



SOUTHPORT  
DRAMATIC CLUB



Presents

Nude  
with  
Violin

by Noel Coward

directed by Margaret Mann

25th April - 3rd May  
at 7.45pm

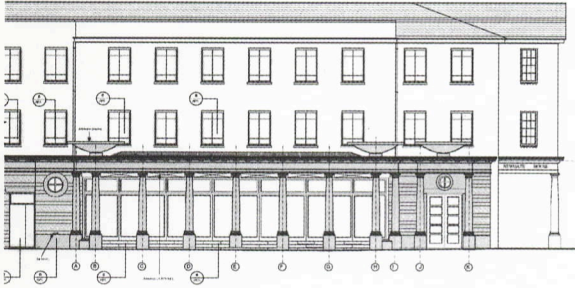
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## *Director's Notes*



Our last play of the season sees Noel Coward 'poking fun' at modern art and the commercialising of creative talent. In the 50s when this play was written, people were less used to the kinds of contemporary art exhibitions which we see at galleries and Schools of Art today. However, many of us still find it difficult to understand why certain pictures attract such enormous sums of money! As Sebastien, the valet, says, "I don't think that anyone knows about painting any more. Art, like human nature, has got out of hand". In addition to this underlying theme, which is dealt with in Coward's own inimitable way, more humour is extracted through the contrasting lifestyle of the artist, Monsieur Sorodin, and his very conventional wife and family. In addition we are introduced to the many other interesting 'friends' he met along the way!

We've had great fun bringing all these characters to life, plus creating Paul Sorodin's Paris apartment. We hope you will enjoy stepping back to the fifties and our production of Coward's play.

**Margaret Mann**  
**Director**



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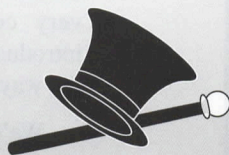
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## *Sir Noel Pierce Coward* (1899-1973)

Noel Coward was an English playwright, actor, producer, and composer, born in Teddington. He was noted particularly as a chronicler of British upper-class life. Coward wrote "The Vortex" in 1924, produced it in London with himself in the leading role and in 1925 appeared in it in New York City. From then on his versatility was displayed throughout the English-speaking world.

Among Coward's two-score theatrical works – many of which he produced, directed and appeared in – are the brilliant plays: "Private Lives" (1930); "Design for Living" (1932) and "Blithe Spirit" (1941); also the group of one-act plays "Tonight at 8:30" (1935); the review, "Words and Music" (1932) and the musical comedy, "Sail Away" (1961).

He also appeared in a number of films, including "The Scoundrel" (1934). His other writings include the autobiographies "Present Indicative" (1937), "Middle East Diary" (1945) and "Future Indefinite" (1954). His writings and music formed the basis of a review staged in 1972, "Oh Coward!"

Although most of Coward's works are notable for their biting satire and sophisticated wit, they also prove him capable of moving and tender sentiment. His songs, noted for their melodies and clever lyrics, epitomize their era; among the most popular are "I'll See You Again" and "Some Day I'll Find You." Several of his plays have entered the standard repertoire, and "Brief Encounter" (1945), which he wrote and produced, is regarded as a film classic. Coward was knighted in 1970.

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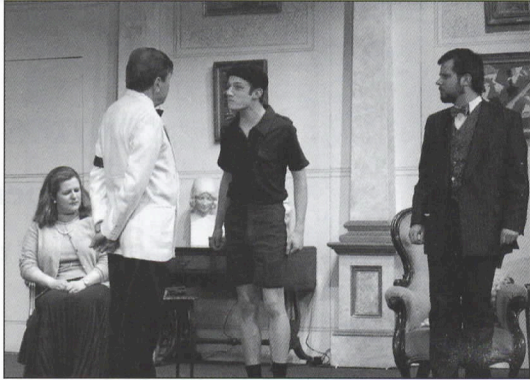
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# Nude with Violin





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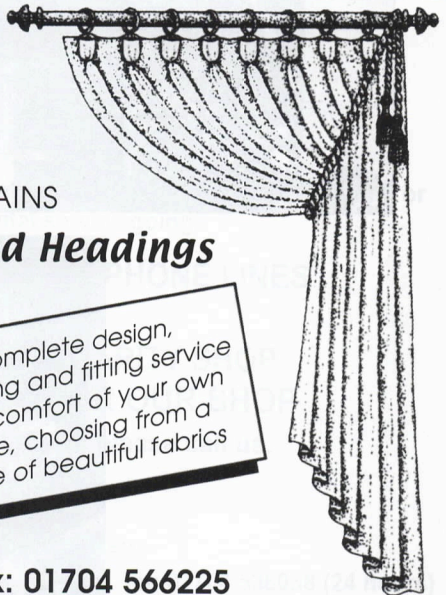
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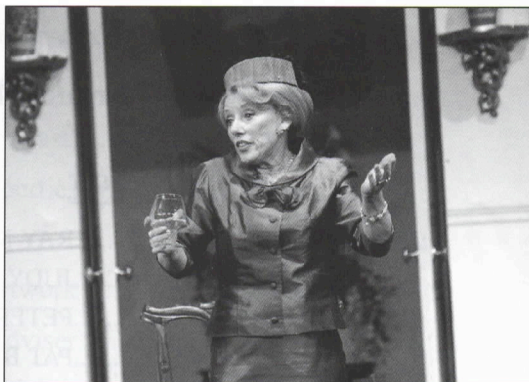
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# Nude with Violin



# Nude with Violin

by Noel Coward

Directed by Margaret Mann

## Cast

Sebastien.....RAY MANN  
Marie Celeste.....JUDY HALL  
Clinton Premiger Jnr.....PETER FORSHAW  
Isobel.....PAT BALL  
Jane.....EMMA HALL  
Colin/Voice of Obadiah Llewellyn.....SIMON ARMSTRONG  
Pamela.....BELINDA WHEELER  
Jacob.....MATTHEW WOODHAMS  
Anya.....MARIANNE HARDY  
Cherry-May.....CAROL QUIRK  
Fabrice.....GUY UNSWORTH  
George.....MARK PIGGOTT  
Stotesbury.....JOHN BRINDLE

The action takes place in Paul Sorodin's studio in Paris

Time: late 1950s

### Act One

Scene 1    Afternoon  
Scene 2    A few hours later

### Interval

### Act Two

Scene 1    The following afternoon  
Scene 2    A few hours later  
Scene 3    The following morning

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between the two acts.



# Staging

Stage Manager .....CHRIS RATCLIFFE

Assistant Stage Manager (Book) .....JUNE HUNTER

Assistant Stage Manager (Cast) .....JUSTIN LEE

Properties .....JULIE WHELAN

CHARLES PRESTON

Original Artwork .....DAVID CHARTERS

Language Adviser .....JUDY HALL

Lighting .....ANDREW CONNARD

Sound .....BRIAN HODGE

ANDREW GREGSON

Wardrobe .....CAST AND SDC TEAM

Set Constructed by .....SDC PRODUCTION TEAM

Scenic Artist .....BOB JESSAMINE

Photography by .....NEIL HICKSON

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.

•  
*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'.

•  
*Please ensure that all mobile telephones are switched off*

•  
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, BRIAN FORSHAW

# Nude with Violin



# Nude with Violin

## Cast

### **Margaret Mann** (*Director*)

Nobody can remember when she didn't act, write, direct, sing and play the piano. She made her first professional appearance aged eight when she played a piece by Mozart (she received 7s 6d for it). She directed and won a Schools' Drama Festival with her production of "The Tempest" aged 16 and from then on has gone 'downhill'. She blames Ray for that! Having directed, performed in and written countless plays, pantomimes, musicals and operettas, apart from her family, the theatre is her main interest.



### **Ray Mann** (*Sebastien*)

Having played the butler's role on several occasions, the challenge remains the same. It is not so much the problem of remembering when to be on stage, it's remembering what you are supposed to be doing on that particular occasion! This time, the Valet role is a little more up-market and has a great deal more to say, of course, because Noel Coward wrote this part for himself to play. It is much harder on the feet! But... I am at your service as always.



### **Judy Hall** (*Marie Celeste*)

Usually to be found in the box office, it is about 20 years since Judy appeared on stage with her daughter, Emma. Hopefully it won't take so long to do so again, because she may well need a wheelchair by then. She has thoroughly enjoyed working with the "family" and has endeavoured to deliver all twelve of her lines with élan.





# Nude with Violin

## Cast



**Peter Forshaw** (*Clinton Premiger Jnr.*)

Peter has the questionable honour of having appeared ‘nude’ on the SDC stage (in Ray Cooney’s ‘Out of Order’) and therefore considers himself well qualified to appear in tonight’s production. Patrons will be relieved to hear that he keeps his clothes on this time round!



**Pat Ball** (*Isobel*)

Pat played Jane in Benny Darrah’s original production of this play in 1960.

Obviously she was a very mature ten-year-old at the time!



**Emma Hall** (*Jane*)

Contrary to expectations Emma is not performing as the “Nude with Violin” although she did audition for the role (but didn’t get it).

She is also delighted to have Pat Ball play her mother and even more delighted to be on stage with her “other” mother, and see her doing some domestic chores for a change.

# Nude with Violin

## Cast

### **Simon Armstrong** (*Colin/Voice of Obadiah Llewellyn*)

Simon is once again suffering from an identity crisis on stage playing the very different roles of Colin Sorodin and the voice and off-stage presence of another character. With this part he has secured a hat-trick of appearances this season including Sven the Swede in "Business Affairs" and the Sheriff of Nottingham in Pantomime.



### **Belinda Wheeler** (*Pamela*)

Belinda would like to thank her very good friend Celia Pope for ensuring that she does not actually appear nude with the violin or any other member of the orchestra during this play. Frequent visitors to the theatre will be relieved to read this, as some may say that far too much flesh was on display during her last performance as Valerie in "Business Affairs".



### **Matthew Woodhams** (*Jacob*)

Matthew has vowed to keep his clothes on in all SDC productions, after one director made him appear in nothing but a loin cloth (some members of the audience have never recovered).

He is not however averse to going topless (as in "Bedroom Farce" at the beginning of the season) or dressing up as a school boy (claimed to be for this year's Panto).



# Nude with Violin

## Cast



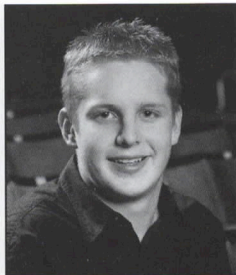
### **Marianne Hardy** (*Anya*)

After a gruelling (but fun) role as the title part in last year's bar production, "Peggy For You", Marianne thought that she would give herself a bit of a break. What better way to come back than as the leg-biting tart with a heart, Princess Anya (a royal no less! Now there's posh for you).



### **Carol Quirk** (*Cherry-May*)

This part is a refreshing change from parts Carole has previously played far and wide, not least because she has a toyboy on her arm for most of the time. A warm welcome awaited Carole after an absence from the SDC of almost seven years.



### **Guy Unsworth** (*Fabrice*)

Guy hasn't been directed by Margaret since "Mansfield Park" in 1999, and is thoroughly enjoying this one. He likes to think he has been word-perfect since the start of rehearsals, with rather less lines than his last role as Mr Briggs in the youth production of "Our Day Out". He doesn't usually go for older women but would rather be a toy-boy than actually nude with violin!



# Nude with Violin

## Cast

### Mark Piggott (*George*)

After his debut for the SDC in “The Perfect Murder”, Mark has only been given a break of one play before being dragged back on stage. Whilst all the other members of the cast only get to talk about the “nude”, he gets to take the pictures!



### John Brindle (*Stotesbury*)

Although more used to playing older roles (The old gentleman in “The Railway Children”) John decided to “dumb down” for this production. He has managed a variety of roles so far, from Playing Card Number 3, in “Alice in Wonderland” to Lady Macbeth. John is now studying media technology at Preston University and spends far more time behind the camera than in front.



## QUIZ

As this is a play about artists, how much do you know about art?

1. Picasso was famous for which style?
2. The Norwegian painter Edvard Munch made which famous expressionist lithograph in 1895?
3. Salvador Dali was known for painting in which style?
4. The Mona Lisa was painted about the year?
5. The artists Bruegel, Jan Steen and Rembrandt were from?
6. What is the name of the artist in Somerset Maugham’s “Moon and Sixpence” and who was he based on?

For the answers see page 18



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*by Joe Orton, directed by Alistair Hewitt*

*An SDC Bar Production*

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*Directed by Les Gomersall*

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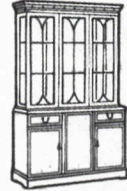
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# SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB



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directed by Alistair Hewitt

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