

# Southport Dramatic Club

# OLD ACTORS NEVER DIE

A COMEDY BY  
LYNN BRITNEY

DIRECTED BY  
POPPY FLANAGAN

22ND - 30TH  
NOVEMBER 2013  
7.45PM



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# DIRECTOR'S NOTES

When I agreed to direct "Old Actors Never Die..." I did not know that I would be moving house during the last weeks of the rehearsal process. It is probably just as well that I didn't know or my answer may have been a different one.

Moving house is recognised as one of the most stressful things a person can do. Directing a play does not come without its stresses. I have to say an extra special thanks to everyone, the cast and all departments involved



**POPPY FLANAGAN**

*Director*

in getting this show on the stage for their hard work, support, patience, and for putting up with my vacant

gaze and my standard response to every question: - "Leave that with me and I'll get back to you!"

As I write, we have two weeks to go to opening night. The cast are eager to get on stage, which hopefully they will before the first dress rehearsal. Thank you for coming and we hope you have a most enjoyable evening.

*Poppy Flanagan*  
*Director*



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# LYNN BRITTNEY

Author and playwright Lynn Brittney was born in London in 1953 and since 1980 has been writing successfully. She started her career as a full time magazine journalist and then became a freelance writer for the Institute of Directors, Which?, and other national publications.

Lynn has had a number of books published including adult and children's fiction and non-fiction. Arguably her most famous are the Nathan Fox books, which have been shortlisted for prizes in this country and abroad. The first Nathan Fox book was called *Nathan Fox: Dangerous Times* (a historical spy thriller) and in 2007 it was published in this country. The book was printed in the US in 2009. It was put on a list



**LYNN BRITTNEY**

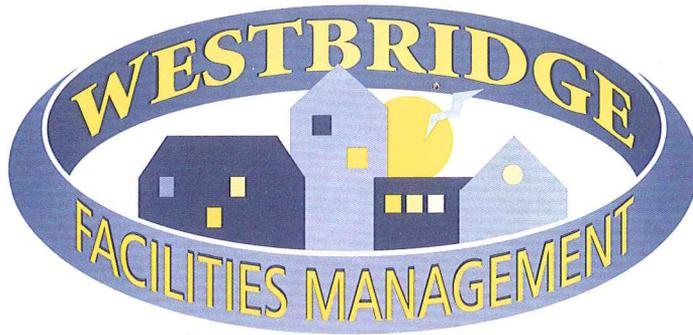
of recommended reading for teenage boys by the UK Government. The second Nathan Fox book was released in 2008.

Lynn has also written another children's book called *Christine Kringle*, which features the Christmas

adventures of Christine Kringle and her friends. Lynn is the creator of over forty children's plays and plays for adults, both one act and two. Her first plays were published by Samuel French and she has recently started a playwright's co-operative called Playstage, which has also printed her work.

Lynn's comedy *Old Actors Never Die...* was first performed in 2008. She has written other comedy plays and they are called: *Render, Reduce and Sweat, Bunkered, The Technical Rehearsal* and an adaptation of *Charles Dickens' Pickwick Papers*. They are being staged by other UK groups in the same week as you are watching the SDC production of *Old Actors Never Die...*





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# A CLOSER LOOK At OLD ACTORS NEVER DIE...

*Old Actors Never Die...* is Lynn Brittney's most successful comedy play. It received its first performance in 2008 and since then it has been staged by over one hundred drama groups in this country, Australia, America and France. The Underground Theatre Group in Eastbourne was the first company to stage the play and the Upstage Players in Lisbon, New Hampshire, is the latest society to ask for performance rights. They hope to put the play on in 2014.

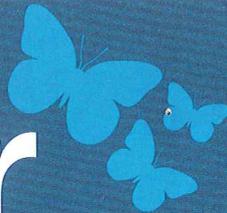
The play is set in the Mount Home for Retired Theatricals which is considered to be different, and could be seen as a country house instead of a home for the elderly. Residents are supported if they want to carry on working by the manageress, Ann Thompson, who is described as smartly dressed. Becca says: "So Ann positively encourages us all to keep working, if we can. But there's no compulsion."

As the play opens the audience is introduced to

Walter Neville, who is being shown around the home by Ann. Walter is asked by Ann if he will be joining the home. Walter, who has had small parts in 212 films, is pleased to find some of his best friends at the location. Everything is running smoothly until the husband of three of the residents, a prolific womaniser, goes missing. It is thought Russian gangsters may be after him. The ladies decide he should be rescued as he "pays the bills." So will their rescue be successful?



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# SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The action takes place in the communal lounge of the  
Mount Home for Retired Theatricals

## ACT ONE

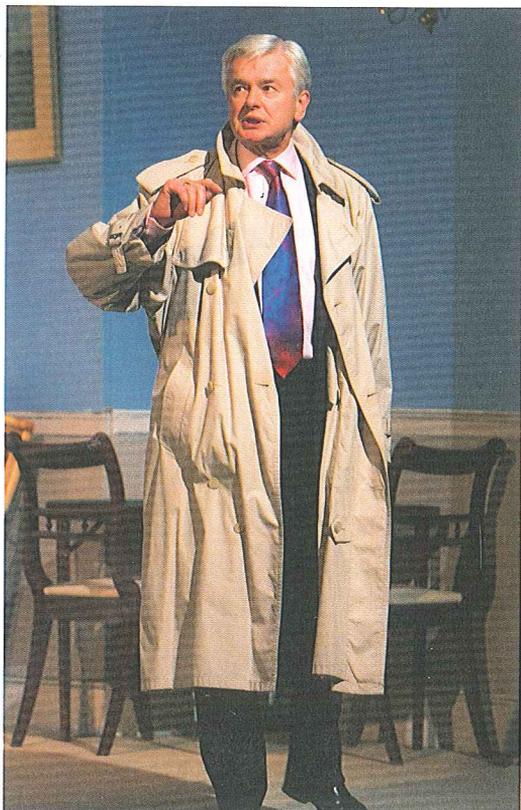
Late afternoon

## ACT TWO

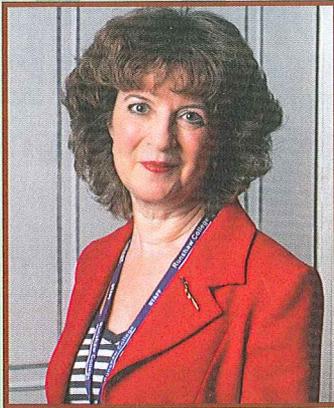
Scene 1 – The next morning

Scene 2 – After lunch

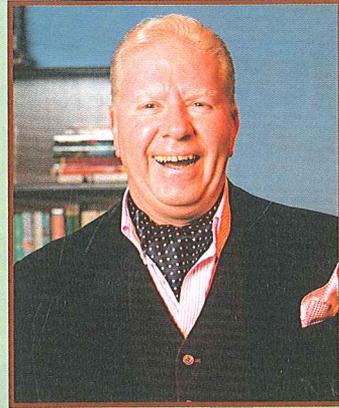
We recommend that you beat the rush and pre-order your drinks  
in the bar prior to the performance.



# OLD AND NEVER CA



**DIANE MACKLEY**  
Ann Thompson



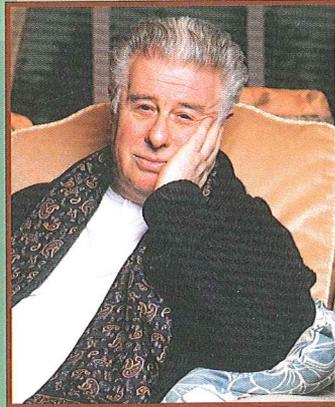
**LESLIE CHEESMAN**  
Walter Neville



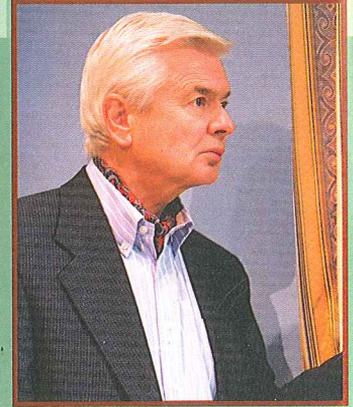
**VIVIENNE**  
Phyllida



**LUCINDA GREEN**  
Marcia



**JACKY SAMUELS**  
Danny Stiller



**MIKE YATES**  
Edmund Sullivan

# ACTORS OR DIE St



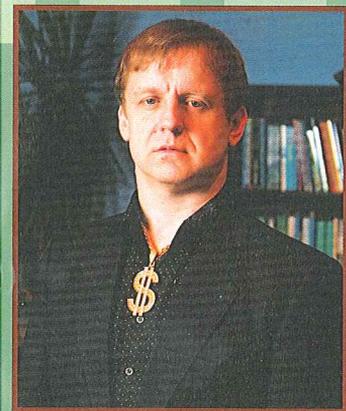
**TYRER**  
Sullivan



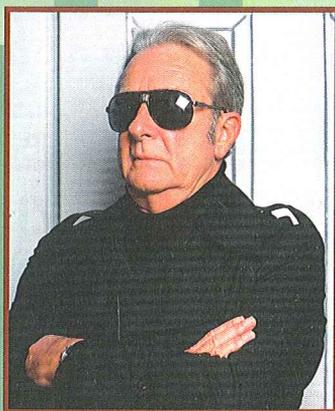
**MARGARET HODGE**  
Jules Sullivan



**SANDY TOWN**  
Rebecca Sullivan



**LEE BUTCHER**  
Mike Molisky



**KEITH TYRER**  
Dimitri



**SABRINA  
REGGAZZONI**  
Irina

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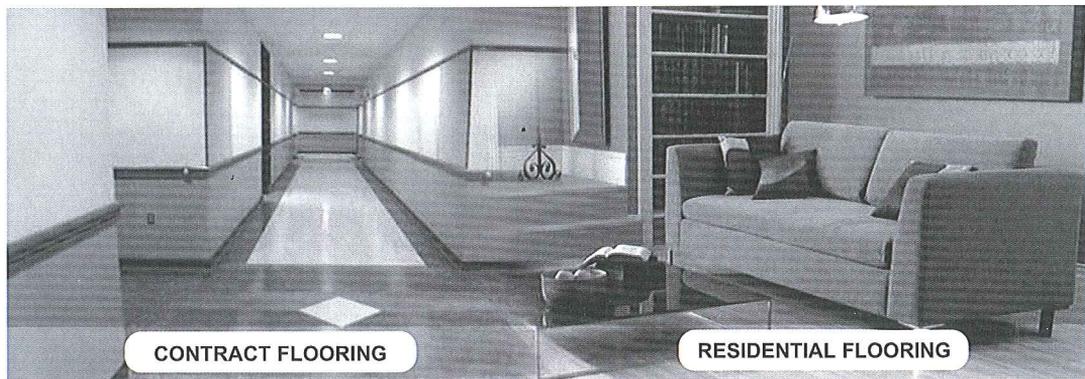
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# STAGING

Stage Manager	.....	Chris Ratcliffe
Assistant Stage Manager	.....	Sian Woolley
Assistant Stage Manager (Prompt)	.....	Jenny Parker
Properties	.....	Diane Hutchinson, Philip Hutchinson, Joan King and Barry King
Wardrobe	.....	SDC Wardrobe Department & The Cast
Lighting	.....	Team LX
Flying	.....	Christian Barisio
Sound	.....	Brian Hodge & David Proffitt
Set Design	.....	Syd Coley
Scenic Artist	.....	Bob Jessamine
Photographs	.....	Fletcherhill Photography
Programme Editor	.....	Jacque Bolshaw
Programme Sub Editor	.....	Barry King
Programme Content & Research	.....	Henry James
Programme Layout and Design	.....	Mitchell & Wright (Printers) Ltd

## Music in this production

Prestige; Misterioso Venezia; Perle d'Oriente; Venzia Lunare

## Acknowledgements

The Director would like to thank: Kathy at Tillymint Productions Limited for the graphics in this production; Sooty's Plants, Southport New Road, Tarleton, for the loan of garden plants; Vodafone, Chapel Street, Southport, for their help in this production.

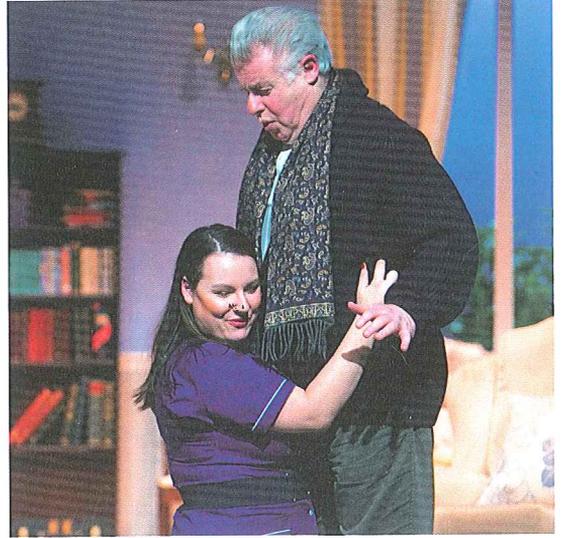
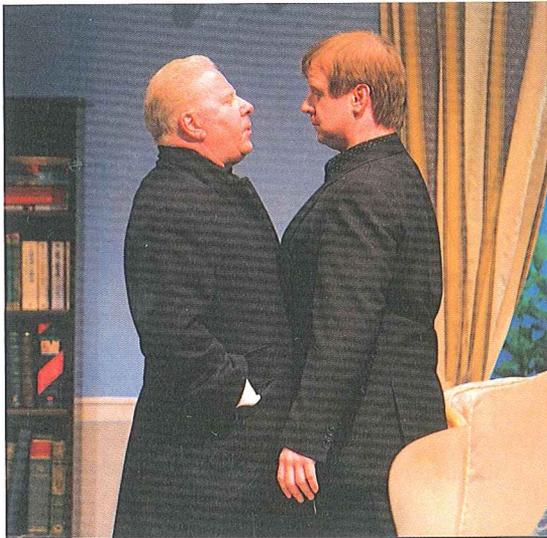
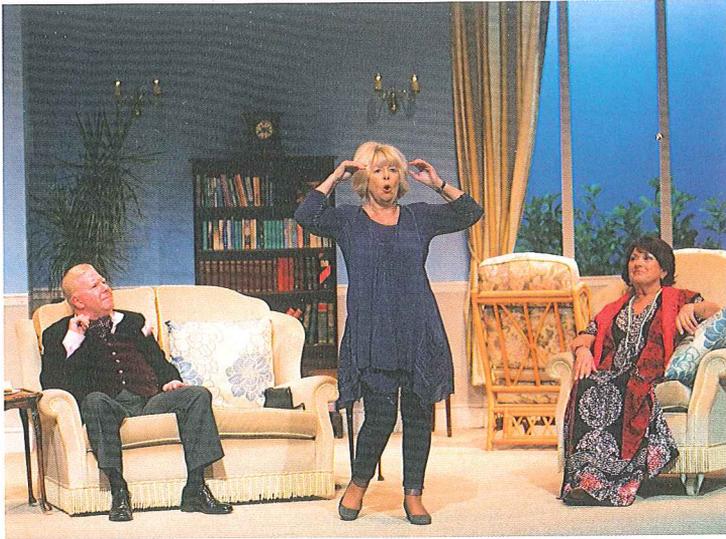
### The Little Theatre - Home of the Southport Dramatic Club.

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.
- Please ensure that all mobile phones and electronic devices are switched off during the performance.
- Photography and video recording are not allowed during the performance.



Designated Premises Supervisor, Alan Newport



# HOW THE SDC FUNCTIONS CONTINUED...

## SOUND DEPARTMENT

In the early years of the SDC music was played on the 'Panatrophe': an electric gramophone operated from backstage. Recorded sound effects would have been possible but only by the rather hazardous method of dropping the pickup on the turntable at the appropriate spot. 'Live' sound effects were generally preferred, and our current sound director remembers, as a child, attending an SDC play on a complimentary ticket given to his father for the loan of a bass drum for offstage gun fire!

The advent of tape recording opened up new possibilities and we progressed through '78s' to 'LPs' to reel-to-reel tapes to cassettes to minidisks and CDs. Now all music, sound-effects, stage and radio microphone controls are programmed into the computer.

Computer control has brought many advantages. Multiple sound cues can overlap each other or cross-fade. Output routes to speakers in the auditorium or backstage, 'practical' on-stage sounds (e.g. a radio or TV) and their levels, can be pre-set and groups of microphones switched on or off, all at the

touch of a single button. This means that, although it takes some time to prepare, with a cued script, a production can be handled by different sound operators.

Many years ago sound and lighting moved from backstage operation to a control room at the back of the theatre. Then the construction of the sound bridge in the auditorium enabled the operator to balance the sound levels as audiences heard them: especially important in these days when radio microphones are used for all musical performances, including our own pantomime (but not for our plays).

The Sound Département's work on a production starts with a meeting with the director at an early stage in rehearsals, when such things are discussed as: theme or curtain music; onstage 'practical' sound sources; and sound effects, including for example the 'live' recording of actors' voices. Music and effects are then assembled, either from our own extensive sound archives or by purchasing and downloading tracks from the vast resources now available on line.

The next stage is to produce a sound plot and, when the rehearsals have reached the point where all or part of the play can be run, a portable rig with a laptop will be taken into the rehearsal room to give the cast an opportunity of becoming familiar with the sound before they go on stage, and to allow any 'fine tuning' of the cues which may be required.

Finally the sound files will be transferred onto the theatre system, any speakers or microphones rigged, sound levels set and all made ready for the dress rehearsals and performances.

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# CAN YOU MATCH THE 'OLD' ACTORS WITH THEIR PICTURE BELOW?

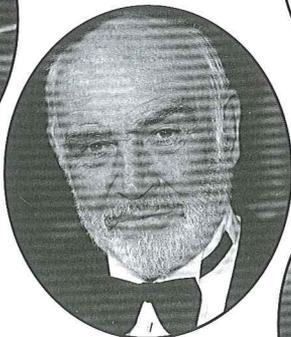


Who played 'M'?

Who was Mr. Bond?

Who played Hilda Ogden?

Who was a 'Likely Lad'?



Who played Alexis Colby?

Who played 'Hercule'?

Who is the Downton Dowager?

Who was 'Del Boy'?





James Hughes-Alty  
*Director*

# NOW IN REHEARSAL "ALADDIN"

**BY STEPHEN HUGHES-ALTY**

This year's family friendly pantomime from the Southport Dramatic Club is Aladdin. Rehearsals have been underway for some weeks now, and the cast and I have been having a lot of fun putting it together.

Our Panto tells the story of Aladdin, a poor boy from Peking, who falls in love with Princess Jasmine, but her parents have decreed they will only agree to their daughter marrying a wealthy prince. Meanwhile the evil sorcerer, Abanazer, has discovered the hiding place of the magical lamp, but he needs Aladdin's help to retrieve it. In return he offers Aladdin a fortune in gold and jewels.....but will he keep his promise to help our young hero win the hand of his one true love, or does he have a more sinister plan in mind?

Along the way Aladdin's mother, Widow Twanky, and his brother, Wishee Washee, wreak comical mayhem wherever they go, but with the help of the magical Spirit of the Ring, the Genie of the Lamp, and Wishee's pet panda, Bamboo, Aladdin's exciting adventures are only just beginning!

We hope you will join us this Christmas and share the adventure. With memorable songs, wonderful dance routines, fantastic sets and glamorous costumes it's sure to be a 'hit' with the whole family.

*James Hughes-Alty, Director*



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**ALADDIN**

**SDC's Family Friendly Pantomime**

**by Stephen Hughes-Alty**

**Directed by James Hughes-Alty**

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**A Comedy**

**by Peter Shaffer**

**Directed by Michèle Martin**

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**6th - 8th March 2014**

**The Reunion**

**by Peter Gordon**

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Josef Weinberger

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# Southport Dramatic Club

SDC'S FAMILY FRIENDLY PANTOMIME

# ALADDIN

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DIRECTED BY JAMES HUGHES-ALTY

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