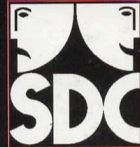




SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB



Presents the comedy thriller

Who Dies Wins

by Seymour Matthews

Directed by Matthew Woodhams

30th January -
7th February 2004
7.45pm

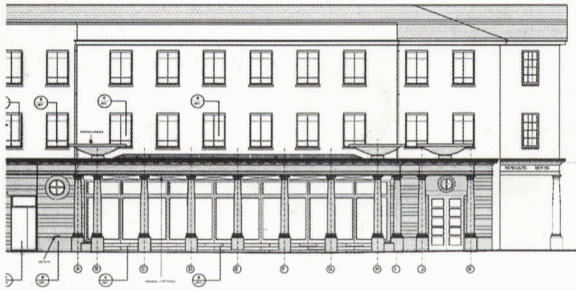
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Director's Notes

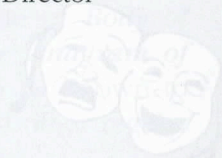


Welcome! A lot of the time when we watch a play, that is all we do-watch it from afar. This evening I would like to invite you instead into the Winter's living room for one of their regular dinner parties to be part of the action.

The "4th" wall of this set is in fact behind you and magically the whole of the auditorium is transported to that space between the skirting board and the edge of the carpet. That way we all get a grandstand view and it's a much more exciting way to take part in a murder!

Particularly because if you can work out who did it and why by the interval, I'll buy you a drink! (Now there's an incentive).

Matthew Woodhams
Director



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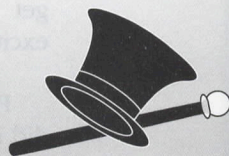
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Thoughts on the Thriller

The 'who-dunnit', murder mystery play has a big role to play in today's theatrical and television calendar. At least 40% of productions running at any one time, in the West End are thrillers and television crime series are equally if not more prevalent, because of their immense popularity. There must be something of the 'armchair detective' in all of us! We all think we can outwit the author before the final denouement arrives.

From the acting point of view, surely the thriller is one of the hardest to portray realistically. Not many actors and actresses, however professional in their approach, can draw on the personal experience of actually having been involved in a murder, in order to convincingly re-enact the emotional and violent avenues down which an actual 'murderer' must travel!

This is where the play-write's knowledge and expertise is vital. In a love story, drama, family saga or comedy, the cast and director can draw on their own personal experience to embellish the story-line. Not so in a thriller where the author's word is sacrosanct, and his script the only tool with which the cast can work.

Seymour Matthews, a British actor and writer of thrillers understands well the requirements of a good mystery play. *Who Dies Wins* - our production this evening, provides our audience with much to challenge their intellect. It was first directed (also by Seymour Matthews) at the Summer Theatre, Frinton-on-Sea in August, 1999 under the title of *Body of Evidence* and other plays he has written are *Anagram of Murder* and *Dead Man's Hand*. He may also be known to you for many appearances in *The Sweeny* and other regular features on the web.



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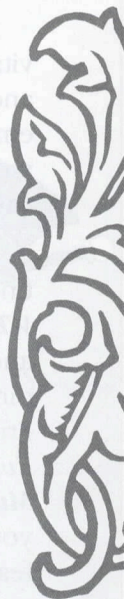
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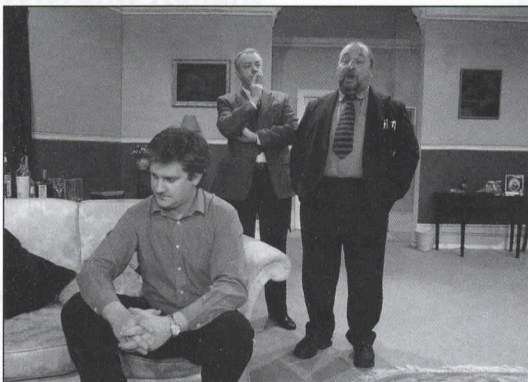
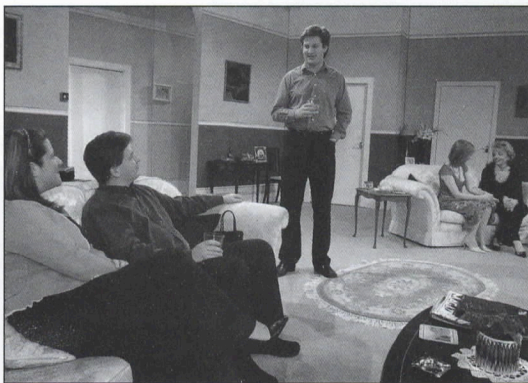
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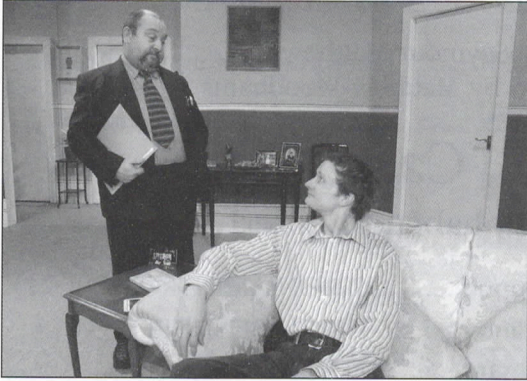
Who Dies Wins



Who Dies Wins



Who Dies Wins



Who Dies Wins

by Seymour Mathews
Directed by Matthew Woodhams

Cast

in alphabetical order

John Drummond SIMON ARMSTRONG
Abbey Winter HELEN BENNETT
Piers Gerard RONNIE ORR
Chief Inspector Norbert Plum PETE SLATER
Raymond Brown DAVE SMITH
Molly Drummond SUE THOMAS
Sophie Brown BELINDA WHEELER
Detective Sergeant RON WILSON
Leon Winter NEIL WOODHOUSE

Time: Present Day

The action takes place in the sitting room
of the Winter's house in Banbury.

Act 1

A Friday evening in September

Act 2

Late afternoon, five days later

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between acts.

Staging

Stage Manager..... CHRIS RATCLIFFE

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

Assistant Stage Manager (Stage)..... PETER FORSHAW

Properties..... ROBERT MACGREGOR

Lighting..... ANDREW CONNARD

Sound..... PHIL HUTCHINSON

Set Constructed by..... SDC PRODUCTION TEAM

Scenic Artist..... BOB JESSAMINE

Photography by..... NEIL HICKSON

Acknowledgements

The Director would like to thank:
Merseyside Police and Lamplighters Gallery

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.

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Who Dies Wins

Cast

Simon Armstrong (*John Drummond*)

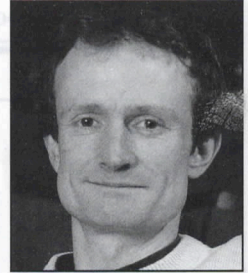
Since Simon's last appearance here, as Colin in *Nude with Violin*, he has been busy moving house with Belinda. Simon is looking forward to their marriage in July 2004, instead of being "just good friends" as John Drummond and Sophie Brown are in this production of *Who Dies Wins*.



Helen Bennett (*Abbey Winter*)

After a break from the Little Theatre stage for two years, Helen is delighted to be back. She has been in several of the Hoghton Players' G&S productions and concerts. Last year she appeared in the premiere of Alistair Hewitt's play *Spending Frank* at the Unity Theatre in Liverpool, as well as compiling an Old Time Music Evening at the Grand Theatre, Blackpool.

Helen's previous SDC credits are *Breezblock Park*, *Tons of Money* and *The Farndale Macbeth* where she first crossed swords (literally) with Matthew- and lived to tell the tale.



Ronnie Orr (*Piers Gerard*)

Ronnie is delighted to be involved in his first SDC production (hopefully the first of many!) No stranger to the stage Ronnie has been performing with Too Friendly Theatre Company for many years (He's currently rehearsing Mike Harding's comedy *Comfort and Joy* to be performed 26th – 28th February at Ormskirk Civic Hall).

His past roles include Billy in *Stags and Hens*, Ted in *Breezblock Park* and more recently Aubrey Parker in *When we are Married*



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Who Dies Wins

Cast

Pete Slater (*Chief Inspector Norbert Plum*)

Pete played Jerome the butler who only appeared in Act 3 of *Absolute Turkey*, as the accused in *The Perfect Murder* he only appeared in the trial scenes in Act 2. In *Who Dies Wins* he plays the Detective who also only appears in Act 2.

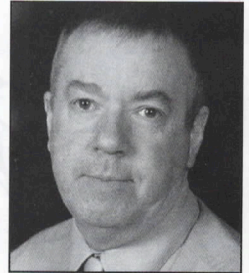
Pete would like to spend more quality time in the Green Room, and asks directors to take note that he is available to play characters who die, emigrate or who are otherwise written out during the first ten minutes of a play.



Dave Smith (*Raymond Brown*)

Having performed with many musical societies in and around Southport, Dave is now relishing the challenge of acting in an SDC production. His previous credits include Cosmo Brown *Singing in the Rain*, Tony Forte *Copacabana* and Sid Sorokin *The Pyjama Game*.

However different this play may be to the many musicals Dave has performed in, he has still managed to squeeze in just a snatch of singing – although not from his usual repertoire.



Sue Thomas (*Molly Drummond*)

Sue is delighted to be returning to the SDC stage playing Molly who is described as "a couple of sandwiches short of a picnic". However after playing the nice but dim Kate in *Bedroom Farce*, she wonders if she is being typecast!

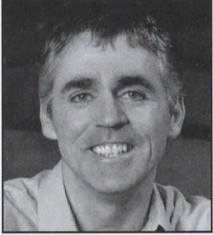
Sue has had a busy start to 2004 as the Wicked Fairy in the All Souls Dramatic Club's *Sleeping Beauty* and is to appear with Ronnie Orr in *Comfort and Joy*.



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Who Dies Wins

Cast



Belinda Wheeler (*Sophie Brown*)

After playing sister to his brother *Mansfield Park*, girlfriend to his boyfriend *Spring and Port Wine*, sworn enemies *Farndale Macbeth*, call girl to his client *Business affairs*, and in last season's closer army wife to his Major *Nude with Violin* and this play where Belinda and Simon seem to be just good friends, Belinda is looking forward to the best role there is, at their wedding on 31st July 2004. Real life wife to his husband- no acting required! (and about time too!-Ed)



Ron Wilson (*Detective Sergeant*)

Since his last appearance at the SDC Ron has been busy with television productions and managing his marketing company. Hence he is accepting this small role, trusting that dynamic and searching roles are in the pipeline!



Neil Woodhouse (*Leon Winter*)

It was with some trepidation that Neil features in this production. He has heard of the high standards at the Little Theatre and hopes that he has risen to the challenge as a guest actor. He has particularly enjoyed working with Matthew and thinks he is the finest director he has met! (this comment is in no way linked to the fact that Matthew is on Play Casting and selection)



Matthew Woodhams (*Director*)

"How the hell can we stop Matthew appearing on stage so much? I know, we'll give him a play to direct!" (Source-play selection and casting committee meeting 17-4-03)

Stepping aside from his normal acting roles, Matthew is pleased to be directing his first main season play. But this is not his directorial debut, some of you may have been lucky enough to see the brilliant fundraising spoof of the *Farndale Macbeth* in May 2001.

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TIME TO KILL

Sefton Theatre Company 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

10th March - 13th March 2004

TELLING WILDE TALES

by Jules Tasca

Directed by James Hughes-Alty

An SDC Youth Production

26th March - 3rd April 2004

LONDON SUITE

by Neil Simon

Directed by Robin Hirsch

Sponsored by Royal Bank of Scotland

An SDC Production

23rd April - 1st May 2004

A CHORUS OF DISAPPROVAL

by Sir Alan Ayckbourn

Directed by Margaret Mann

Sponsored by Davies Maintenance

An SDC Production

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18th May - 22nd May 2004

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Directed by Poppy Flanagan

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Why was *Mrs Warren's Profession* banned for 27 Years?

Written in 1893, *Mrs. Warren's Profession* sought to draw attention to the truth about prostitution. George Bernard Shaw's aim was to show that prostitution was caused by desperation rather than depravity.

The play was deemed to be immoral and improper for the stage by the Lord Chamberlain of the time, and its performance was consequently prohibited. Thus, the play was shelved until society was more ready for it. Shaw himself said: "I have sent a pallid crowd of critics into the street, shrieking that the pillars of society are cracking and the ruin of the State is at hand." He also claimed that, "the whole aim of my play is to throw guilt on the British public itself."

So what do you think? Is the play immoral and improper? Or does it bring to light a profession seldom talked about, to a Victorian audience whose main concern was to keep up appearances, hardly even acknowledging its existence?



SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB



PRESENT

Mrs. Warren's Profession

By George Bernard Shaw

Directed by John Sharp

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6th March 2004

7.45pm

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