



# LITTLE THEATRE

A  
SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB  
PRESENTATION

*A fabulously funny, powerful comedy*



# THE Anniversary

*By Bill McIlwraith  
Directed by Michael Yates*

**28th January -  
5th February 2005**  
**7.45pm**

Tel: (01704) 530521/530460 Fax: (01704) 546782  
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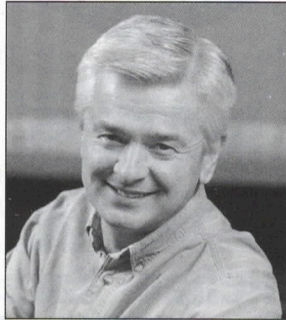


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# Director's Notes



As I stood in the empty auditorium, listening to the rain pour onto the stage of this theatre through the huge hole in the roof, I could hear behind me the laughter of the audience. The play was *The Anniversary* and the year 1988. The audience were sitting in the temporary auditorium we had built in the foyer following the fire which had badly damaged the stage and auditorium on the night of 1st January that year.

I have special memories of the year as I happened to be Chairman of the SDC at the time. The auditorium had raked seating (thanks to innumerable pallets) for 120 people. As we couldn't seat all our regular patrons we extended play runs and even added an extra production to show we were still very much in business.

It gives me a great sense of satisfaction now to direct that play. It is an unusual piece, combining as it does the very strong characterisations often found in "heavier" works with moments of high comedy. Strongest of all, the monstrous Mum is the puppeteer for all the other characters. We hope you enjoy seeing her version of love - just as we fervently hope that you never experience anything like it.

Mike Yates  
Director

P.S. In real life he's a piano teacher – you'll understand by the end!

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# Items of news that occurred in 1966, the year in which tonight's play is set.

- January 19th - Mrs Indira Gandhi became Prime Minister of India.
- April 8th - Leonid Brezhnev became General Secretary of the Soviet Union.
- May - Ian Brady and Myra Hindley (died 2002 in prison) were jailed for life for the murder of at least three children in the 'Moors murders' case. Such was public feeling at the time, hanging had just been abolished, that the defendants had to be protected by bullet proof glass in the court.
- July 30th - England defeated West Germany, 4-2, at soccer to win the Jules Rimet World Cup at Wembley (after extra time). Geoff Hurst scored three of England's goals.
- August 13th - Mao Tse-tung proclaimed a 'cultural revolution' in China.
- October 21st - 116 children and 48 adults were killed when a coal waste tip collapsed and buried their school in Aberfan, Wales.
- November 9th - Art treasures damaged and hundreds died in Italy by the worst storms in 700 years. The streets of Florence became raging torrents.
- Another General Election where Labour were returned to power. They made cuts in foreign currency allowances and imposed a pay and wages freeze.
- Freddie Laker started an airline for cheap package holidays abroad.
- Rising inflation was a deterrent for savers but the first credit card, Barclaycard, was introduced making spending easier.
- *The War Game* was banned by BBC because of its graphic illustration of a nuclear attack on Britain.
- The film *Cathy Come Home* was broadcast on TV. The story of a homeless mother provoked outcries in Britain and the charity Shelter was formed.
- British Guiana became independent as Guyana.



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# THE *Anniversary*



# THE *Anniversary*





# THE *Anniversary*



# **THE** *Anniversary*

*by Bill McIlwraith*

*Directed by Michael Yates*

## Cast

Tom ..... Graham Davies

Shirley ..... Lianne Naughton

Henry ..... Ted Bullen

Terry ..... David Siebert

Karen ..... Helen Bennett

Mum ..... Pat Sutcliffe

The action takes place in the living room of Mum's house,  
in South London

### Act 1

6pm on a Friday evening in November, 1966

### Act 2

Scene 1: Three hours later

Scene 2: Ten minutes later

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between Acts 1 and 2.

# Staging

Stage Manager .....	Pete Beswick
Deputy Stage Manager .....	Susanne Denner
Assistant Stage Manager (Book) .....	Gay Stowell,
Wardrobe .....	SDC and Cast
Props .....	Julie Whelan
Lighting .....	Tony Berry
	Andrew Connard
	Roy Carr
Sound .....	Brian Hodge
Set Design .....	Syd Coley
Crew .....	Colin Haynes
	Phil Hutchinson
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.

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# Southport Amateur Operatic Society

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*Musical*

**Director - Neil Townsend**  
**Musical Director - John Boydell**  
**Choreographer - Karen Meadows**

**at the Southport Arts Centre**  
**26th February - 5th March 2005**

**Evening performance 7.30pm**  
**Matinee 5th March 2pm**



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Theatre Box Office  
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## SEFTON THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

### *Blithe Spirit*

by Noel Coward

Tickets: Wednesday 2 for £8.00,  
Thursday to Saturday: £6.50 and  
£5.50, with £5.00 concessions.  
Advance bookings Tel: 01704 834863



Little Theatre Box office  
opens 4th February  
Tel: 01704 530521

directed by Frankie Turner  
at The Little Theatre, Houghton Street, Southport  
**9th - 12th February 2005**  
Performances commence at 7.45pm

Registered Charity 519921

supported by Sefton Cultural Fund

# THE *Anniversary* Cast

## Pat Sutcliffe *Mum*

Although Pat has been a member of the SDC for 37 years, this is the first time she has played a "baddie". She says she's loving it, but hopes her three real sons will not tell her she has been type cast.



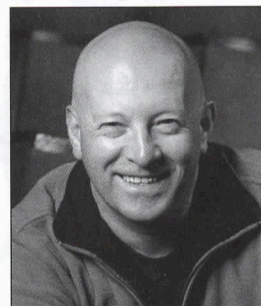
## Helen Bennett *Karen*

Earlier this season Helen appeared as a harassed south London housewife in *Run for your Wife*. Ever versatile, Helen is now appearing as a harassed, south London housewife in *The Anniversary*. Her former husband has now become her brother-in-law, and she has acquired a new husband and five children – all in less than four months. (Quick work, Helen) Ed.



## Ted Bullen *Henry*

Ted says this is a return to the same role he played in "Nineteen Hundred and Frozen to Death", to quote the late Arthur Askey. The play selection committee has told him that they are going to insist that he keeps playing it until he gets it right. Ted hopes he can play this character with what is described in the script as his "idiosyncrasy" with some conviction, without actually getting convicted during the extensive research. However, it has been fun trying.



## **LARGE PRINT PHOTOCOPIES**

of pages 10 and 11 of the programme  
(Cast and Staging) are available for  
our visually impaired patrons

Please enquire from our  
programme sellers.

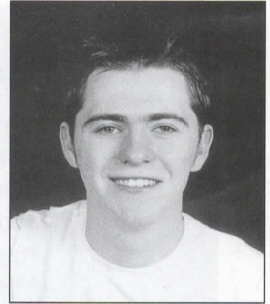
## **A BIG THANK YOU**

To all our very generous patrons  
who donated the magnificent  
total of £6,500 to our Tsunami  
Disaster appeal during the run  
of *Mother Goose*

# THE *Anniversary* Cast

## Graham Davies *Tom*

Performing is Graham's third love, the first being himself and the second writing. In fact he even wrote this profile. He also wrote the club's 2001 pantomime *Aladdin*, and has written and directed for SONG. He performed his stand-up comic routine at last year's Southport Comedy Festival and is hoping to take it to this year's festival in Liverpool. His last appearance at the Little was in *Loot*.



## Lianne Naughton *Shirley*

Having played a beheaded Queen in *Katherine Howard*, Shakespeare's daughter in *The Herbal Bed*, a hysterical wife in *Amy's View* and a prostitute's daughter in *Mrs Warren's Profession*, Lianne is delighted to be playing in her first comedy where she promises to neither cry or die!



## David Siebert *Terry*

David returned to Southport this summer after living in London for three years. Unlike his character in *The Anniversary*, he hasn't returned with a wife and five kids, but with a degree in drama and music from the university of London. (Welcome back David) Ed.



Cast List from the first production of  
*The Anniversary* in March 1988

## THE ANNIVERSARY

by Bill McIlwraith  
Directed by Sheila Furlong

### CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Tom .....David Roden  
Shirley .....Julie Thorpe  
Henry.....Ted Bullen  
Terry .....Stuart Wardle  
Karen .....Jan Murray  
Mum .....Thelma Falls-Hand

The action of the play takes place in the living-room  
of Mum's house, south of London

**ACT 1** – Six p.m. on a Friday evening in November, 1966

**ACT 2** – Three hours later

**ACT 3** – Ten minutes later

There will be two intervals of approximately 15 minutes.

### STAGE STAFF

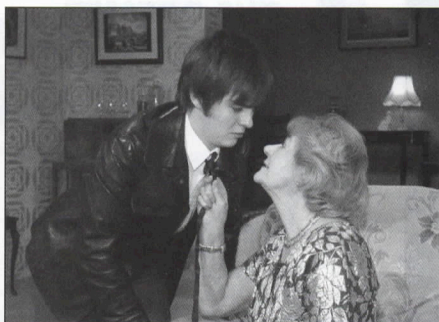
Stage Manager .....Steve Roberts  
Asst. Stage Manager (Cast) .....Lindsay Haywood  
Nicola Burroughs  
Asst. Stage Manager (Book) .....Joyce Crosby  
Properties .....Sherel Coley  
Wardrobe .....Margaret Home  
Lighting .....Peter Davies  
Sound .....Steve Roberts

### Acknowledgements

Flowers – Graham's Florist  
Mum's Eyeglass – C. & D. Harrison's Opticians  
Mum's Outfit – Cathé Boutique, Ainsdale



# THE *Anniversary* Cast 2005





# LITTLE THEATRE SOUTHPORT

## DRAMATIC CLUB

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

9th February - 12th February 2005

#### **BLITHE SPIRIT**

by Noel Coward

A Sefton Theatre Company Production



25th February - 5th March 2005

#### **THE DRESSER**

A wonderfully affectionate and compassionate play about the theatre.

By Ronald Harwood, directed by Ray Mann

An SDC Production



16th - 19th March 2005

#### **DRACULA**

By John Godber and Jane Thornton, directed by James Hughes-Alty

An SDC Youth Production



1st - 9th April 2005

#### **INSIDE JOB**

Murder, Diamonds, Plot and Counter Plots

By Brian Clemens, directed by Celia Pope

An SDC Production sponsored by Master Lock & Safe



29th April - 7th May 2005

#### **'ALLO 'ALLO**

Based on the hugely popular TV comedy series.

By Jeremy Lloyd and David Croft, directed by Margaret Mann

An SDC Production sponsored by Davies Maintenance

14th May - 21st May 2005

#### **ANNIE**

A Birkdale Orpheus Production



24th May - 28th May 2005

#### **THE BETRAYAL**

by Harold Pinter, directed by Alistair Hewitt

An SDC Bar Production

8th June - 11th June 2005

#### **OLDE TYME MUSIC HALL**

A Waterloo & Crosby Operatic Society Production

15th June - 18th June 2005

#### **GUYS & DOLLS**

A Maghull Musical Theatre Company Production



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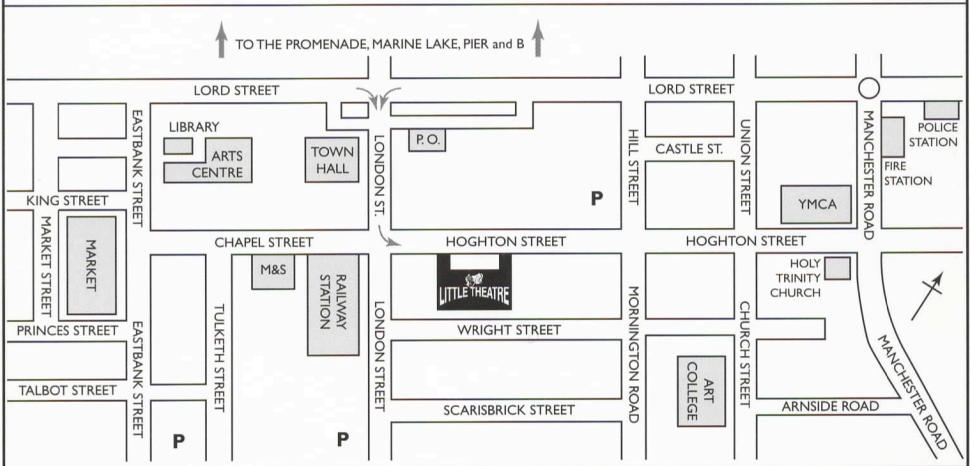
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# LITTLE THEATRE

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PRESENTATION

*A wonderfully affectionate and compassionate play  
about the theatre.*



# THE DRESSER

**By Ronald Harwood**  
Directed by Ray Mann

**25th February - 5th March 2005**  
**7.45pm**

Tickets: £8.00 and £6.75

Box Office 2005:

Sat 19th February 11am - 2pm

Mon 21st - 24th February 11am - 5pm

Fri 25th February - 5th March 11am - 7.45pm



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