

Southport Dramatic Club

A Tony Award-Winning Comedy
by Peter Shaffer

Lettice and Lovage

Directed by
Michèle Martin

21st February -
1st March 2014

7.45pm

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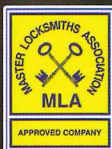
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Director's notes

Plays are often described as 'well written' (good) or 'wordy' (bad). I've never really understood this (aren't plays much the same length?) ...until I first read *Lettice & Lovage*. The characters literally sprang off the page as I entered the world of Lettice, a lady of formidable spirit and infectious passions; passions that many of us share - like a love of beautiful historic buildings.

Every production is much like an iceberg with the visible part on stage the result of a huge team effort behind the scenes. This one has been a mammoth task because this play has not one but three sets and the part of Lettice is huge - think King Lear. I've been very



Michèle Martin

Director

lucky to have such a dedicated team in both the cast and crew, a great mix of very experienced and brand new members working together to bring you tonight's show.

Heading up the cast we could not have had a more

dedicated leading lady - she even worked on her lines on Christmas day!

A stage crew shortage has meant that Alan Morris, Head of Productions, has spent two weeks helping build the sets. A big thank you to Alan, Lindsay Haywood and the stage crew for a magnificent staging achievement.

If you know any keen DIYers do encourage them to join the Southport Dramatic Club so we can continue to bring you plays like this devoted to brightening up dreary winter's evenings.

Michèle Martin,
Director



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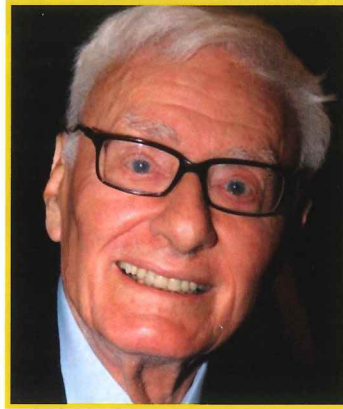


Sir Peter Shaffer

English playwright and screenwriter, Sir Peter Shaffer, was born on May 15, 1926 in London. Shaffer went to The Hall School Hampstead, St Paul's School London, and studied history at Trinity College Cambridge, after gaining a scholarship to the University.

During the Second World War Shaffer was a Bevin Boy coal miner.

His first play, *Five Finger Exercise* (1960), was directed by John Gielgud and opened in London. It won the Evening Standard Drama Award. *The Private Ear/The Public Eye* followed, both staged at the Globe Theatre in 1962, Maggie Smith and Kenneth Williams appeared in them. The National Theatre was founded in 1963 and the majority of Shaffer's work after that point has been staged there.



Sir Peter Shaffer

Author

Shaffer wrote *Equus* in 1973, which explores a mentally disturbed 17-year-old stableboy's obsession with horses. It was revived in London and on Broadway in 2008 and featured Harry Potter star, Daniel Radcliffe, who appeared naked in the show - causing a bit of a stir!

Equus was adapted into a film in 1977 and Shaffer was nominated for the 1977 Best

Adapted Screenplay Oscar, but lost out to Alvin Sargent (who was behind the screenplay for *Julia*).

In 1979 Shaffer wrote *Amadeus*, a play about the rivalry between Mozart and another composer Antonio Salieri; it premiered at the National Theatre and was directed by Sir Peter Hall. It starred Paul Scofield as Salieri, Simon Callow as Mozart, and Felicity Kendal as Constanze. *Amadeus* was made into a film in 1984 and was directed by Milos Forman. Shaffer was to win the 1984 Best Screenplay Golden Globe and Best Adapted Screenplay Oscar for *Amadeus*.

Shaffer became the Cameron Macintosh Visiting Professor of Contemporary Theatre at Oxford University in 1994 and was knighted in 2001.





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Lettice & Lovage

The comedy, *Lettice and Lovage*, was first presented on October 6, 1987, at the Theatre Royal, Bath, and then transferred to the Globe Theatre, London (now the Gielgud Theatre). Shaffer wrote the work for Dame Maggie Smith who played the lead role of Lettice Douffet in both the English and American productions. The London production ran for some seven hundred and sixty-eight performances and in 1988 won The Evening Standard Best Comedy Award.

In 1990 it opened in New York at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre. The New York Times' review said: "Miss Smith's personality so saturates everything around her that, like the character she plays, she instantly floods a world of grey with colour."

At the 1990 Tony Awards, which salute brilliance in Broadway theatre, Maggie Smith won the Award for the Best Actress in a Play. Margaret Tyzack received the Best Featured Actress in a Play Award at the same event. *Lettice and Lovage* was also nominated for the Best Play and Best Direction of a Play.

Before Shaffer wrote *Lettice and Lovage*, his last comedy was *Black Comedy* (1964). Between these two comedies, Shaffer became famous for his dramas, which included *Equus*, *Royal Hunt of the Sun* and *Amadeus*.

As the curtain rises on the Grand Hall of Fustian House, Lettice Douffet is taking visitors on a guided tour of the property. Seeking to inject excitement and intrigue into

the tour she elaborates wildly on the truth - the consequences of which will reveal themselves, **but what will the future hold for Lettice?**



Your Local Happy Volunteers!

Any kind of voluntary work can be very rewarding and at the same time a lot of fun. Several members of the Southport Dramatic Club are volunteers at our own local National Trust property, Rufford Old Hall, at Rufford, near Ormskirk.

The former home of the Hesketh family, built around 1530, it is set in beautiful grounds and is well worth a visit. Its owner was Sir Robert Hesketh, whose family had been Lords of the Manor for at least seven generations. The Hall has connections with William Shakespeare and this year we celebrate the 450th year of

his birth. Being Room Guides, we meet visitors from all over the country and many from overseas; they are all fascinated by the Hall's long history. Meeting so many people makes our job even more interesting, and we try to answer all their questions with a smile! We are an extremely happy bunch, and look forward to welcoming you all to this lovely and historic house.

Your Room Guides: Jenny Bright, Lynn Gosling, Joan King, Jacquie Bolshaw & Charles Preston.

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Synopsis of Scenes

Act One

Scene 1: The Grand Hall of Fustian House, Wiltshire, England.
Various tours from winter to summer.

Scene 2: Miss Schöen's Office at the Preservation Trust, Architrave Place, London. Three o'clock in the afternoon the day after the last scene.

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between Act One & Act Two

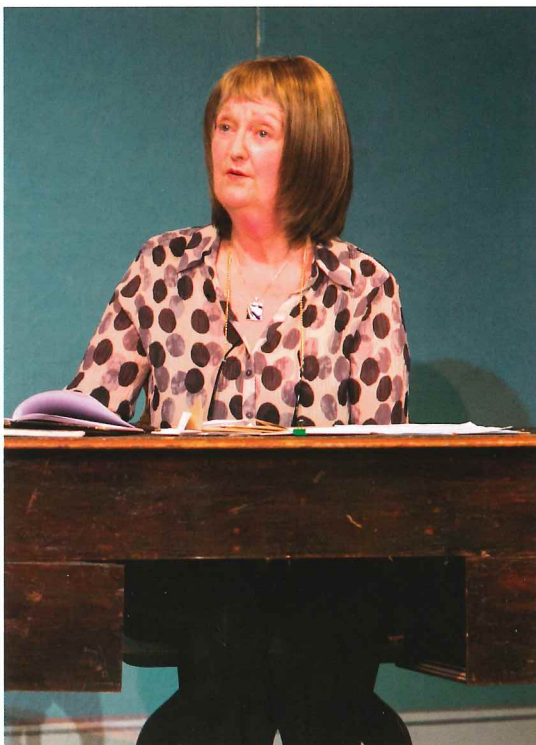
Act Two

Miss Douffet's basement flat, Earls Court, London. Late afternoon.

Act Three

The same. Six months later. Early evening.

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



Letts L Co



Lettice Douffet
Jacquie Wade



Lotte Schön
Ann Richards



Pete Slater



Maria Dorpman



Visitors to F
Glenys Critchley

ice and OVage

st



Bardolph/Surly man
Mike Yates



Miss Framer
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Staging

| | |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Stage Managers | Lindsay Haywood & Alan Morris |
| Assistant Stage Managers (Prompts) | June Hunter & Fran Percival |
| Properties & Set Dressing | Nathan Barry & Glenys Critchley |
| Wardrobe | The Wardrobe Team |
| Lighting Design | The Lighting Department |
| Lighting Operator | Adrian Roberts |
| Music Sourcing | Brian Hodge |
| Sound | Peter Beswick |
| Scenic Artist | Bob Jessamine |
| Set Design | Michèle Martin |
| Set Construction | Lindsay Haywood, Alan Morris, Mike Yates, Alan Gosling, Chris Ratcliffe, Glenys Critchley, Lewis Scutt, David Proffitt, Brendan Gillow, Pete Beswick & Michèle Martin |
| Photographs | Fletcherhill Photography |
| Programme Editor | Jacquie Bolshaw |
| Programme Sub Editor | Barry King |
| Programme Content & Research | Henry James |
| Programme Layout and Design | Mitchell & Wright (Printers) Ltd |

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The Sands pub for the loan of the suits of armour,
Jennie Winn from the Wig Centre, Diana Smither and Stephen Hughes-Alty.

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



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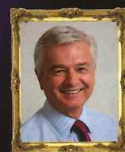
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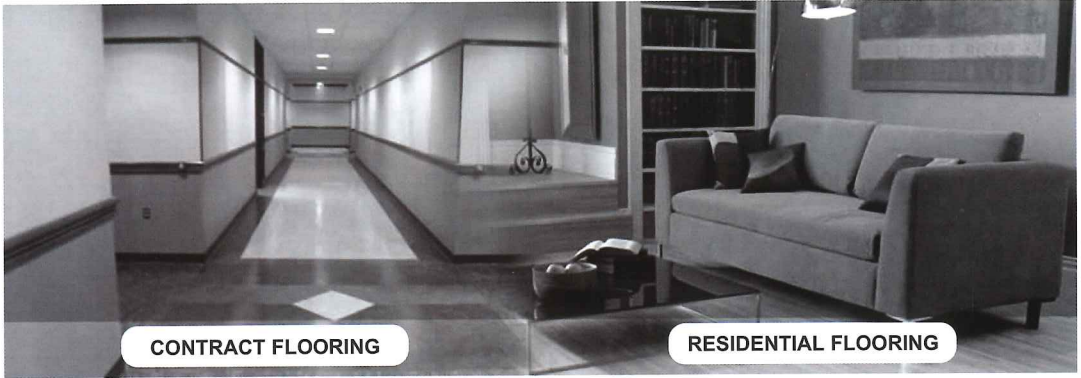
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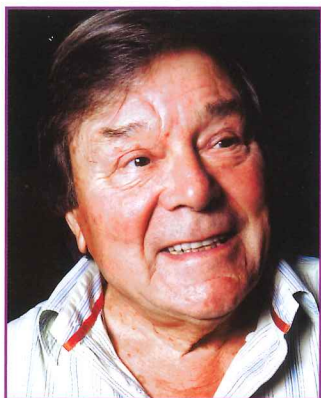
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Ray Mann
Director

NOW IN REHEARSAL

The Odd Couple

(Female version)

by Neil Simon

Lovers of theatre comedy will be well aware of the rich skills of that American master of the art - Neil Simon. 'Barefoot in the Park', 'Plaza Suite', 'The Sunshine Boys', 'Lost in Yonkers' are just a few of his succession of Broadway hits, many of which were made into highly rated films.

Perhaps his biggest success, on stage and screen, was 'The Odd Couple' which featured a group of men assembled for a weekly game of poker in the New York apartment of a divorced pal.....and if the mess of the place is any indication, it's no wonder she left him! Their main topic of

conversation was the patterns of their own disastrous marriages.

Such was its success, that Neil Simon was prompted to write a 'female version', not of weekly games of poker but of 'Trivial Pursuits'. The subject of the girls' conversation was - you've guessed it- the patterns of their own less than successful marriages. Set in the 1990s, when feminism was beginning to hold sway, it was an instant success.

The S.D.C. performed the piece some twenty years ago and we are delighted to have this opportunity to reprise it.

Ray Mann, Director (then and now).



Marilyn Fletcher-Hill
Director

NOW IN REHEARSAL

The Railway Children

by E. Nesbit, adapted by David Simpson

Southport Dramatic Club Youth Theatre's next production is "The Railway Children", adapted from the famous book of the same name.

This heart-warming and funny tale is set at the turn of the nineteenth century. The action takes place in a quiet Victorian village which boasts a steam railway station run by Mr Perks (aided by a large number of his children!) Into the midst of this community come a family from London; a Mother and her three children: Roberta, Phyllis and Peter. Their lives have suddenly been transformed by the absence of their father and, finding themselves in financial difficulties they are forced to leave the comfort of London for the countryside. They soon become the

centre of attention in the village and are referred to as "the railway children" because they develop a fascination for the steam trains running through the village. They befriend the other youngsters in the village and have plenty of fun and adventures.

The members of our Youth Theatre in this production are enjoying the challenge of life in Victorian times (without mobile 'phones and Ipods!). They are working as a brilliant team to bring this beautiful story to the stage. Their dedication in rehearsal is amazing, so come and support them. You will love this story as it is entertainment for the whole family. The show runs from 18th - 22nd March, and tickets are available at Box Office now.

Marilyn Fletcher-Hill, Director.

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Southport Dramatic Club

An SDC Youth Theatre Production

The Railway Children

By E. Nesbit
Adapted by David Simpson

18th - 22nd March 2014
7.45pm

Directed by Marilyn Fletcher-Hill
Production by arrangement with Samuel French Inc.


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The Odd Couple

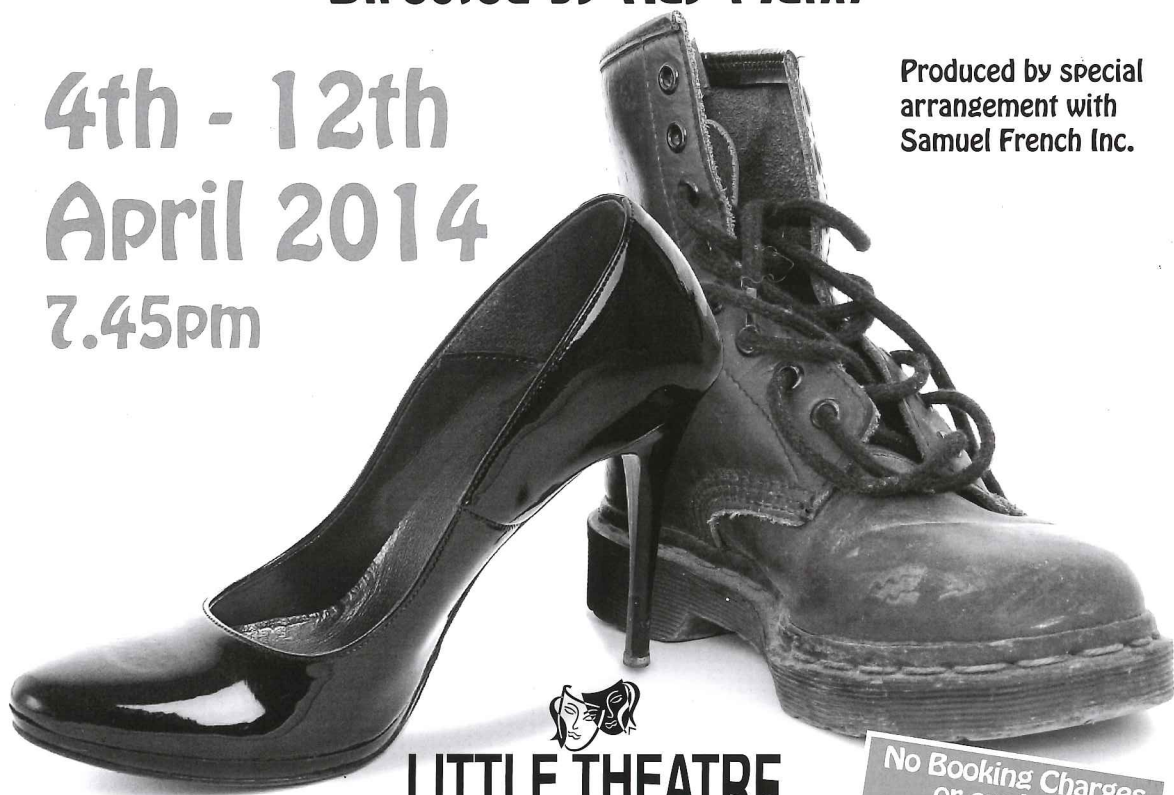
Female
Version

By Neil Simon

Directed by Ray Mann

4th - 12th
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