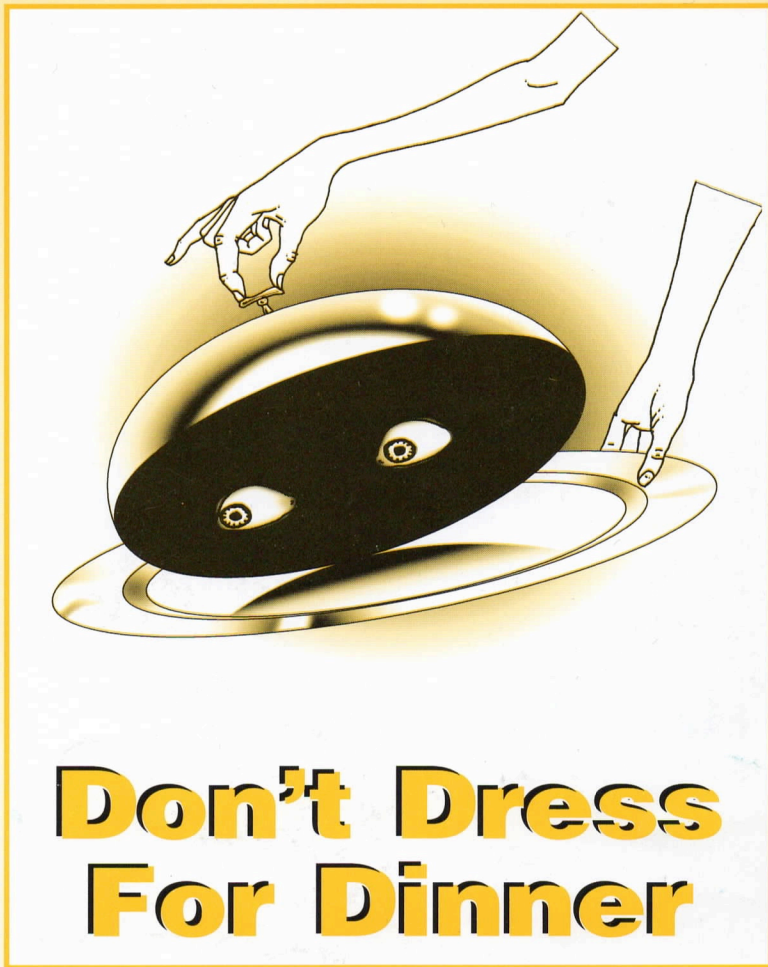




**Marc Camoletti's hilarious comedy....**

**An SDC Production**



# **Don't Dress For Dinner**

Directed by  
**Sally Roberts**

Sponsored by Mitchell & Wright



**THE LITTLE THEATRE - HOGHTON STREET, SOUTHPORT**  
Box Office: 01704 530521/530460



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# Director's Notes



Welcome to the SDC and The Little Theatre for tonight's production of "Don't Dress for Dinner" by Marc Camoletti.

It became clear very early on in rehearsal that this play would only work if we kept up a very fast pace ~ not easy when most of my actors cue lines are "er" or "why" or "yes". However with a "dream team" of a cast, they make it look very easy.

It has been very entertaining exploring the relationships of these 6 characters - though how they all came to be in the same place at the same time, I do not know!

I hope you enjoy the many twists and turns of this hilarious comedy as much as we have enjoyed rehearsing it. My personal thanks to all of my cast and the backstage team who have worked so hard to provide you with what I am sure you will find a very entertaining evening, but especially to Trudi Hirsch who has stepped into the very demanding role of Suzette at such short notice due to the unfortunate illness of Mandy Findlay. We all wish Mandy a speedy recovery.

Finally to you our audience, we are grateful for your support and hope that you enjoy a hilarious dinner date with us.



Mike Yates is one of the few actors who are equally at home acting on stage or working backstage. Doing anything from running shows as the stage manager to mucking in as a stage hand every year in pantomime. His many memorable acting roles include Atahualpa in "Royal Hunt of the Sun", a play that Little Theatre audiences are still talking about, twenty years on.

Mike is no stranger to comedy. You may remember him as the Yorkshire compere in Mike Harding's "Last Tango in Whitby" and in leading roles in "Court in the Act" and "Private Lives".

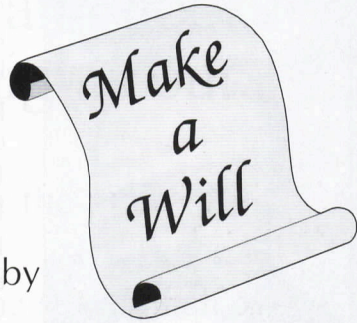


Poppy Flanagan is one of the SDC's most versatile actresses, adept at both serious drama and comedy. Many will remember her playing opposite Mike Yates in "Private Lives" also in "Court in the Act" where she played an audacious courtesan. In complete contrast she played a wonderfully harassed housewife in "Small Family Business". Lovers of period plays will remember Poppy's sensitive portrayal of Irene in "The Forsyte Saga".

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Michael Yates  
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Mike Stowell is a familiar face to SDC audiences. A natural wit, Mike has used his comic timing in many different plays. Recent roles included the self-centered hypochondriac in “Malade Imaginaire” and not one but 5 different Italian brothers in “Small Family Business”. Can anyone forget his entrance in that play, dressed in string vest, underpants and a ball and chain! Those of us who saw “Corpse” ten years ago, are still talking about his performance as a woman, a man and a transvestite twin brother. Now that’s versatility!



Who can you ask to step in and learn a major part in a fast moving comedy just 3 weeks before a play opens? The answer - Trudi Hirsch. This is exactly how Trudi came to be playing this pivotal role in tonight’s production. Trudi’s part tonight is rather different from the last time she trod the boards at the Little, as the naive, principled Lady Windermere in last season’s closing period play. Regular SDC patrons will remember with fondness Trudi’s heartrending portrayal of the title role in “Cuckoo”.

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# *Don't Dress for Dinner*

Directed by Sally Roberts

## Cast in order of Appearance

Bernard	Mike Yates
Jacqueline	Poppy Flanagan
Robert	Mike Stowell
Suzette	Trudi Hirsch
Suzanne	Helen Pickavance
George	Craig Foster

## Production Team

Stage Manager	Roy Carr
Prompt	Gay Stowell
Props	Jenny Parker & Don Parker
Lighting	Colin Wood & Ben Garside
Set Design	Craig Foster
Sound	Michele Martin
ASM	Sandra Unsworth, Harry Jepson & Margaret Jepson
Set Built by	Peter Beswick Derek Haywood Lindsay Haywood Bill Davies Nick Evans

Special thanks to Alan Foxall from Southport Parks  
Department for the generous loan of plants and flowers,  
and to Pam Bamber for Tango lessons.



# *Don't Dress for Dinner*

written by  
Marc Camoletti

## ACT 1

Early evening in the main living room of a country house some distance from Paris.

## INTERVAL

## ACT 2

Two hours later in the same house.

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For the benefit of hearing impaired patrons this theatre has an induction loop. To use this facility please turn your hearing aid to "T". Additional hearing aids are available from the theatre.

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Patrons are welcome in our licensed bar downstairs before & after tonight's performance. Why not beat the rush and pre-order your interval drinks in the bar?

Pantomime lovers will remember Helen Pickavance in the 1994/5 production of "Goldilocks & The Three Bears". In this Helen played the wonderfully cack-handed and un-cooperative Fairy. "A fairy with attitude" as our friends across the pond would say. The following year in "Cinderella" Helen played a stunning Dandini with principal boy's legs that would make any actress envious. Helen has also acted in several recent plays including "Steel Magnolias", with Trudi Hirsch.



As well as acting in tonight's play Craig Foster has also designed the set and the poster. Craig's previous acting roles have often been in uniform ranging from an officer in "Conduct Unbecoming" to the Policeman in the farce "It runs in the Family". When he finishes this play he will be donning his backstage black clothing and joining Mike Yates to help prepare for the pantomime. Every Christmas both he and Mike can be found with the stage crew, man-handling scenery to create the beautiful sets that are a feature of SDC pantomimes.

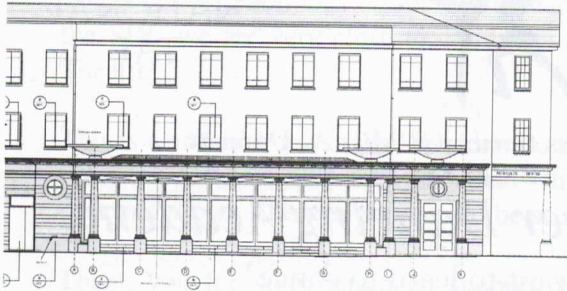


# Hewitt's

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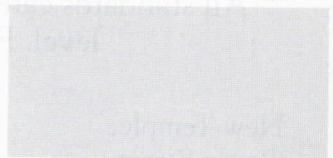


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## Marc Camoletti - Playwright

Marc Camoletti is best known for his smash hit play “Boeing Boeing” which ran in the West End of London at the Apollo Theatre for seven years. “Boeing Boeing” was later made into a film starring Jerry Lewis and Tony Curtis.

Marc Camoletti’s world wide acclaim as a playwright spans thirty years. In Paris alone he calculated that 240 actors have appeared in 15 of his plays in 11 different theatres over 33 years. “Don’t Dress for Dinner” is also known as “Happy Birthday” in another translation from the original French, premiered in Paris in 1985 and has notched up over 1000 performances.

## Little Theatre Building Fund Raising

Thanks to the enormous efforts of the many members and friends of the SDC we are very close to our target required to buy the Little Theatre.

This is wonderful news. We look forward to announcing forthcoming productions in our very own Theatre. Which production will be the first in our own Theatre, remains to be seen.

Thank you for your continued support. Don’t forget every ticket, programme and drink in the bar helps bring us closer to our dream of preserving the future of live theatre for not just the SDC but for the many other clubs and societies that use the marvelous facilities of the Little.

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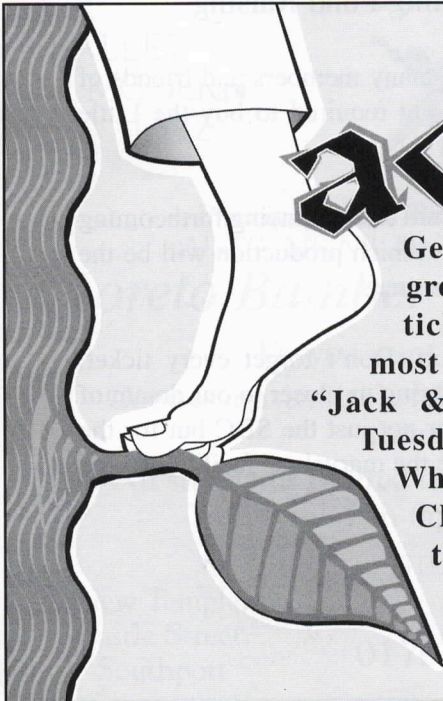
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