



LITTLE THEATRE

A
SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB
PRESENTATION

The Smash-Hit West End Comedy



Run For Your *Wife*

By Ray Cooney,
Directed by Alistair Hewitt

**24th September -
2nd October 2004**
7.45pm



Tel: (01704) 530521/530460 Fax: (01704) 546782
www.littletheatresouthport.co.uk

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Run For Your *Wife*

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Chairman's Notes



Dear Patrons,

I am pleased to be able to introduce the first production of what promises to be a most entertaining season.

Alistair Hewitt's imaginative direction of Ray Cooney's fast moving play, *Run For Your Wife* will certainly set our planned programme in motion with style and humour.

So welcome to the 2004/2005 season of the Southport Dramatic Club. I would also like to take the opportunity to express the club's appreciation of the support of our loyal subscribers and regulars and new patrons.

Thank You

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Director's *Notes*



It is a delight to be involved in the opening play of the new season as there is always a sense of freshness and anticipation at what lies ahead.

There is much anticipation for all involved with this production. The cast and crew have worked tirelessly on this manic comedy throughout the summer. So much so that the jokes we laughed at weeks ago no longer seem funny.

I am sure you will find plenty to laugh at however, and that this production will prove to be a titillating opener to the exciting season that lies ahead.

Enjoy the show.

Alistair Hewitt
Director



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Notes on the Author



Ray Cooney

Ray Cooney began his theatrical career as a boy actor in *Song of Norway* at the Palace Theatre in 1946. He served his apprenticeship by playing various repertory companies from Worthing to Blackburn before graduating to Brian Rix's company at the Whitehall Theatre in 1956. He later began a writing career which, to date, has produced 17 West End plays including *Not Now Darling*, *Move Over Mrs Markham*, *There Goes the Bride* (all co-written with John Chapman), *Chase Me Comrade*, *Run For Your Wife*, *Out of Order*, *It Runs in the Family* and *Funny Money*.

As Producer and Director he has been responsible for over 30 London productions, including *Lloyd George Knew My Father*, *Whose Life is it Anyway?*, *Chicago* and *Children of a Lesser God*.

In 1983, Ray formed the Theatre of Comedy Company (bringing together the founder members consisting of 30 West End stars) and he became its first Artistic Director. During Ray's tenure the company produced over 20 plays including *Run For Your Wife*, *Out of Order*, *Two into One* and the acclaimed revivals of *See How They Run*, *Loot*, *When We are Married* and *Pygmalion* starring Peter O' Toole and the late John Thaw.

Today, Ray Cooney is recognized theatrically and publicly as 'the master of farce' and a most worthy successor, as an author, to the great Ben Travers, and as a director/actor to Brian Rix. his comedies and farces have been translated into more than 40 foreign languages including Chinese, Japanese and Russian. During his hectic theatrical career he has always found time to continue acting, and recently played in the last year of *Run For Your Wife* in London before appearing in the New York production.

Ray has been married to his wife, Linda for 35 years and has two sons, Danny and Michael. Michael has inherited his father's gift and also writes plays. Danny, his eldest son, lives in Australia with his wife and two children.

Run For Your *Wife*



Run For Your *Wife*



Run For Your *Wife*

By Ray *Cooney*

Directed by Alistair *Hewitt*

Cast

in order of appearance

Mary Smith HELEN BENNETT
Barbara Smith JACQUIE WADE
John Smith TED BULLEN
Detective Sergeant Troughton NORMAN HOPE
Stanley Gardner PETER FORSHAW
Newspaper Reporter RON WILSON
Detective Sergeant Porterhouse ROBERT MACGREGOR
Bobby Franklyn PETE SLATER

The action is continuous and takes place in the Wimbledon flat of John and Mary Smith and, simultaneously, in the Streatham flat of John and Barbara Smith.

Time: The Present

Act 1

One sunny summer morning

Act 2

Immediately following

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

Staging

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Stage Manager..... | LINDSAY HAYWOOD |
| Assistant Stage Manager (Book)..... | JEAN WATKINSON |
| Props..... | VAL WATKINS |
| | CERI WATKINS |
| Wardrobe..... | SDC & CAST |
| Lighting..... | ANDREW CONNARD |
| Sound..... | BRIAN HODGE |
| Set Design..... | SYD COLEY |
| Set Constructed by..... | SDC PRODUCTION TEAM |
| Scenic Artist..... | BOB JESSAMINE |
| Photography by..... | NEIL HICKSON |

Acknowledgements

The Director would like to thank:

Stokers for the sofa.

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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Run For Your Wife

Cast

Alistair Hewitt *Director*

Alistair Hewitt has appeared in many productions for the SDC, including *Hobson's Choice*, *No Sex Please We're British*, *Happy Families* and *Children of a Lesser God*. His directing credits include *The Glass Menagerie*, *Breezeblock Park*, *Broadway Bound* and *Loot*. Alistair also writes his own work and his play, *Spending Frank* was performed at the Unity Theatre, Liverpool, last year. Alistair is a Director of Performing Arts at the Sefton Arts College.



Helen Bennett *Mary Smith*

Helen is delighted to be appearing in *Run For Your Wife*. She says rehearsals have been hard work, but great fun, although somewhat painful. She has never incurred so many bumps, bruises or friction burns (the Club Room carpet – honest!) rehearsing for a show before. Helen is very disappointed that 'the powers that be' turned down her request for a stunt double. Helen has previously appeared in *Breezeblock Park* (directed by Alistair), *Tons of Money*, *The Farndale Macbeth* and *Who Dies Wins*. Last year she also appeared in the premiere of Alistair's play *Spending Frank* (alongside Ted Bullen) at The Unity Theatre, Liverpool. (*Helen's Lingerie supplied by Cammell Laird*) Ed.



Jacquie Wade *Barbara Smith*

Tragedy and Comedy are Jacquie's favourite theatrical roles. Last season she played Nancy in the moving and emotional 'three-hander', *Tilting Ground*. She is now delighted to be playing Barbara in *Run For Your Wife* with such a dedicated and talented director and cast and hopes the audience find it as funny and enjoyable as they all did in rehearsal.



Run For Your Wife

Cast



Ted Bullen *John Smith*

Ted's first performances were as assistant to the only female Human Cannon Ball and escapologist in Britain, 'Firecracker Freda', until a government enterprise scheme brought another dozen forward. However, Frieda remained the only one north of Watford, "You can tie, chain and rope me, I'll be out before the milk boils over" was her boast, and often she was. Ted last saw her at the Lakeland Carnival in Coniston Water. She had always said Ted was heavy with the gunpowder; (If you believe this you will believe anything) Ed.

After that Ted took to the stage, and studied all the experts on creating characters such as Stanislavsky, Dick Van Dyke and Walt Disney. Ralph Richardson once said "It took twenty years to become an actor", if that's true, Ted wonders, who's going to play Little Lord Fauntleroy? In this play Ted plays a man with two wives, which is big of him, considering he is described as: quite average, ordinary really. Ted still can't work out why he was cast in this role.



Norman Hope *Detective Sergeant Troughton*

Norman is very pleased to be appearing in another Ray Cooney farce, following *It Runs in the Family* and *Funny Money*, all be it as yet another policeman. At least this time he has a lot more to say than in his last role, as Olsen in *Laura* last season.



Peter Forshaw *Stanley Gardner*

Peter is neither athletic nor married and therefore is hardly an ideal candidate to appear in *Run For Your Wife*!

However he has loved his time during rehearsals and hopes that he can stop himself from corpsing during each performance.

(Corpsing: Laughing so much and unable to continue performing) Ed.

Run For Your *Wife*

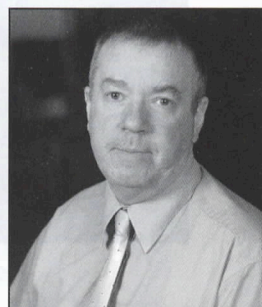
Cast

Ron Wilson *Newspaper Reporter*

Since Ron's last appearance at the SDC in *Who Dies Wins*. He has been very active in television and other stage productions.

He is looking forward to another pantomime season and is considering various offers, trusting that dynamic and searching roles are in the pipeline.

(Some good cameo roles are on offer in our *Mother Goose* panto) Ed.



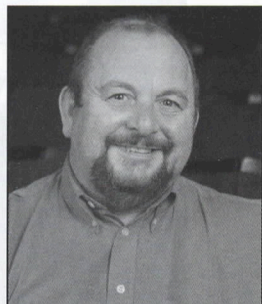
Robert MacGregor *Detective Sergeant Porterhouse*

After many years singing and dancing in musicals Rob has taken the advice of the Southport Amateur Operatics Society and decided to do a play with dialogue! Rob, has also appeared in several SDC pantomimes as well as choreographing *Cinderella* last season. He is enjoying working in *Run For Your Wife* with this very talented cast.



Pete Slater *Bobby Franklyn*

Pete has performed with a multitude of companies in most genre of theatre, from Brecht & Shakespeare to Panto and Comedy. *Run For Your Wife* has been one of his favourite shows since he played John Smith in the Sefton Theatre Company's production eight years ago. He is enjoying the challenge of portraying Bobby, a frock-maker who dabbles in DIY decorating. In real life Pete is equally incompetent with a needle and thread or paint brush!



Run For Your *Wife*





LITTLE THEATRE SDC

2nd Half Season's Productions



28th January 2005 - 5th February 2005

The Anniversary

By Bill McIlwraith
Directed by Mike Yates



25th February 2005 - 5th March 2005

The Dresser

By Ronald Harwood
Directed by Ray Mann



1st April 2005 - 9th April 2005

Inside Job

By Brian Clemens
Directed by Celia Pope



29th April 2005 - 12th May 2005

Allo Allo

By Jeremy Lloyd and David Croft
Directed by Margaret Mann



LITTLE THEATRE

SOUTHPORT
DRAMATIC CLUB

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

5th October - 7th October 2004

CRIME REDUCTION

A Production by SDC



22nd October - 30th October 2004

CROWN MATRIMONIAL

by Royce Ryton, directed by Robin Hirsch
An SDC Production

3rd November - 6th November 2004

ON THE TOWN

A Maghull Operatic Society Production

10th November - 13th November 2004

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES

A Sefton Theatre Group Production



26th November - 4th December 2004

FATAL ENCOUNTER

by Francis Durbridge, directed by Hilary Thompson
An SDC Production



22nd December 2004 - 9th January 2005

MOTHER GOOSE

Our Traditional Family Pantomime
Written and directed by Stephen and James Hughes-Alty
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LITTLE THEATRE

A
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PRESENTATION

The Smash-Hit West End Comedy



Crown Matrimonial

By Royce Ryton,
Directed by Robin Hirsch

**22nd October -
30th October 2004**
7.45pm


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