

Faringdon Dramatic Society

presents

Love, Death and Marriage in ...



# OUR TOWN

By Thornton  
Wilder

12<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> November



Faringdon Junior School

[www.faringdondramatic.co.uk](http://www.faringdondramatic.co.uk) - affiliated to NODA

# Our Town

by Thornton Wilder

Our Town is one of Thornton Wilder's two Pulitzer Prize winning plays; it is set in small town America, the fictional Grover's Corners, covering the time period of 1901 to 1913. The play takes us through the lives and experiences of two families as people grow up, marry and pass on, and is both an affectionate portrait of life in this small town and an attempt to put a value on the little events in daily life. These are the experiences which are common to so many of us and which we value only when it is too late.

Wilder felt strongly that theatre was limited by the constraints of the typical boxed set and has deliberately pared the set and props to a minimum, relying on the actors and the imagination of the audience, to create the atmosphere and to convey relationships and emotions. He has therefore presented a real challenge to the actors and to some extent, you, the audience.

*Peter Webster*

## **Act one: 1901**

The homes of the Webb and Gibbs families.

## **Act two: 1903**

The homes of the Webb and Gibbs families, the soda fountain and church.

## **Act three: 1913**

The cemetery and the Webbs' home.

There will be two intervals of twenty minutes between acts during which refreshments will be available. Between acts two and three the raffle will be drawn.

## *Cast in order of appearance:*

Stage Manager	Debbie Lock
Dr Gibbs	Daniel Lander
Joe Crowell	Seb Allum
Howie Newsome	Allan Dover
Mrs Gibbs	Karen Whiffen
Mrs Webb	Janie Eyre-Brook
George Gibbs	Tom Woolman
Rebecca Gibbs	Jenny Whiffen
Winnie Webb	Hazel Wells
Emily Webb	Harriet Warner
Professor Willard	Dave Headey
Mr Webb	Adrian Wells
Simon Stimson	Gary Field
Mrs Soames	Sarah Varnom
Constable Warren	John Taylor
Si Crowell	Seb Allum
Mrs Morgan	Andrea Smith
Joe Stoddard	Dave Headey
Sam Craig	Richard Lock

Other parts played by **Katie Dyet**, **Carolyn Taylor** and **Joan Lee**.

Directed by **Peter Webster**

## *Acknowledgments*

Our thanks are due to :

- **Faringdon United Church** and **Faringdon Junior School** for rehearsal and performance facilities,
- **The Nut Tree** for box office facilities,
- **Oxford Architectural Antiques** for the loan of furniture.

## *Behind the Scenes...*

Producer: Sandra Keen

Set design and construction: Peter Webster, Allan Dover and Jo Webster

Stage manager: Jeff Barry

Stage Crew: Alan Merrick

Costumes: Jeni Summerfield and Joan Lee

Prompt: Amanda Linstead and Sarah Cousins

Lighting and sound: Gary Bates and Ian Chandler

Music: Debra Warner

Posters: Adrian Wells

Programmes: Dave Headey

Front of house co-ordinator: Denise Monk

Front of house team: Lynda Bates, Katie Goodwin, Jill Headey, Fiona Merrick, Keith Merrick, Jeni Summerfield, Carole Tappenden, Alan Taylor, Ann Taylor, Jo Webster



**Our Town** was written by Thornton Wilder and is performed by permission of Samuel French Ltd.

## *Principal characters*

### **Debbie Lock (Stage Manager)**

Debbie has been with FDS for over twenty years as an actor and director – She has appeared in a variety of productions from **The Crucible** to **Cabaret** and has directed three pantomimes. She also directed the one act play **Albert**, which won the Wallingford drama festival. One of her highlights was appearing as the tap dancing crocodile last year in **Peter Panto**.



### **Daniel Lander (Dr. Gibbs)**

Dan's previous credits include Algernon in **The Importance of being Earnest**, Lloyd Dallas in **Noises Off**, Mortimer Brewster in **Arsenic & Old Lace**, Nico in the award-winning **Albert**, and Lopakhin in **The Cherry Orchard**. His last appearance was in May as Bill, the Geordie miner/poet in **I Thought I Heard a Rustling**. Dan has worked in the past with Gordon Kaye and Ricky Gervais.

### **Karen Whiffen (Mrs Gibbs)**

Karen has been a member of FDS for over 12 years, and has been involved in many productions as actor, director and backstage, as well as secretary to the society. Her most recent appearances on stage have been as grumpy Mrs Gubbins in **Candleford** and as the servant Dunyasha in **The Cherry Orchard**: “her first attempt at classic drama”.



### **Tom Woolman (George)**

Tom first performed for FDS at the age of nine, playing a plucky prepubescent suitor to the princess in **Sleeping Beauty**. The following year he was Nick Oursteeds in **Pied Piper** and Edmund in **Lark Rise**. Eleven years later (having been Buttons in **Cinderella** and Oberon in **A Midsummer Night's Dream** in the meantime) he is delighted to be returning to FDS as a fully developed performer.

### **Harriet Warner (Emily)**

Harriet is a full-time piano teacher who studied at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, and was in the orchestra for **Peter Panto**. She has acted in many plays, including the **Farndale Macbeth**, **Agamemnon**, **My Fair Lady** and **Grease**, and in her first appearance for FDS last year played Sharon in **Outside Edge**.



### **Adrian Wells (Mr Webb)**

Since coming along 'for a laugh' in 1994 and being cast as Smee in the first production of **Peter Panto**, Adrian has appeared in a variety of FDS productions including **The Crucible**, **Arsenic & Old Lace**, **Much Ado About Nothing**, **Albert**, and **The Importance Of Being Earnest**, **Outside Edge** and **Candleford**.

### **Janie Eyre-Brook (Mrs Webb)**

Janie last appeared in an FDS production (**Beside the Seaside**) over thirty years ago. Since then she has been a member of several different groups and appeared in a wide variety of roles including Titania in **A Midsummer Night's Dream**. She has also appeared in the “background” of several films and even pressed her body against Pierce Brosnan in **The World is not Enough** (well, someone had to do it).



## New Members

Faringdon Dramatic Society was formed sixty years ago in 1948.

Since then it has mounted over 150 productions, from pantomime to dramas, comedies and Shakespeare. We have carried off a number of awards including the Ron Kench Shield for Drama for **Dancing at Lughnasa** in 2004, and Wallingford Drama Festival's Best Play for **Albert** in 2005.

Our current membership is 60, but new members are always welcome, and there are opportunities for backstage and front of house personnel as well as actors.

For up to date details of the Society or membership please visit our website:

[www.faringdondramatic.org.uk](http://www.faringdondramatic.org.uk)

Or email us at [webmaster@faringdondramatic.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@faringdondramatic.org.uk)



## Faringdon Dramatic Society Past Productions

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| <p>1949 The Ghost Train<br/>Busman's Honeymoon</p> <p>1950 A Quiet Weekend<br/>Distinguished Gathering</p> <p>1951 When We Are Married<br/>The Chiltern Hundreds<br/>Who Lies There</p> <p>1952 The Happiest Days of Your Life</p> <p>1953 A Wagonload of Monkeys<br/>Beggar My Neighbour<br/>The Late Christopher Bean</p> <p>1954 See How They Run<br/>A Lady Mislaid</p> <p>1955 The Shop at Sly Corner<br/>Night Was Our Friend</p> <p>1956 Mystery At Greenfingers<br/>Miranda<br/>And This Was Odd</p> <p>1957 Haul For The Shore<br/>Blithe Spirit</p> <p>1958 Night Must Fall<br/>Queen Elizabeth Slept Here<br/>Love in a Mist</p> <p>1959 Madam Tic-Tac<br/>Sailor Beware<br/>Murder on the Nile</p> <p>1960 The Blue Goose<br/>Beside the Seaside<br/>Breath of Spring</p> <p>1961 A Play for Ronnie<br/>The Paragon<br/>Murder at the Vicarage</p> <p>1962 Look Out For The Catch<br/>The Lovebirds</p> <p>1963 When We Are Married<br/>Russian Salad/Family Album</p> <p>1964 An Inspector Calls<br/>Brush With a Body<br/>Running Riot</p> <p>1965 The Poltergeist<br/>The Brides of March<br/>The Geese Are Getting Fat</p> | <p>1966 Rock-a-Bye Sailor<br/>Post Horn Gallop<br/>The Importance of Being Earnest</p> <p>1967 The Winslow Boy<br/>Rookery Nook</p> <p>1968 Someone Waiting<br/>Thark</p> <p>1969 Pools Paradise<br/>Dial 'M' For Murder<br/>Blithe Spirit</p> <p>1970 The Touch of Fear<br/>I'll Get My Man<br/>Something to Hide</p> <p>1971 Tons of Money<br/>The Bride and the Bachelor<br/>Dead on Nine</p> <p>1972 A Basinful of the Briny</p> <p>1974 Beside the Seaside</p> <p>1975 The Brides of March</p> <p>1978 Post Horn Gallop</p> <p>1979 A Murder Has Been Arranged<br/>Doctor In The House</p> <p>1980 Night Must Fall<br/>The Brides of March</p> <p>1981 House by the Lake<br/>Mother Figure<br/>Clara's On The Curtain<br/>Time Murderer Please</p> <p>1982 Rookery Nook<br/>Busybody<br/>The Laboratory<br/>Green for Danger</p> <p>1983 Breath of Spring<br/>Something to Hide<br/>Fool's Paradise</p> <p>1984 Babes in the Wood<br/>Cat on the Fiddle<br/>Murder in Company</p> <p>1985 The Madam<br/>None the Wiser<br/>Portrait of a Murder</p> |
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1986	Tomb With a View The Murder of Maria Marten Gosforth's Fete Funeral Tea Albert		Blood Brothers Pygmalion
1987	Sleeping Beauty Local Affairs Brush With a Body	1998	The Pied Piper Lark Rise Habeas Corpus
1988	Jack and the Beanstalk After Magritte Between Mouthfuls Nasty Things, Murders Outside Edge	1999	Alice in Wonderland Confusions Oh What A Lovely War
1989	Cinderella Murder for the Asking Lord Arthur Saville's Crime	2000	Arthur's Adventure Old Time Music Hall Hell and High Water
1990	Aladdin Time and the Conways Ten Times Table	2001	Cinderella The Crucible Daisy Pulls It Off
1991	The Wind in the Willows Move Over Mrs Markham Stepping Out	2002	Babes In The Wood Brush Up Your Shakespeare Cabaret
1992	Babes In The Wood Farndale Murder Mystery Time To Kill	2003	The Wind in the Willows Much Ado About Nothing Separate Tables
1993	Sinbad the Sailor Black Comedy Blithe Spirit	2004	How Clarence Earned His Wings Arsenic and Old Lace Shakers Dancing at Lughnasa
1994	The Wizard of Oz Cold Comfort Farm The Woman in White	2005	Snow White Idle Chatter Educating Rita
1995	Peter Panto The Good Old Days Visiting Hour	2006	Dreamers The Cherry Orchard Noises Off
1996	Dick Turpin Time of My Life Witness for the Prosecution	2007	Pirates of the Faribbean The Importance of being Earnest (with GLT) Lend me a Tenor
1997	Sleeping Beauty	2008	Peter Panto Outside Edge Candleford
		2009	Beauty and the Beast I Thought I heard a Rustling

Our next production is the pantomime **Aladdin**, on January 29th and 30th, and February 5th and 6th 2010