



SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB



Presents

Laura

by Vera Caspary and George Sklar

Directed by Thelma Falls Hand

Friday 17th - Saturday 25th

October 2003

7.45pm

sponsored by



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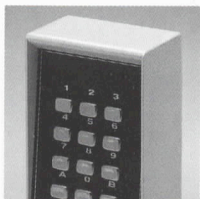
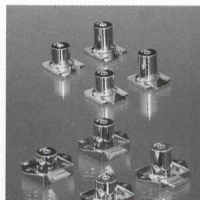
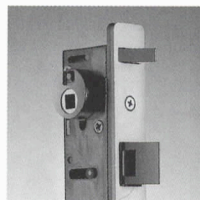
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Director's Notes

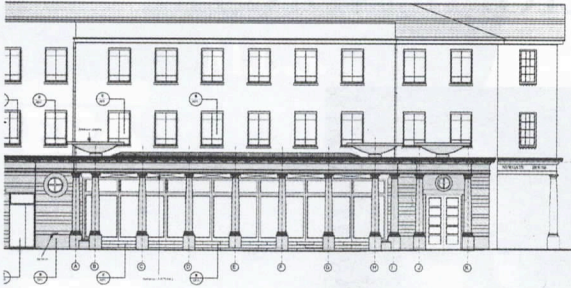


As we have worked on *Laura* we have come to appreciate what a skilfully crafted play it is.

We've had many discussions analysing the motivations and behaviour of the characters and we know "Who Dun It"!

So now over to you our audience - the actor's *raison d'être*.

Thelma Falls-Hand
Director



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Vera Caspary & George Sklar

Born on 13th November, 1904 in Chicago, Illinois, American author, playwright and screenwriter, Vera Caspary, began her distinguished career at the age of 18. She dropped out of school in order to work as an advertising copywriter for a mail order company and began writing novels, as a hobby on the side. She began working in Hollywood in the early 30's where she was to meet George Sklar, an already experienced film screenwriter.

Her best known work is the novel *Laura* described today as a classic tale of mystery and suspense. It was soon to become a successful play on Broadway and in 1944, an even more successful film. She did not, however, write the screenplay herself, which was undertaken by her friend George Sklar.

The film of *Laura* was made at Twentieth Century Fox, directed by Otto Preminger with Judith Anderson, Dana Andrews, Vincent Price and Gene Tierney achieving four Academy Award nominations, including one for Best Director. Vera Caspary went on to provide original stories for the films *A Letter to Three Wives* (1949) *The Blue Gardenia* (1953) and *Bachelor in Paradise* (1961).

Sadly, not as much is recorded of life of George Sklar. He was born in 1908 and died at the age of 80 in 1988 in Los Angeles, California, USA. He worked in Hollywood during its most successful and productive years. His professional partnership with Vera Caspary, in the 30's and 40's has more than stood the test of time. The play is still regularly performed and videos of the film *Laura* are available for sale today, nearly 60 years after it was first screened!

ORLEANS



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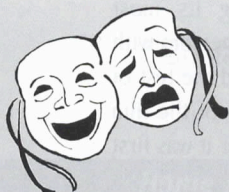
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Laura





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Laura



Laura

by Vera Caspary and George Sklar
directed by Thelma Falls-Hand

Cast

Mark McPherson	DAVID PARRY
Danny Dorgan	MARK PIGGOTT
Waldo Lydecker	STEVE PRITCHARD
Shelby Carpenter	SIMON ARMSTRONG
Bessie Clary	MANDY EVANS
Mrs. Dorgan	HELEN COOKSON
A Girl	SANDRA UNSWORTH
Olsen	NORMAN HOPE

The action of the entire play takes place in the living room of Laura Hunt's apartment in New York City.

Time: Late 1940s

Act One

An Evening in August

Interval

Act Two

The Next Morning

Act Three

That Night

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between acts one and two

Staging

Stage Manager.....	PETER HESLIN
Assistant Stage Manager (Book).....	SHEILA FURLONG
Props.....	HELEN COOKSON JAN HALE, YVONNE FORSHAW
Lighting Design.....	TONY BERRY
Lighting Operator.....	ANDREW CONNARD
Sound.....	MATTHEW WOODHAMS
Wardrobe.....	CAST AND SDC TEAM
Portrait Artist.....	DAVID CHARTERS
Set Designed by.....	SYD COLEY
Set Constructed by.....	SDC PRODUCTION TEAM
Scenic Artist.....	BOB JESSAMINE
Armourer.....	SYD COLEY
Photography by.....	NEIL HICKSON

PLEASE NOTE:

THERE WILL BE A GUN SHOT DURING THE PERFORMANCE

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'.
•

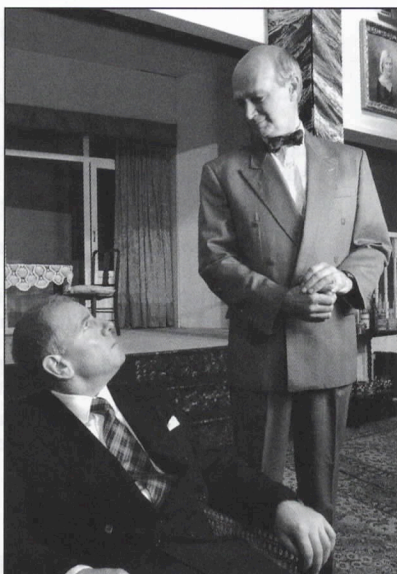
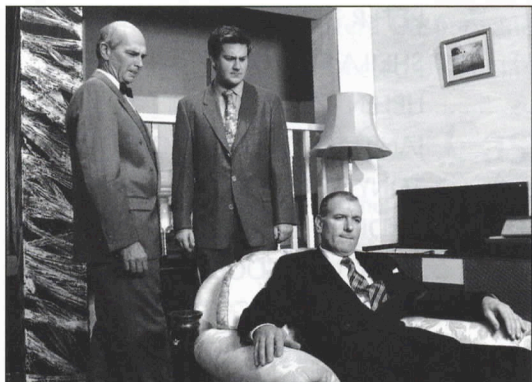
Please ensure that all mobile telephones are switched off
•

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

Laura



Laura

Cast

Thelma Falls-Hand (*Director*)

Thelma first performed on stage at 3 years old when in mid-act the curtain accidentally (or purposely) came down.

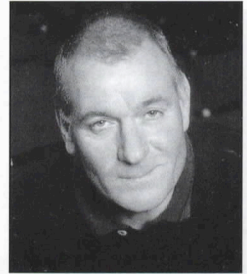
Undeterred she pursued her theatrical ambition (making audiences nervous if she threatened to sing), but eventually doing fairly well really - on stage, radio, TV and in the director's seat. Apparently her great grandfather was a Shakespearean actor - No - not with the Bard's original troupe!



David Parry (*Mark McPherson*)

It's taken David 12 months since the period drama *The Herbal Bed* for David to revive his enthusiasm for the stage and take a the role made famous by Dana Andrews.

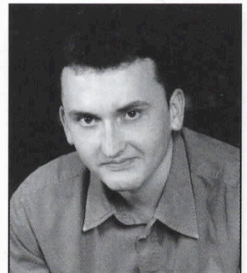
Unfortunately the leisure time between has not seen a significant reduction in his golf handicap.



Mark Piggott (*Danny Dorgan*)

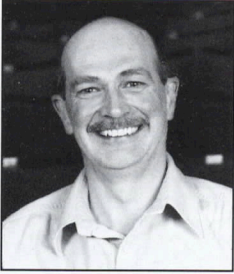
Laura is the third play he has been involved in with the SDC. When he is not acting he is a keen musician like his character.

This is his biggest part so far for the SDC and he has enjoyed working with Thelma and this talented cast.



Laura

Cast



Steve Pritchard (*Waldo Lydecker*)

After spending the entire play in bed in his last appearance for the SDC Steve has enjoyed the challenge of Waldo.

It has proved an entertaining diversion before embarking on directing *The Mikado* for the Hoghton Players.



Simon Armstrong (*Shelby Carpenter*)

Simon is enjoying his first thriller, playing the role of Shelby. Yet again he has been typecast in a role that demands a foreign accent and a stage-managed punch up. Earlier in the year he played the Sheriff of Nottingham in the SDC's Pantomime and the dual roles of Colin Soridin and the voice of Obidiah Llewellyn in Noel Coward's "Nude with Violin".



Mandy Evans (*Bessie Clary*)

Mandy's last appearance for the SDC was in *Loot* a bar production and although her part as Bessie, in *Laura* is much smaller she has thoroughly enjoyed working with an excellent cast and director.

Last year she was fortunate enough to play the part of Doctor Susan Booth in the Harold Shipman drama (on TV) and she is looking forward to appearing in the SDC Pantomime *Cinderella* this christmas

Laura

Cast

Helen Cookson (*Mrs. Dorgan*)

Playing a faded 45 year old mother with a touch of eccentricity and suppressed hysteria is definitely not the type of character Helen usually portrays. This really is acting!

Her last appearance for the SDC was in *Bedroom Farce* and previously *Two and Two Together* and *The Philadelphia Story*.



Sandra Unsworth (*A Girl*)

This is the third decade in which Thelma has directed Sandra. Although a very different style to "Noises Off" and "Private Lives", Sandra has relished the challenge of "Laura".

She is most delighted to have Sheila as prompt yet again. Despite being overworked, Sheila never complains.

Sandra is enjoying being on stage again with David and Mandy and is thrilled to have the chance of working with Simon, Helen, Steve, Norman and Mark.



Norman Hope (*Olsen*)

Norman thought that it was about time he played a "young" New York plain clothes cop with a Swedish name, instead of the usual British detectives he has played in the past, to add to his French Gendarme, in *Absolute Turkey* hence his brief appearance in this murder mystery.



???? A NEW YORK QUIZ ???? ?

Our play this evening, is set in New York, U.S.A. Perhaps you would like to test yourself to find out how much you know about this intriguing city?

1. Which European country gave The Statue of Liberty as a gift to New York?
.....
2. Where does it stand?
3. What is the famous theatrical district of New York called?
4. Where is the New York Stock Exchange situated?
5. Which two of the following U.S. Presidents were born in New York?
a) Abraham Lincoln b) Theodore Roosevelt
c) Gerald Ford d) Franklin D. Roosevelt
6. Which famous musical show was named after a New York street.....
7. What is the largest park in New York?
8. What is the name of the current Mayor of New York?
a) Michael R. Bloomberg b) Rudolph W. Guiliani
9. By what modern nickname is New York called?
10. What is the name of the site where the Twin Towers were demolished on 9/11.....

HOW DID YOU DO? For the answers please turn to page 18.



SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB



Present
Our Traditional Family Pantomime

Cinderella

Written and directed by James Hughes-Alty
Staged by Arnold Gorse
Choreography by Rob MacGregor
Musical director Dave Thomson

*22nd December 2003 -
11th January 2004*

Show Times

	December					January										
	22	23	27	28	30	1	2	3	4	6	7	8	9	10	11	
2.30pm			●	●		●		●	●					●	●	
7.30pm	●	●	●		●		●	●		●	●	●	●	●		

Tickets:

A - L £8.50, Concessions £7.00 (parties of 20+, Children and OAPs)
M - Q £6.50, Concessions £5.50 (parties of 20+, Children and OAPs)

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5th - 8th November 2003

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21st - 29th November 2003

TILTING GROUND

by Guy Hibbert
Directed by Ceila Pope
Sponsored by Duncan Sheard Glass
An SDC Production

22nd December 2003 - 11th January 2004

Our Traditional Family Pantomime

CINDERELLA

Written and Directed by Stephen Hughes-Alty
Sponsored by NatWest
An SDC Production

20th January - 7th February 2004

WHO DIES WINS

by Seymour Mathews
Directed by Matthew Woodhams
An SDC Production

27th February - 6th March 2004

MRS. WARREN'S PROFESSION

by George Bernard Shaw
Directed by John Sharp
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An SDC Production

THE ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ ARE: 1. France, 2. Liberty Island, New York Bay, 3. Broadway, 4. Wall Street, 5. (b) Theodore Roosevelt and (d) Franklin D. Roosevelt, 6. "42nd Street", 7. Central Park, 8. (a) Michael R. Bloomberg, 9. The Big Apple, 10. Ground Zero. Enjoy the play!



SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB



2nd half of the 2003-2004 season

26th March - 3rd April 2004

London Suite

by Neil Simon

Directed by Robin Hirsch

Sponsored by Royal Bank of Scotland

23rd April - 1st May 2004

A Chorus of Disapproval

by Sir Alan Ayckbourn

Directed by Margaret Mann

19th - 22nd May 2004

Quartet

by Ronald Harewood

Directed by Poppy Flanagan

An SDC Bar Production



SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB



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SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB



Presents

Tilting Ground

By Guy Hibbert

Directed by

Celia Pope

*21st - 29th
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7.45pm



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