



SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB



Presents the classic French farce

AN ABSOLUTE TURKEY

Written by Georges Feydeau
Translated from "Le Dindon" by Nicki Frei and Peter Hall
Directed by David Charters



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Friday 3rd May to
Saturday 11th May 2002



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Golden Jubilee – 2002

In her accession speech in 1952, the Queen declared: "I shall always work, as my father did throughout his reign, to uphold the constitutional government and to advance the happiness and prosperity of my peoples, spread as they are all the world over". She spoke of "this heavy task that has been laid upon me so early in life".

It is a task she has undertaken faithfully and unflinchingly through good times and bad for fifty years. The emphasis of the Golden Jubilee is different from that of the Silver Jubilee, twenty-five years ago. If in a sense the nation thanked the Queen in 1977, then in 2002 the Queen wants to thank the nation.

The focus is firmly on the young people of the country, and particularly in schools. The Golden Jubilee is a time to look at the Queen's fifty years, but also to look at all the changes that have occurred in Britain in the last fifty years.

It is an occasion for parties and celebration, for giving to charity in the name of the Queen and a chance for Britain to take stock and to recognise the good fortune of having had fifty years of unstinting service from a constitutional monarch.



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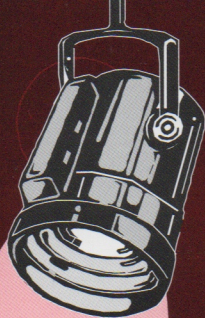


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of
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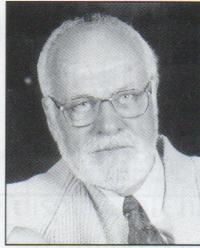


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DIRECTOR'S NOTES



During the last few months of rehearsals for "An Absolute Turkey", it became evident that the play we were performing had a definite rhythm and cadence. So when it became time to select music to complement Feydeau's farce we wanted to avoid a background of wallpaper musak.

So what did one choose? Strauss, too Austrian; Lehar, too lyrical and sweet; Sullivan, too English.

No other choice but Offenbach, the Master of Bouffe-Parisien.

Listening to the Boston pops rendering of Gaité Parisien provided a wealth of adaptable music selected from his big six repertoire:- Orphée Aux Ewfers, La Vie Parisienne, Barbe-Bleue, La Grand-Duchesse de Gardstein, La Pérchole, and La Belle Héléne.

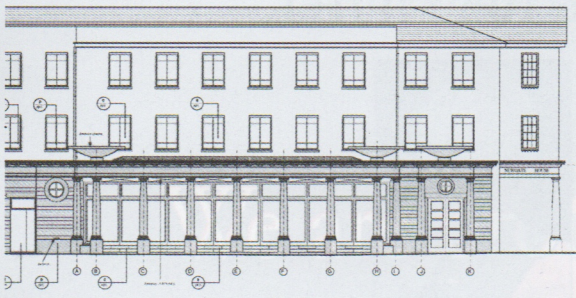
Hopefully this selection of music will recreate the period of the Bel-Monde, The Naughty Nineties, Impressionist artists, The Paris Exposition Universelle of 1900 and the Crossroads into a new era that now we look back on with mixed feelings

An enthusiastic cast has been assembled to portray Feydeau's characters, that are required to act with a precision of timing. Proving that playing comedy is a serious business. The result is that their orchestrated rhythm and timing has brought to life the characters created by Georges Feydeau over a hundred years ago.

David Charters
Director

"When two of my characters should under no circumstances encounter one another, I throw them together as quickly as possible."

Georges Feydeau.



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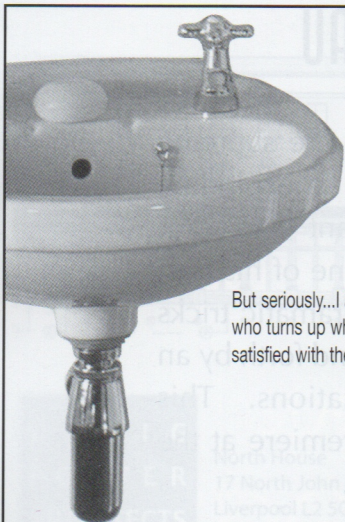
Home and out of hours visits by arrangement

GEORGES FEYDEAU

Georges Feydeau (1862-1921), the supreme master of farce, devoted his skills to exploding hypocrisy in a very self-important age. "An Absolute Turkey" (Le Dindon) is one of his best loved plays. He displays all his dramatic tricks as the characters are pulled back and forth by an escalating series of complications. This translation received its London premiere at the Globe Theatre in December 1993.

Peter Hall is one of the world's best known theatre directors. He founded the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1960 and from 1973-1988 was director of the Royal National Theatre. With his own Peter Hall Company he has mounted many productions in the West End including "The Merchant of Venice", "The Wild Duck", "The Homecoming", "An Ideal Husband" and "Amadeus".

Nicki Frei has worked as a publicist for both Riverside Studios and the Royal National Theatre. She has written several screenplays for film and television, including an eight part adaptation of Barry Unsworth's novel, "Sacred Hunger".



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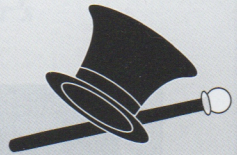
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AN ABSOLUTE TURKEY



AN ABSOLUTE TURKEY

Written by George Feydeau

Translated by Peter Hall and Nicki Frei

Directed by David Charters

CAST

Lucienne	EMMA JANE HALL
Pontagnac	JOHN SHARP
Vatelin	MIKE STOWELL
Jean / Second Inspector	PETER FORSHAW
Redillon	GRAHAM DAVIES
Madame Pontagnac	GAY STOWELL
Mitzi	HELEN PICKAVANCE
Soldignac	SIMON ARMSTRONG
Armandine	CAROL BENNETT
Victor	DAVID THOMAS
Hotel Manager / Policeman	NORMAN HOPE
Clara	DEBRA TAYLOR
Pinchard	RAY MANN
Madame Pinchard	MARGARET MANN
Gerome / Policeman / Hotel Guest	PETE SLATER
Inspector / Policeman / Hotel Guest	ALEC ROBSON
Hotel Guest	MARGARET HILL

Act One Paris: The Drawing Room of Vatelin's House

Act Two Room No. 39, In The Hotel Ultimus, Paris

Act Three Redillon's Study, 11am in the morning
there will be an interval between each act

Time: Turn of the century about 1896 - 1900

STAGING

Stage Manager	RODERICK BEARDELL
Deputy Stage Manager	CHRIS D. APPLETON
Assistant Stage Manager (Book)	MARGARET HILL
Stage Crew	LINDSAY HAYWOOD
	CHRIS B. APPLETON
	DOREEN HOOD
Properties	SARAH MORELAND-SMITH
	ROB MacGREGGOR
Lighting	SYD COLEY
Sound	MATTHEW WOODHAMS
Wardrobe	JAMES HUGHES-ALTY
Set Constructed by	SDC PRODUCTIONS
Scenic Artist	BOB JESSAMINE
Photography by	NEIL HICKSON

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Director would like to thank the following

Costumes - Royal Exchange Manchester

Furniture - The Royal Arcade Southport

Furniture - The Scarisbrick Hotel

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?

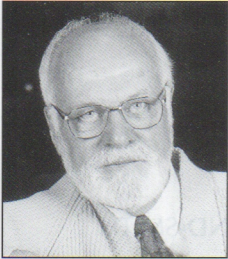
An induction loop is installed in this theatre for the benefit of hearing impaired patrons.
Please turn your hearing aid to 'T'.

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, PETER BURROUGHS.

AN ABSOLUTE TURKEY CAST



David Charters (*Director*)

David left secondary school soon after his fifteenth birthday to start his career in advertising with a Liverpool studio.

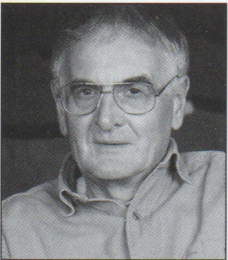
His first experience in directing came at the age of seven when his school teacher allowed him to direct his fellow pupils in his version of "Toy Town" and "Wurzel Gummage". He has spent a lifetime as a graphical illustrator and designer and in later years treading the boards in his spare time, once described by his A.S.M. (Book) as the 'Scouse' Prince of Wales in the 1991 SDC production of the "Royal Baccarat Scandal".



Emma Jane Hall (*Lucienne*)

Emma was very excited about being seen in a corset, unfortunately her role in "The Forsyte Saga" ended up on the cutting room floor, so she begged and pleaded for a role in "An Absolute Turkey".

Emma would like to stress to her father that any removal of clothing during this production is not indicative of a career change - she is still training to be a masseuse.



John Sharp (*Pontagnac*)

John's last appearance on the Little Theatre Stage was as a 'serious' serial womaniser - "King Henry VIII".

In this play he appears as a 'comic' serial womaniser. Such opportunities are very gratifying for one at his time of life.



Mike Stowell (*Vatelin*)

Mike's 'French Connection' with the SDC started many years ago when he played Monsieur Maingot in Terence Rattigan's "French without Tears".

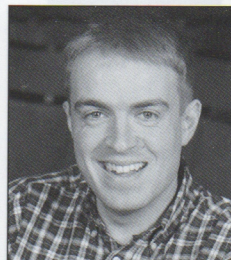
Having moved on to Molière and (more recently) Marc Camoletti, he is now eagerly awaiting the release of "Les Misérables" for amateurs!

AN ABSOLUTE TURKEY CAST

Peter Forshaw (*Jean / Second Inspector*)

Peter has such a happy, easy going nature that he wonders why the casting committee asked him to play an aggressive police inspector, and a miserable valet in this production.

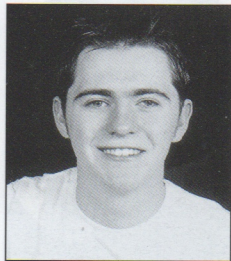
Having played 'Wishee Washee' in "Aladdin" at Christmas, Peter looks forward to acting his age next season.



Graham Davies (*Redillon*)

Graham has been a member of SDC for seven years, in which time he has appeared in numerous productions, including "Lost in Yonkers", "Cider with Rosie" and this season's opener "Broadway Bound".

He also wrote last year's Christmas panto "Aladdin". In the meantime Graham is an active member of the bar committee and helps out backstage on occasions.



Gay Stowell (*Madame Pontagnac*)

Like the Olympic Games, Gay's on-stage appearances come round with monotonous regularity.

Eight years ago she played a neurotic anorexic in "A Small Family Business", followed by a scheming step-mother in "The Imaginary Invalid", four years later, but this time her character is slightly more normal!!



Helen Pickavance (*Mitzi*)

Helen is delighted to be playing Mitzi in this production. This being Helen as you have never seen her before!

Having played in "Revenge" earlier in this season and a small part in "Aladdin" she is looking forward to this stimulating role to finish her season off.



AN ABSOLUTE TURKEY CAST



Simon Armstrong (*Soldignac*)

Simon is looking forward to playing the role, of a man slightly confused about his nationality - a Swiss with French nationality who speaks German. Simon is delighted to be in a position to use his German on stage and to be staking a claim for a role in any possible return of "Allo Allo". He was last seen on the SDC stage in a role, where once again confused identity was a central theme, namely George Maitland in "Tons of Money". He has also played Arthur in "Spring and Port Wine", Tom Bertram in "Mansfield Park", Sandy in "Hayfever" and Henry/Lady Macbeth in the "Farndale Macbeth". Since taking to the stage six years ago, he has also performed various principal roles with SAOS, Birkdale Orpheus and The Houghton Players.



Carol Bennett (*Armandine*)

Carol has been a member of SDC for several years and has played a variety of parts during that time.

You may remember her as a 'Scouse' tart in "Stags & Hens", quite a contrast to the 'French' tart she plays in this production.

In her last appearance on the Little stage she played Annie, a respectable tart in "Living Together". She wonders if someone is trying to tell her something.



David Thomas (*Victor*)

David is happy to be performing the role of Victor. He has previously been seen as Peter in "The Railway Children" and as Wilfred in "Spring and Port Wine".

He has also been in two pantos, the latest being as Constable Dim Sum in "Aladdin". He appeared in Song's "Calamity Jane", and is looking forward to "The Jungle Book" with the SDC Youth Theatre.



Norman Hope (*Hotel Manager / Policeman*)

Since joining SDC seven years ago, Norman has been lucky to have played a variety of parts including recently Mine Host in "The Merry Wives of Windsor", Sgt Fisher in "Silhouette", and in panto as Fusspot in "Sleeping Beauty" and The Emperor in last Christmas's "Aladdin".

In this production he is attempting two parts, thankfully separated by an Interval so that he can have a rest between them.

AN ABSOLUTE TURKEY CAST

Debra Taylor (*Clara*)

Debra's last production for SDC was as Jackie Coryton in "Hayfever". Since then she has acted for various local drama groups, most notably at Preston Playhouse, where her favourite roles included Celia in "As You Like It", Isabella Thorpe in "Northanger Abbey", and by way of a contrast, Alan Turing's mother in "Breaking The Code".



Ray Mann (*Pinchard*)

Ray had the pleasure of playing in the SDC's Queen's Silver Jubilee production of "Vivat Vivat Regina".

Now forty-five SDC plays later, Ray is enjoying the chance to appear in our Golden Jubilee production of "An Absolute Turkey". From Tragedy to Comedy in twenty-five easy stages!



Margaret Mann (*Madame Pinchard*)

Poor Madame Pinchard is not only hard of hearing, but also suffers from a noticeable liver complaint!

Add to these, a broken ankle and it really is a farce! Margaret, who has worked with David Charters since the Sixties, is delighted to be in one of his happy teams again.



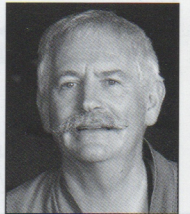
Pete Slater (*Gerome / Policeman / Hotel Guest*)

Pete's preparation for his role as Gerome, The Valet, consists of several previous roles; including a night club owner in "Imagine", a butler in "School For Scandal" and no less than two waiters in SDC's "Shadowlands".



Alec Robson (*1st Inspector / Policeman / Hotel Guest*)

Alec started his serious acting in "The Tempest", opposite David McCallum at the age of eleven. He played an Elf - a part Shakespeare forgot to write in - It was his first squeaking role. Thence via the Co-op Drama Group in North London via college, a brief flirtation with Windsor Rep, Progress Theatre Reading, Liverpool Unity Theatre and lastly with SDC.



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'Peggy For You'
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a Maghull Operatic Society
Production

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SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB Season 2002-2003



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The Herbal Bed
by Peter Whelan
18th - 26th October 2002

Business Affairs
by John Chapman and Jeremy Lloyd
22nd - 30th November 2002

Robin Hood
and the Babes in the Wood
19th December 2002 - 5th January 2003

Nobody's Perfect
by Simon Williams
24th January - 1st February 2003

The Perfect Murder
by Hugh Jane
28th February - 8th March 2003

Amy's View
by David Hare
28th March - 5th April 2003

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A Brief History of Jubilees

- 3000BC (approx) First Royal Jubilee celebrated in Ancient Egypt (Originally for a period of 49 years and not 50!).
- 1265 Henry III first English monarch to live long enough to celebrate a jubilee.
- 1377 Edward III in quick succession becomes second monarch to reach a jubilee.
No jubilees for 432 years. Elizabeth I comes closest with 45 years on the Throne.
- 1809 Golden Jubilee of George III.
- 1887 Golden Jubilee Of Queen Victoria.
£300,000 spent on decorations in London alone.
- 1897 Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria.
Term Diamond Jubilee created by The Times.
- 1920 Southport Dramatic Club formed.
- 1926 Princess Elizabeth of York born.
- 1935 First Time a Silver Jubilee is celebrated, for King George V.
- 1936 Little Theatre built.
- 1952 Accession of Elizabeth II.
- 1977 Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.
SDC perform Vivat Vivat Regina.
- 2002 Golden Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.



H.M. Queen Elizabeth II