



# SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB



Presents The Uproarious Farce

# Business Affairs

Sponsored by



By John Chapman and Jeremy Lloyd  
Directed by Hilary Thomson

**Friday 22nd - Saturday 30th  
November 2002**

Produced with permission of Josef Weinberger Ltd.

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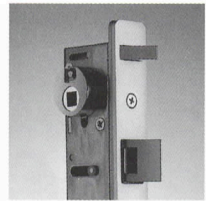


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# Director's Notes



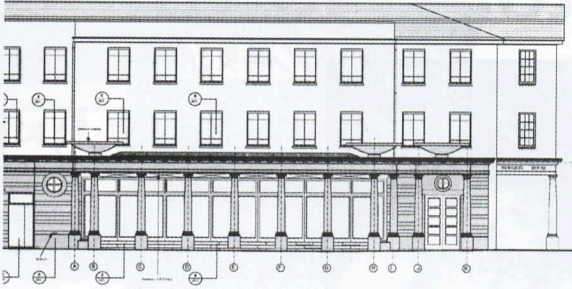
"Business Affairs" was first performed in Colchester in 2001 with a cast which included Ken Morley (Corrie's Reg Holdsworth) and Gordon Kaye and Vikki Michelle (from "Allo, Allo"). With that trio in the original cast you will realise that this play is a comedy through and through and we certainly hope to keep the laughter coming right through the performances.

Writers John Chapman and Jeremy Lloyd were both actors themselves before turning very successfully to writing, the latter being particularly well known for his collaboration with David Croft on the hugely successful television series "Are You Being Served?" and of course "Allo, Allo", both of which have been shown in more than 50 countries.

I was delighted to be asked to direct this very funny play and even more delighted to be working with a talented cast of friends, old and new, who have all worked so hard during the rehearsal period.

We're glad you could join us for an evening of fun and loads of laughs, just the thing to cast aside the winter chills and help you forget, for just a few hours, that by the time you read this, there will be only about 30 shopping days to Christmas!

**Hilary Thompson**  
Director



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# JOHN CHAPMAN

John Chapman and Jeremy Lloyd, stalwarts of the traditional form of comedy writing wrote "Business Affairs", their names are linked with hugely popular television sitcoms.

The playwright and actor John Chapman, who died last year aged 74, was the complete professional - inventive, witty and methodical. His writing work spanned half a century, beginning in the 1950s with such farces for the Whitehall theatre as "Dry Rot" (1954) and "Simple Spymen" (1958); it also took in television. John Chapman's writing has included over 200 television comedies, including "Blandings Castle" and "Fresh Fields" and film.

His latest work, "Deadlier Than The Male", a collaboration with Jeremy Lloyd, opened earlier this year. Born in London, he was the son of an engineer, the grandson of opera singers and the nephew of the actor Edward Chapman, whose splendid portrayals of sturdy northern burghers were a feature of 1940s and early 1950s British cinema. He was educated at Magdalen College School, Oxford, the Glasgow Academy and University College School, London. After the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, he made his acting debut in "National Velvet" in London in 1946.

# JEREMY LLOYD

Jeremy Lloyd was born in London, the son of an army colonel and a dancing Tiller Girl. He left school early and did a number of dead-end jobs. At age 23 he successfully submitted a story to Pinewood Film Studios. It was turned into a film called "What a Whopper" starring Adam Faith. This helped Lloyd to get work in television and he wrote for several successful BBC shows including the children's show "Crackerjack". Appearing in countless films, at the same time he continued writing. He also appeared for 3 years as Captain Cook in the musical "Robert and Elizabeth" and used some of his spare time to write poems about animals. Keith Michell offered to illustrate them and thus was born the best-selling children's book, "Captain Beaky and His Band". Soon afterwards Harold Robbins invited him to Hollywood to work on a major film project but soon returned to England.

However, he was again invited to Hollywood to appear in and write for "Rowan and Martin's Laugh In", with Goldie Hawn. On returning to the UK, he was married for a short time to Joanna Lumley and they played a couple in the television sitcom "It's Awfully Bad For Your Eyes Darling". She suggested to him that he should write a TV show based on one of his many jobs and he chose his time as a suit salesman at Simpson's of Piccadilly. "Are You Being Served" was co-written with David Croft, which proved to be one of Britain's most successful television exports.



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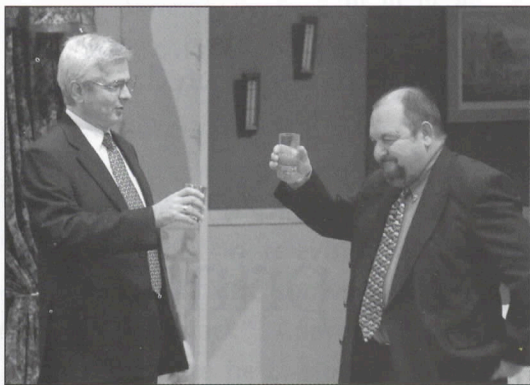
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# BUSINESS AFFAIRS





# BUSINESS AFFAIRS



# **BUSINESS AFFAIRS**

By John Chapman and Jeremy Lloyd

Directed by Hilary Thompson

## **Cast**

*Stanley .....MIKE YATES*

*Norman .....PETE SLATER*

*Hilda .....HELEN PICKAVANCE*

*Rose .....JACQUIE WADE*

*Kurt .....PETER HESLIN*

*Sven .....SIMON ARMSTRONG*

*Valerie .....BELINDA WHEELER*

*Sabrina .....JENNIE OGDEN*

*The Action takes place in a luxury suite of the Grand Hotel,  
Westminster, London.*

*Time: Present*

*Act 1 An Evening in winter*

*Act 2 The same*

*The action is continuous*

*There will be a 20 minute interval during the performance.*

# Staging

*Stage Manager* .....ROY CARR

*Assistant Stage Manager (Book)* .....MARIANNE HARDY

*Assistant Stage Manager (Stage)* .....LINDSAY HAYWOOD

*Properties* .....SDC TEAM

*Lighting* .....SYD COLEY

*Costumes* .....CAST / SDC TEAM

*Set Constructed by* .....SDC PRODUCTIONS

*Scenic Artist* .....BOB JESSAMINE

*Photography by* .....NEIL HICKSON

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Thanks to: The Southport Sofa Studio Eastbank Street, Scarisbrick Hotel,  
Gay Stowell, Joan Pettitt, Pat Ball, Valentinos and Ian Morgan.*

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.**

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•  
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•  
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At the end of tonight's performance you may leave by any of the exits, all of which will be open.

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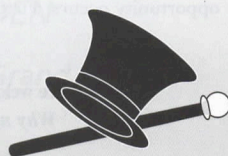
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# BUSINESS AFFAIRS

## Cast

### **Hilary Thompson** (*Director*)

Having directed four Pantos for the SDC, Hilary is used to getting children to behave themselves, an important skill in directing the "big kids" who take part in the plays!

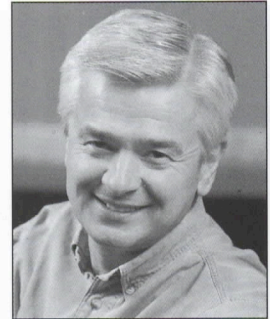
Hilary's last production as a director was "Spring and Port Wine" and her favourite parts have been in "Rumours" and "Stepping Out" (not forgetting being the Fairy in Panto).



### **Mike Yates** (*Stanley*)

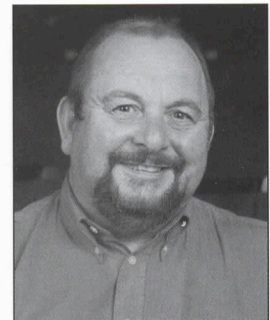
Mike has been a member of the SDC for many years in productions ranging from Panto through Thrillers to Comedy, however his personal favourite was his role in "The Royal Hunt for the Sun".

Mike was most recently seen in "Breezeblock Park" and "Broadway Bound" and is pleased to be back on stage for "Business Affairs" with a bevy of Beauties (how's that for a collection of B's!-Ed).



### **Pete Slater** (*Norman*)

In "Business Affairs" Pete plays Norman Harris, a boring, overweight, bald Yorkshire businessman who prefers egg and bacon to a night of passion. Pete wishes to assure audiences that in real life he does not come from Yorkshire.



# BUSINESS AFFAIRS

## Cast



**Helen Pickavance** (*Hilda*)

Helen is enjoying playing a Yorkshire lass, making a change from a Swiss lady in last season's "Absolute Turkey". As Hilda enjoys shopping in Harrods and Harvey Nichols, Helen feels an affinity towards this character!



**Jacquie Wade** (*Rose*)

Jacquie trained at the Elliot-Clarke Drama School in Liverpool. She has played numerous leading roles for the SDC and other local drama and operatic societies. As her last two appearances for the SDC were as a murderess in "Dead Guilty" and a victim of murder in "Death Trap", she is looking forward to playing Rose in this light-hearted comedy and hopes the audience find it as much fun as she and the rest of the cast found it in rehearsal. Jacquie would like to dedicate her performance in this production to her late mother.



**Peter Heslin** (*Kurt*)

Being on stage with a wide variety of semi clad ladies, who could ask for anything more? Peter is delighted to be appearing with this talented cast and work with such a gifted director.

Peter appeared in last season's "Shadowlands" and is also involved with the Sefton Theatre Company, and recently was in "Henry IV part1" for the Formby Arts Festival.

# BUSINESS AFFAIRS

## Cast

### **Simon Armstrong** (*Sven*)

Simon is delighted to be expanding on his repertoire of European accents in "Business Affairs"; although he admits that Swedish has been the most difficult he has had to get to grips with to date. He has been watching England football team management interviews, old Eurovision Song Competitions, the Muppets, listening to ABBA tracks and doing other things Swedish (!) in preparation for this role. However, he is keen to point out that his character has developed a number of global influences during the course of the play, which will no doubt feature during the run.



### **Belinda Wheeler** (*Valerie*)

Belinda is donating the £14.78 raised during her extensive research for the part of Valerie, the Australian lady of the night, to the latest SDC fund raising project to meet the costs of her forthcoming court case. Belinda would also like to thank her elder sister Jane for lending her various items of clothing for the costume she is wearing in this production. If anyone knows how to get prune stains out of nylon, would you please leave a note at the Box Office?



### **Jennie Ogden** (*Sabrina*)

Jennie has enjoyed taking part in "Business Affairs". At first she was concerned that it would be difficult to acquire the mannerisms of a common call girl but found an excellent role model in Helen Pickavance. As this is only her second main season production she has been pleased to have such an experienced director and cast to learn from. Her next production is planned for May 2003 – a brother or sister for her daughter Niamh!



# Lovely London Ladies

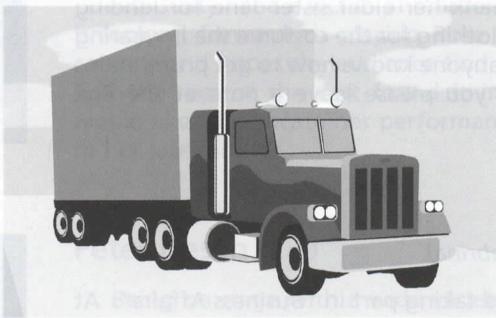


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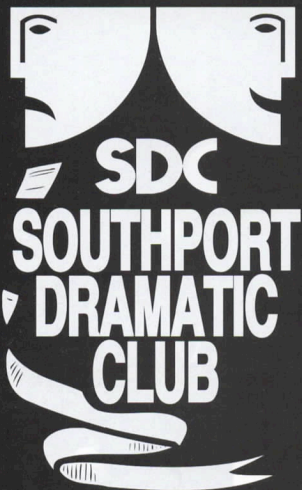
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