



# SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB

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

80th Anniversary Season

Philip Barry's comedy

# The Philadelphia Story

Directed by Robin Hirsch

**FRI-SAT 27 APRIL - 5 MAY 2001**

**7.45PM**

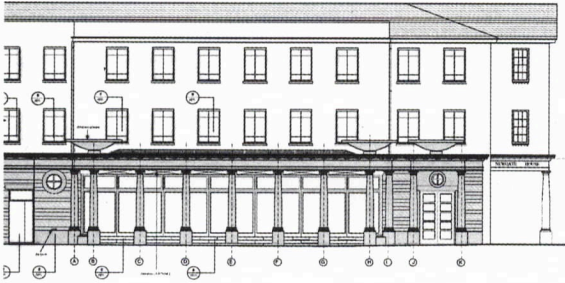
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# Director's Notes

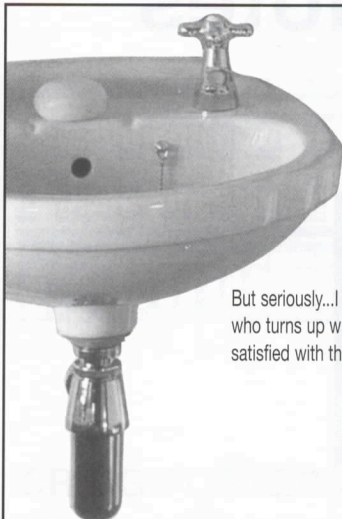


A family wedding, as we all know can have its “ups and downs” and the one you are about to witness tonight is no exception!

My enthusiastic, conscientious cast and backstage crew, have done their best to bring this classic comedy to life and my thanks go to all of them for the work they have put in over the last six weeks. Particular thanks go to David Davies, who as well as playing the role of Seth Lord, stepped into the breach and acted as Co-Director, while I took an enforced leave of absence during the rehearsal period.

It is with great pleasure, we invite you, our audience tonight, to join in the celebrations, some of the heart-searching and a lot of the fun engendered by our zany, definitely-different Philadelphian family!

**Robin Hirsch**



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# Philip Barry

Philip Barry was an American dramatist best known for his comedies of life and manners among the socially privileged. Expertly illustrated here in "*The Philadelphia Story*" (1939), when a rich woman's ex-husband and a tabloid-type reporter turn up just before her planned remarriage, she begins to learn the truth about herself. In the 1940 movie, hailed by critics of the time as "The most sophisticated comedy ever!", C. K. Dexter Haven was played by Cary Grant, Tracy Lord by Katherine Hepburn and Macaulay (Mike) Connor by James Stewart.

Philip Barry was born in June 1896 in Rochester, New York and educated at Yale. In 1919 he entered George Pierce Baker's 47 Workshop at Harvard. His "*A Punch for Judy*" was produced by the workshop in 1920. "*You and I*", also written while Barry was a student, played 170 performances on Broadway in 1923. Over the next 20 years a succession of plays included such comedies as "*Paris Bound*" (1927) and "*Holiday*" (1928).

They are characterized by witty and graceful dialogue and humorous contrasts of character or situation. Many of them use a triangle theme or conflicts between the generations to point up various truths about human nature.

His final play, "*Second Threshold*" (1951), revised by Robert E. Sherwood after Barry's death (December 1949), combined his flair for social comedy and his preoccupation with more serious drama.



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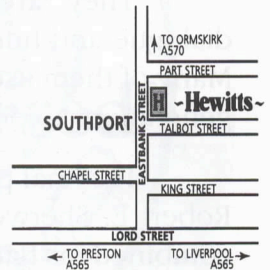
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# The Philadelphia Story

By Philip Barry  
Directed by Robin Hirsch

## Cast

(in order of appearance)

Tracy Lord ( <i>the bride to be</i> ) .....	HELEN COOKSON
Dinah Lord ( <i>her younger sister</i> ) .....	LIANNE CURTIS
Margaret Lord ( <i>her mother</i> ) .....	CELIA POPE
Alexander ( <i>Sandy</i> ) Lord ( <i>her brother</i> ) .....	MATTHEW WOODHAMS
Thomas ( <i>the family butler</i> ) .....	CHARLES PRESTON
William ( <i>Uncle Willie</i> ) Tracy .....	ERYL LLOYD PARRY
Macauley ( <i>Mike</i> ) Connor ( <i>Journalist</i> ) .....	DAVID WALKER
Elizabeth ( <i>Liz</i> ) Imbrie ( <i>press photographer</i> ) .....	HELEN PICKAVANCE
George Kittredge ( <i>the groom to be</i> ) .....	STEVE PRITCHARD
C.K. Dexter Haven ( <i>Tracy's ex-husband</i> ) .....	GILES DAVIDSON
Seth Lord ( <i>Tracy's father</i> ) .....	DAVID DAVIES

The action of the play takes place over three Acts, during the course of 24 hours at Seth & Margaret Lord's country house and garden, near Philadelphia

The Time: *June 1954.*

- Act 1** The sitting room. *Late Friday morning.*
- Act 2** *Scene i* The garden. *Late Friday evening.*
- Scene ii* The garden. *Early Saturday morning.*
- Act 3** The sitting room. *Late Saturday morning.*

There will be two fifteen minute intervals between Acts One & Two and between Act Two Scene ii & Act Three.



# Staging

Stage Manager .....	RODERICK BEARDSSELL
Assistant Stage Manager .....	REBECCA BEARDSSELL
Assistant Stage Manager (Book) .....	JUNE HUNTER
Stage Crew .....	LINDSAY HAYWOOD
	CHRIS. A. APPLETON
	CHRIS. D. APPLETON
Lighting Design .....	TONY BERRY
Lighting Operator .....	IAN McCALLUM
Sound .....	CHRIS RATCLIFFE
Props .....	HELEN BENNETT
	DIANE MACKLEY
	MARGARET MANN
Costumes .....	JAMES HUGHES-ALTY
	SDC WARDROBE DEPARTMENT
Set Designed and Built by .....	SDC PRODUCTION TEAM
Scenic Artist .....	BOB JESSAMINE
Photography by .....	NEIL HICKSON

## Acknowledgements

Thanks go to Lady Green Nurseries for the loan of garden furniture. Phil Horner Design Limited, for the loan of shrubs and trees. Savoy Tailor's Guild, Fishergate Preston for loan of gentlemen's evening wear and morning suits. Mrs. Josephine Yates for creating the wedding floral arrangements. The Photography Shop for camera equipment.

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.

THEATRE LICENSEE CHARLES R. MOOK



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23rd - 26th May 2001 at 7.45pm

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# THEATRE 2001

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Musical	Ormskirk A.D.O.S.	<b>GUYS AND DOLLS</b> Music and Lyrics by Frank Loesser Tickets £5.00 - £8.00 Tel: 01695 578150	30th May to 2nd June
Revue	Maghull A.O.S.	<b>Hello Hollywood</b> A Spectacular Revue Tickets £5.50 - £7.50 Tel: 0151-526-3627	13th June to 16th June
Comedy	Sefton Theatre Company	George Axelrod's Sophisticated Comedy <b>"SEVEN YEAR ITCH"</b> Tickets £4.00 - £6.50 Tel: 01704 874565	20th June to 23rd June
Musical	Southport A.O.S.	Irving Berlins <b>ANNIE GET YOUR GUN</b> Tickets £5.00 - £7.00 Tel: 01704 228936	30th June to 7th July

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## The Nineties

- 1990 SDC revival of "The Wizard of Oz".  
Margaret Thatcher resigns.
- 1991 Youth production of "Chicago".
- 1992 Summer production of "Much Ado About Nothing".
- 1993 "The Forsythe Saga".
- 1994 Opening of the Channel Tunnel.
- 1995 Liverpool Victoria Friendly Society pulls out of Southport and puts the Little Theatre up for sale. The SDC's offer to buy is accepted. Thelma Falls-Hand heads the fund-raising campaign.
- 1996 The international director, Ian Judge, becomes president of the SDC.
- 1997 Diamond Jubilee Season. Opens with "Hindle Wakes".
- 1998 The fund-raising campaign realizes well over £100,000 and the Little Theatre is now owned by the SDC.
- Publication of "A History of the Southport Dramatic Club and its Little Theatre" by Benny Darrah.
- 1998-9 Panto - "Babes in the Wood".
- 1999 SDC looks forward to the new millennium and plans, with other societies, "Theatre 2000".



Cartoon of Benny Darrah by David Charters.

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