

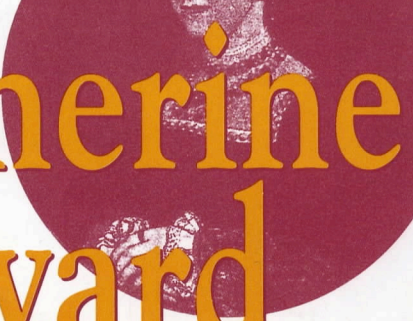


# SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB

SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB  
**1920  
2000**  
80th ANNIVERSARY SEASON


## 80th Anniversary Season

William Nicholson's drama



# Katherine Howard

directed by Pat Ball



**Fri-Sat 23 Feb - 3 March 2001**  
**7.45pm**

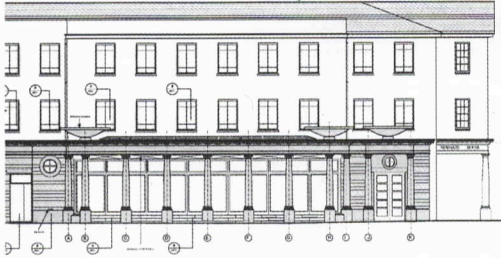
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# Katherine Howard



On behalf of the company, may I welcome you to our presentation of “Katherine Howard”, a new play which we hope you will enjoy.

We all feel that working on this production has given us a new insight into the events it chronicles and we will be delighted if you leave the theatre sharing our new found interest in this slice of history.

Thank you for your support of our treasured theatre. I trust you will have a good evening.

**Pat Ball**

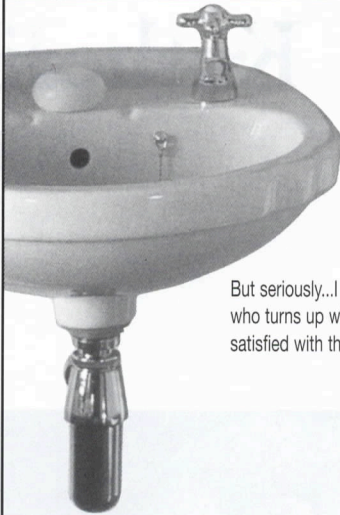
## William Nicholson

William Nicholson was born in 1948 and is reported as saying that his favourite book as a child was “Just William” but that what really inspired him to become a writer were Ian Fleming’s James Bond stories. He married Virginia in 1988 and they have 3 children.

William Nicholson was a director during the mid-1970s to mid-1980s, during which time he directed over 50 documentaries for the BBC.

He is also well known as the author of “Shadowlands”, which tells the story of C S Lewis and his love affair with Joy Gresham. This was adapted into a screenplay and taken to the big screen in 1993 by Sir Richard Attenborough. Anthony Hopkins and Debra Winger starred as the two lovers. It had previously been made into a television film by the BBC in 1985, after its success both in London and on Broadway.

The effect on his creativity, of the diverse nature of William Nicholson’s early influences, are illustrated by his choice in writing this account of the life of Katherine Howard.



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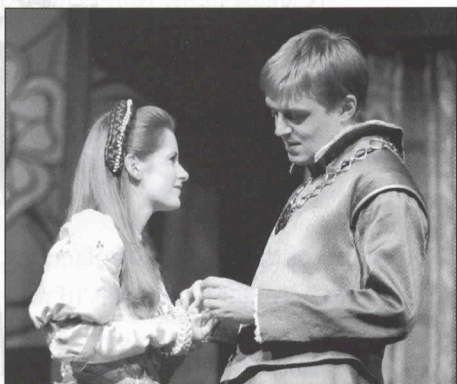
# Katherine

By William



# e Howard

Nicholson



# Katherine Howard

By William Nicholson

Directed by Pat Ball

## Cast

Henry VIII .....	JOHN SHARP
Katherine Howard .....	LIANNE NAUGHTON
Thomas Culpeper .....	PETER FORSHAW
Anne of Cleves .....	JENNY OGDEN
Thomas Howard Duke of Norfolk .....	JON ELLIS-FOX
Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury .....	HUGH WOLFSON
Lady Jane Rochford .....	MARGARET MANN
Sir Thomas Wriothesley .....	JIM LONGWORTH
Mrs Mary Hall .....	LAUREN MURPHY
William .....	DAVID THOMAS
Captain of the Kings Guard .....	ALEC ROBSON
Henry as a young man .....	STEPHEN TINSLEY
Manservants / Courtiers / Guards .....	GUY UNSWORTH, DAVID THOMAS, ALEC ROBSON, STEPHEN TINSLEY.
Maidservants / Ladies of the Court .....	JAN JAMES, ANNE SYKES, STEPHANIE CLARKE.

The action of the play takes place in the royal palace between 6th January 1540, the wedding night of Henry VIII and his fourth wife, Anne of Cleves; and 13th February 1542, the execution of his fifth wife, Katherine Howard.

**The Action is continuous but there will be an interval of 20 minutes.**

The music selected for this production during the play is as follows:

La Mourisque .....	by Tielman Susato
The King's Hunt .....	by David Munrow
If Love Now Reigned .....	by Henry VIII

A selection of music written in the 16th century  
will also be played during the interval.



# Staging

Stage Manager .....LINDSAY HAYWOOD  
Assistant Stage Manager (Book) .....JEAN WILKINSON  
Stage Crew Assistant .....CHRIS BERRY  
Lighting .....TONY BERRY  
Sound .....BRIAN HODGE  
ANDREW GREGSON  
COLIN HAYNES  
Wardrobe .....JAMES HUGHES-ALTY OF  
SDC WARDROBE DEPARTMENT  
ROYAL EXCHANGE MANCHESTER  
ALADDIN'S CAVE ORMSKIRK  
THE COMPANY  
Properties .....THE COMPANY  
Set Designed and Built by .....SDC PRODUCTION TEAM  
Scenic Artist .....BOB JESSAMINE  
Photography by .....NEIL HICKSON

## Acknowledgements:

The director would like to express her special thanks to:-

Donna Conway - for handmade men's footwear.

Ann Richards - for her knowledgeable advise and loan of recordings of Tudor music.

Pauline McKittride of Aladdins Cave Ormskirk - for her enthusiasm and help beyond the call of duty.

Christopher Appleton for the Bed Head.

Angus Taylor for the Furs.

The management reserves the right to refuse admission to the auditorium after curtain up, until a suitable opportunity occurs. First aid facilities are provided at this theatre by St John Ambulance Brigade, whose members give their services voluntarily.

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

An induction loop is installed in this theatre for the benefit of hearing impaired patrons.  
Please turn your hearing aid to 'T'.

At the end of tonight's performance you may leave by any of the exits, all of which will be open.  
In an emergency, this theatre can be emptied in three minutes or less if everyone leaves in an orderly manner.

Smoking is prohibited in the auditorium.

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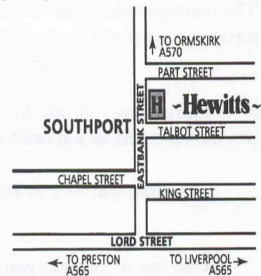
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# Epilogue

**Katherine & Jane Rochford** were executed on February 13th 1542. Katherine was just 20 and had to be helped to the scaffold as she was almost too weak to walk to the block. Jane became excessively voluble and made a rambling confession which tried the patience of the large crowd which had gathered. Both died cleanly under the axe and were interred in the nearby chapel of St Peter ad Vincula.

**Henry VIII** lived on until 28th January 1547. His last wife, Catherine Parr, remarried shortly after his death and died in childbirth a year later.

**Anne of Cleves** lived in great comfort, principally at Hever Castle where she set up a miniature Phenish court. She was not allowed to return to her homeland and died in 1557 after a long illness.

**Thomas Culpeper** was executed at Tyburn on 10th December 1540. His sentence of being hung, drawn and quartered was commuted "at the King's mercy", resulting in his being beheaded and his head displayed on Tower Bridge.

**Thomas Howard, Earl of Norfolk.** Following Katherine's execution, Norfolk's influence waned and he was forced back into the position of a mere Military Commander. In 1546 he and his son Henry Howard were charged with treason. Henry was executed but Norfolk was saved by the death of the King. A devout catholic he was released from prison in 1553 on the accession of the Catholic monarch, Mary 1st, and served her until his death a year later at the age of 81.

**Thomas Cranmer.** A strong supporter of the Reformation, Cranmer remained Archbishop of Canterbury during the rest of Henry's reign. During the short life of Edward VI he shaped the doctrinal transformation of the Church of England and was responsible for much of the first Book of Common Prayer. He supported the claims of Lady Jane Grey after Edwards' death and upon the accession of Mary in 1553 he was tried for treason and convicted of heresy. A few days before his death in 1556, he recanted, but when asked to repeat his recantation at the stake, he refused and thrust the hand that had written it into the fire.

**Thomas Wriothesley** became a principal Secretary of State in 1540 and was made Lord Chancellor in 1544. He was one of the executors of Henry VIII's will. He supported the appointment of Edward Seymour as protector and was rewarded by being dismissed as chancellor. He was given the Earldom of Southampton and spent his last years helping to overthrow the protector and instate John Dudley in 1549. He died in 1550.

**Pat Ball**

With thanks to Nigel for helping me garner most of this information through the wonders of the Internet.

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**80th Anniversary Season**

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**7th Mar - 10th Mar 2001**

*“House Guest”*

A Sefton Theatre Production

**11th Mar 2001**

*“Talking Heads”*

By Alan Bennett

An SDC Production

**23rd Mar - 31st Mar 2001**

*“Silhouette”*

By Simon Brett. Directed by Ray Mann

Sponsored by HSBC

An SDC Production

**4th Apr - 5th Apr 2001**

*“TWG Plays”*

**27th Apr - 5th May 2001**

*“The Philadelphia Story”*

By Philip Barry. Directed by Robin Hirsch

An SDC Production

**12th May - 19th May 2001**

*“Mack & Mabel”*

A Birkdale Orpheus Production

## The Seventies

- 1971 Average wage £31 per week.  
64% of homes have washing machines.
- 1972 SDC Stages "The Wizard of Oz" (see picture below).  
Miners' Strike.
- 1973 Britain joins the EEC.  
School leaving age raised to 16.
- 1974 Fire at the Little Theatre. Backstage blackened, but the show "The Fantasticks" goes on.  
IRA explodes bombs at the Tower of London, Guildford and Birmingham.
- 1975 First North Sea oil comes ashore.
- 1977 The Queen's Silver Jubilee.  
SDC presents "Vivat, Vivat Regina".  
Sept - Birthday Ball Celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Little Theatre.
- 1978 SDC hosts the 99th LTG Conference and stages "The Royal Hunt of the Sun".
- 1978-9 The Winter of Discontent.
- 1979 First woman prime minister - Margaret Who?  
Little Theatre bar plans are passed.  
"Claud", the Theatre ghost, heard on several occasions!



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