Dangers of Tobacco*", is written by our Vice Chairman, Alistair Hewitt.

It will be a fun weekend! However, organising the event's programme and making sure that every delegate will be looked after from Friday evening to Sunday lunch has required dedicated work from the organising committee and the various departments of the S.D.C. The theatre complex, too, has had a Jubilee Spring Clean so that Southport's hidden gem will be at its sparkling best!

Margaret Mann
L.T.G. Rep for Southport
And Northern Region
Secretary



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Brain Teaser

75th Anniversary of Southport Little Theatre

1. On what date were the two theatre foundation stones laid?
2. On what date did the first play open in the newly constructed theatre?
3. What was the title of the opening play?
4. Approximately how much was spent on building and equipping the theatre?
5. In which year was the Southport Dramatic Club formed?





Robin Hirsch
Writer & Director

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5th - 9th June 2012

SDC's Bar/Studio Production

A multi-faceted drama

by Jim Cartwright,

directed by Robin Hirsch

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COMING SOON
to the Little Theatre
Home of the Southport Dramatic Club



**Birkdale
Orpheus
Society
Production**

26th May - 2 June 2012
**The Sound of
Music**

Music by Richard Rodgers
Lyrics by
Oscar Hammerstein II
By arrangement with Josef
Weinburger Ltd

Box Office Opens:
19th May 2012
Advance
bookings
01704 564042

**Loreto
Bamber
Dance
Academy
Production**

22nd - 23rd June 2012
**Dance
Summer
Show**

Box Office Opens:
21st June 2012
Advance
bookings
01704 538351

**SDC
Bar/Studio
Production**



5th - 9th June 2012
SDC's Bar/Studio Production

Two

A multi-faceted drama
By Jim Cartwright
Directed by Robin Hirsch

Box Office Opens:
28th May 2012
at 11.00am

**Southport
Spotlight
Musical
Theatre Society
Production
(Formerly S.A.O.S.)**

30th June - 7th July 2012
**The
Producers**

Book by Mel Brooks and
Thomas Meehan
Music and Lyrics by Mel Brooks
by arrangement with Josef
Weinburger Ltd

Box Office Opens:
25th June 2012
Advance
bookings
01704 228936

**Maghull
Musical
Theatre
Company
Production**

13th - 16th June 2012
**Jekyll &
Hyde**

Book and lyrics by
Leslie Bricusse
Music by Frank Wildhorn
By arrangement with Josef
Weinburger Ltd

Box Office Opens:
6th June 2012
Advance
bookings
01695 632372

**SDC
Youth
Theatre
Production**



3rd - 8th September 2012
SDC Youth Theatre Production

Company

By Stephen Sondheim
Directed by
Stephen Hughes-Alty

Box Office Opens:
28th Aug 2012
at 11.00am

**Old Hall
Brass
Production**

17th June 2012
**An Evening
of
Music with
Old Hall Brass**

Advanced
bookings
01942 715684

**SDC
Production**



21st - 29th September 2012

**Calendar
Girls**

A play by Tim Firth
Directed by Margaret Mann

Box Office Opens:
14th Sept 2012
at 11.00am

Box Office Tel: (01704) 530521/530460

www.littletheatresouthport.co.uk Houghton Street, Southport PR9 0PA
NO BOOKING FEES OR CARD CHARGES

Answers to the Brain Teaser questions: 1. 24th October 1936 (see either side of front entrance); 2. 30th September 1937 (see plaque next to lift on first floor); 3. "Dear Brutus"; 4. £20,000 (per Benny Darrah's History of the SDC and its Little Theatre); 5. 1920.

Southport Dramatic Club



A Bar/Studio Production

TWO

A multi-faceted drama by
Jim Cartwright,
author of
The Rise & Fall of Little Voice

directed by
Robin Hirsch



*"One evening in a
Northern pub - Two actors
- Fourteen characters"*

5th - 9th June 2012
7.45pm



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Box Office Opens: 28th May 2012 at 11.00am
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