



LITTLE THEATRE

A
SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB
PRESENTATION

A Compelling Historical Drama



Crown Matrimonial

By Royce Ryton,
Directed by Robin Hirsch

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



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THE SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB

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Director's Notes



The abdication of King Edward VIII was such a pivotal event for Britain and the Monarchy that its ramifications remain fascinating even now, several decades on. My cast and I, (no pun intended!) have become absorbed in researching the history of the period and know that many of our audiences will be well informed and interested as well, so we have made every effort to give as honest and truthful a portrayal of the event, as possible.

Royce Ryton's script enables us to glimpse behind the doors of Queen Mary's home at Marlborough House in the days leading up to Edward VIII's renunciation of the throne. He provides an intriguing dissertation on "Crown" versus "duty" as well as the human drama played out by the other members of the Royal Family. How times have changed!... Or have they?

Robin Hirsch
Director





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A CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF HISTORICAL EVENTS

- 1865 Birth of Prince George of Wales (Edward VIII's Father)
- 1867 Birth of Mary of Teck (Edward VIII's Mother)
- 1892 Death of Duke of Clarence (Prince George's elder brother)
- 1893 Marriage of Prince George of Wales and Princess Mary of Teck
(Duke and Duchess of York)
- 1894 Birth of Prince David of York
- 1895 Birth of Prince Albert of York
- 1896 Birth of Wallis Warfield
- 1897 Birth of Princess Mary of York
- 1900 Birth of Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon
- 1900 Birth of Prince Henry of York
- 1901 Birth of Alice Montagu-Douglas-Scott
- 1901 Accession of Edward VII (Edward VIII's Grandfather)
- 1902 Birth of Prince George of Wales
- 1905 Birth of Prince John of Wales
- 1910 Accession of George V (Edward VIII's Father)
- 1914 Assassination of Archduke Ferdinand } Crowned Heads of Europe
and
1918 Abdication of Kaiser Wilhelm II } Relations of Queen Victoria
1918 Murder of Tsar Nicholas II }
1919 Death of Prince John of Wales }
- 1923 Abdication of King George II of Greece
- 1924 Marriage of Duke and Duchess of York (Bertie and Elizabeth)
- 1926 Birth of Princess Elizabeth of York
- 1932 David, Prince of Wales first introduced to Mrs. Wallis Simpson
- 1935 Marriage of Lady Alice Montagu-Douglas-Scott to Prince Henry of York
(Duke and Duchess of Gloucester)
- 1935 Return of King George II of Greece
- 1935 Silver Jubilee of George V
- 1936 Death of George V
- 1936 Accession of Edward VIII
- 1937 Abdication of Edward VIII
- 1937 Accession of George VI
- 1937 Marriage of Duke and Duchess of Windsor (ex-King Edward VIII and
Mrs. Wallis Simpson)
- 1940 Appointment of Duke of Windsor as Governor of the Bahamas
- 1940 Abdication of Carol II of Romania
- 1942 Death of George, Duke of Kent
- 1945 Abdication of Paul II of Yugoslavia
- 1947 Marriage of Princess Elizabeth of York & Prince Philip of Greece
(Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh)
- 1952 Accession of Queen Elizabeth II
- 1953 Death of Queen Mary
- 1964 Abdication of King Paul of Greece
- 1965 Death of Mary, The Princess Royal
- 1967 Duchess of Windsor presented to Queen Elizabeth II
- 1972 Death of David, Duke of Windsor
- 1974 Death of Henry, Duke of Gloucester
- 1986 Death of Duchess of Windsor (Mrs. Wallis Warfield Simpson)
- 2002 Death of Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother.

Crown Matrimonial



Regarding The Play...

Points of Interest

Before marrying Prince George of Wales in 1893, Princess Victoria Mary of Teck was first engaged to Prince Albert Edward, Duke of Clarence, (eldest son of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra) who in 1892, at the age of 28, caught pneumonia and died suddenly at Sandringham only one month before their proposed wedding.

--oOo--

Definition of a "MORGANATIC MARRIAGE"

"A form of marriage properly peculiar to the German peoples, but also found in the royal families of other European countries. It is one in which the contracting parties are not, by birth, of equal status or rank ("ebenburtig"), and under which the wife, if not ebenburtig, does not take the rank of her husband, and the children, whether it be the wife or husband that is of lower rank, have no right of succession to the dignities, fiefs or entailed property of the parent of higher rank. Such marriages are recognized as fully binding by the Church, and the children are legitimate, and no other marriage can take place during the lifetime of the contracting parties."

--oOo--

To her son David, on the question of him marrying Wallis Simpson, Queen Mary is quoted, in the play, as saying...

"Not one bishop will attend your Coronation, but I daresay you will be able to persuade some renegade clergyman to marry you..."

In reality, great difficulty was experienced in getting a Church of England clergyman to agree to marry the Duke and Duchess of Windsor in France, because of her previous divorces. Eventually, Rev. Robert Anderson Jardine a Vicar from Darlington in County Durham, was found less than one week before the wedding date, and agreed to perform the ceremony. He was noted in the press later "to be something of an exhibitionist and a lover of publicity!"

--oOo--

Throughout the Duke of Windsor's life in exile, despite his continuous appeals to both the Government and the Royal Family, for his wife, the Duchess of Windsor, to be granted the right to be called Her Royal Highness, this honour was never bestowed.

--oOo--

Queen Mary was never to meet or receive Wallis Simpson after her marriage to the Duke of Windsor, up to her death in 1953.



Crown Matrimonial



Crown Matrimonial



Crown Matrimonial

By Royce Ryton
Directed by Robin Hirsch

Cast

in order of appearance

Mabell, Countess of Airlie <i>(Lady-in-waiting to Queen Mary)</i>	ANN RICHARDS
H.M. Queen Mary..... <i>(Mother of Edward VIII and George VI)</i>	PAT BALL
The Hon. Margaret Wyndham <i>(Lady-in-waiting to Queen Mary)</i>	SHEILA FURLONG
Queen's Page.....	CHARLES PRESTON
King Edward VIII (David) <i>(Later Duke of Windsor)</i>	MATTHEW WOODHAMS
The Princess Royal (Mary) <i>(Sister of Edward VIII)</i>	TRUDI HIRSCH
The Duchess of Gloucester (Alice) <i>(Sister-in-law of Edward VIII)</i>	DIANE MACKLEY
Walter Monckton, K.C..... <i>(Legal adviser and friend of Edward VIII)</i>	ROBERT JONES
The Duchess of York (Elizabeth) <i>(Sister-in-law of Edward VIII)</i>	MARILYN FLETCHER-HILL
The Duke of York (Bertie) <i>(Younger brother and next in line to the throne)</i>	SCOTT ROWAN

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT ONE

Scene One:	September, 1936, late morning.
Scene Two:	November, 1936, early evening.
Scene Three:	Later, the same evening.

ACT TWO

Scene One:	Early December, 1936, late morning.
Scene Two:	A few days later, late evening.
Scene Three:	Later, the same week, early evening.
Scene Four:	Autumn, 1945, afternoon.

The action takes place in the late Summer, Autumn and Winter of 1936, except for the last scene which takes place in the Autumn of 1945.

The play is set in Queen Mary's Drawing Room on the first floor of Marlborough House, London.

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



Staging

Stage Manager	Chris Ratcliffe
Assistant Stage Manager (Book)	Fran Percival
Assistant Stage Manager	Philip Hutchinson, Jeremy Myers
Props	Barbara Beardsell, Celia Pope June Hunter
Wardrobe	Sherel Coley, Margaret Horne
Lighting	Andrew Connard, Tony Berry
Sound	Brian Hodge
Set Design	Syd Coley, Robin Hirsch
Set Constructed by	SDC Production Team
Scenic Artist	Bob Jessamine
Photography by	Neil Hickson

Acknowledgements

The Director would like to thank:

Joan Waterworth of "Lucy Briars", 7 Bold Street, Southport
for the loan of tiaras

Radley Haynes and the Manchester Royal Exchange Theatre
for the loan of lighting pedestals and carpets

The main theme music accompanying our play this evening, was commissioned for the Coronation of Edward VIII, but was actually played at the Coronation of George VI. It was written by William Walton and called the *Crown Imperial March*.

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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Crown Matrimonial

Cast

Robin Hirsch *Director*

Over the years, Robin has had the opportunity to direct different characters, in different venues from different strata of society. She has never before found herself surrounded by so many "HRHs" and the occasional "HM"! Quite daunting! She only hopes she has whipped them into shape with sufficient tact and diplomacy that she will not be banished to the Tower!



Ann Richards *Mabell, Countess of Airlie*

Ann has played a variety of roles during her longstanding membership of the SDC, but rarely has she found herself in such distinguished company!

Performing with so many royals can be quite daunting and she has found perfecting her curtsy to be a real challenge



Pat Ball *H.M. Queen Mary*

Pat is delighted to be playing Queen Mary again after a gap of nearly 30 years. Since her appearance in the Amateur Première of *Crown Matrimonial* in 1975 at the Little Theatre, she has been blessed with three granddaughters and a grandson as much welcome additions to her family.

She insists that she is happy that the passage of time has meant that she now no longer has to "age up" for this role but if you believe that you'll believe anything!



Crown Matrimonial

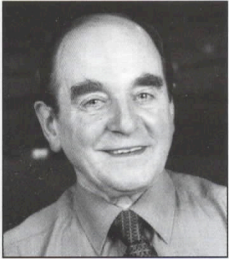
Cast



Sheila Furlong *The Hon. Margaret Wyndham*

Sheila was delighted when asked to play the Hon. Margaret Wyndham, as it brought back memories of the last time she was in *Crown Matrimonial* in 1975, when she played the Princess Royal.

She has enjoyed working through the problems of the royal family once again.



Charles Preston *Queen's Page (John)*

Your perennial menial is with you again this evening - The last time Charles was a servitor to Royalty was in 1959 playing Johann Loschek in R.F. Delderfield's *The Mayerling Affair* as valet to the doomed Austro-Hungarian Prince Rudolph. This evening he opens the doors for the arguably equally sad figure of Edward VIII. In distressing love affairs history would seem to repeat itself. From Charles' point of view working for the House of Windsor is definite promotion after 45 years!



Matthew Woodhams *King Edward VIII (David)*

Matthew has always had delusions of grandeur, but did not dream his ambitions would ever be realised!

Apparently Matthew was perfect for this part, all he had to do was lose weight, get a tan, dye his hair, stop biting his nails and acquire a cut glass accent. He is beginning to think that Robin only wanted him for his ability to teach people how to curtsy!



Trudi Hirsch *The Princess Royal (Mary)*

Trudi has thoroughly enjoyed being a "Royal" during this production (she always thought her blood was blue!) With the other cast members, she has been fascinated by the predicament the abdication caused - whether "To be loyal to the King personally or to the Crown as an institution". As a member of "The Family" which would you choose?

Crown Matrimonial

Cast

Diane Mackley *The Duchess of Gloucester*

Diane is better known as a singer (with the Hoghton Players and Preston Opera) rather than as an actor. However, she has greatly enjoyed being part of the Royal Family in this (brief!) return to the Little Theatre stage.



Robert Jones *Walter Monckton, K.C.*

The call to the stage coming comparatively late in life, Robert cut his teeth in several productions in his native Yorkshire.

Fleeing over the Pennines in a 2003 escape bid from the Eastern bloc, he was granted sanctuary in Southport, along with parts in Southport Operatic's *My Fair Lady*, and Sefton Theatre Company's *Wild Mink*.

This is his third outing in his new homeland.



Marilyn Fletcher-Hill *The Duchess of York (Elizabeth)*

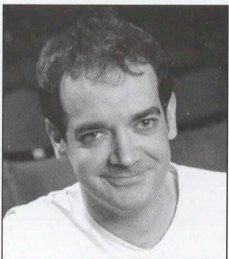
Since Marilyn's last appearance for the SDC in *Spring and Port Wine* she has been busy bringing up her four young children and also teaching at Norwood Primary School where she wrote and directed a version of *Oliver* with a cast of 80.

She is delighted to be working with all her friends again here at the Little Theatre. (Marilyn says that she hopes she can stop herself from giggling because of Scott and Matthew's asides to her during the performance.) Ed.



Scott Rowan *The Duke of York (Bertie)*

Since Scott's rise to stardom in last season's *Chorus of Disapproval* (chorus to lead principle in three easy stages), he has appeared as the lead in *Dead Beat in Dakota* for Sefton Theatre Company and is very pleased to be back again with this very talented SDC cast.





**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 - 5th March 2005

The Dresser

By Ronald Harwood

Directed by Ray Mann



1st April - 9th April 2005

Inside Job

By Brian Clemens

Directed by Celia Pope



29th April - 7th May 2005

'Allo 'Allo

By Jeremy Lloyd and David Croft

Directed by Margaret Mann



24th May - 28th May 2005

Bar Production

Betrayal

By Harold Pinter

Directed by Alister Hewitt

The cast of the Southport Dramatic Club's Amateur Premiere production
of
"Crown Matrimonial", staged in March 1975,

CROWN MATRIMONIAL

A play by Royce Ryton

Characters (in order of appearance)

Mabell, Countess of Airlie

Queen Mary

The Hon. Margaret Wyndham

Queen's Page (John)

King Edward VIII (David)

The Princess Royal (Mary)

The Duchess of Gloucester (Alice)

Walter Monckton, K.C.

The Duke of York (Bertie)

The Duchess of York (Elizabeth)

Rita Hughes

Pat Ball

Joan Pettitt

Keith Tyrer

Gerald Catterall

Sheila Furlong

Diana Smither

Brian Tooley

Mike Yates

Pat Sutcliffe

The play produced by Margaret Campion





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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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
An SDC Production Sponsored by NatWest



28th January - 5th February 2005

THE ANNIVERSARY

by Bill McIlwraith, directed by Mike Yates
An SDC Production



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Directed by Hilary Thomson

26th Nov - 4th Dec 2004

7.45pm

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20th Nov 11am - 2pm, 22nd - 25th Nov 11am - 5pm

26th Nov - 4th Dec 11am - 7.45pm


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