



Faringdon Dramatic Society  
presents  
Affiliated to NODA



**PRESENT  
LAUGHTER**

A COMEDY BY NOEL COWARD

THURS 1<sup>ST</sup> TO

SAT 3<sup>RD</sup> NOV

Faringdon Junior School

# Present Laughter

by Noel Coward

One of his finest and funniest comedies, Noel Coward admitted that he wrote the role of egotistical charmer Garry Essendine as a vehicle for his own talent. Set in the glamorous world of the 1940s theatre, **Present Laughter** is a splendidly comic exaggeration of the life that Coward lived in his heyday. Flamboyantly dressing-gowned and devastatingly handsome, Garry Essendine may be teetering reluctantly towards middle age but everyone, both male and female, is infatuated by him.

About to set off on a tour of Africa, Garry is visited by almost everyone he knows, including his ex-wife, secretary, valet, business partners, an enthusiastic and slightly mad playwright, and a recent one night stand. The stage is set for a battle of glittering egos.

## Act I

Garry Essendine's studio flat, morning

## Act II

Scene 1 - Evening, three days later

Scene 2 - The next morning

## Act III

Evening - a week later

There will be an interval of twenty minutes between Acts I and II during which refreshments will be available and the raffle drawn.

Between Acts II and III there will be a short interval during which you are asked to remain seated.

## Cast in order of appearance:

Daphne Stillington  
Miss Erikson  
Fred  
Monica Reed  
Garry Essendine  
Liz Essendine  
Roland Maule  
Henry Lyppiat  
Morris Dixon  
Joanna Lyppiat  
Lady Saltburn

Jayne Isham  
Joan Lee  
Austen Roberts  
Janie Eyre-Brook  
Peter McGurk  
Amanda Linstead  
Simon Potter  
Richard Lock  
John Sudworth  
Karen Irving  
Carolyn Taylor

Directed by **Jeff Barry**



## Production Team

Producer	Jo Webster
Stage Manager	Peter Webster
Set Design	Jo Webster
Set construction	Peter Webster, Jeff Barry, Richard Lock, Alan Merrick, Carole Tappenden
Lighting and sound	Ian Chandler, Paul Mountford-Lister, Tim Mountford-Lister
Wardrobe	Jeni Summerfield, Lynda Bates, Joan Lee
Props	Carole Tappenden, Emma Riddle
Publicity	Adrian Wells
Programmes	Dave Headey
Front of House Manager	Debbie Lock
Front of House Team	Denise Monk, Sandra Keen, Fiona Merrick, Sarah Couzens
Bar Manager	Gary Field
Bar Team	Shela Rowan, Alan Taylor

### Acknowledgements

We would like to thank:

- **Faringdon Junior School** for their cooperation,
- **Faringdon United Church** for rehearsal facilities,
- **The Nut Tree** for ticket sales,
- And all FDS members who have helped with props

## Cast Profiles

### Peter McGurk (Garry)

Peter has lived in Faringdon with his family since 2004; this is his first appearance with FDS and marks a return to the stage after fifteen years, having last appeared in a production of **Cracks** by the English Comedy Club in Brussels. Previously Peter was a member of the Queen's University Players and Youth Lyric, both in Belfast. When not on the stage he supports education in Faringdon through his work as a school governor and is active in the life of All Saints Church.



### Amanda Linstead (Liz)

Amanda trained in dance and drama in London, and worked professionally until she got married. Previous productions include **Daisy Pulls it Off**, **Brush Up Your Shakespeare**, **Cabaret**, **Candleford** and most recently she played Olive in **The Odd Couple**. She is very happy to be performing again with the Faringdon Dramatic Society and is looking forward to being part of further productions.

### John Sudworth (Morris)

John is 'on loan' from Stanford Drama Group which he joined in 1991 aged 14. He made regular appearances over the next 5 years before joining the army, and on his return he took on the added responsibility of Director on six occasions and even wrote their 2009 Pantomime **Peter Pun**. John is relishing this opportunity to be involved with FDS as it's a new experience and perhaps a 'change of scenery'.



### Jayne Isham (Daphne)

Jayne has been appearing on stage since primary school, in musicals at secondary school and involved in over forty productions during her time at Swindon New College where she studied performing arts. She was Helga in Stanford Drama Group's production of **'Allo,'Allo** and as Gwendolen in FDS's **The Importance of Being Earnest**. Since then she has been in two pantos (**Peter Panto** and **Cinderella**).

### Janie Eyre-Brook (Monica)

Janie first appeared in an FDS production (**Beside the Seaside**) nearly forty 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 was last seen on stage in 2009 as motherly Mrs Webb in **Our Town** but 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).





## Simon Potter (Roland)

This Simon's first appearance with the FDS, having previously been involved with the Lechlade dramatic society for several years. He started by performing small roles in Christmas productions and pantomimes and eventually moved on to appear in **Much Ado about Nothing** and more recently the dark comedy **Cliff's Edge**. He is excited to be back acting after one year away touring Russia.

## Karen Irving (Joanna)

Karen has just returned to the boards again with recent appearances in two one act plays with the Lechlade Players. She also performed in **The White Sheep of the Family** with the Lechlade Players and **Cymbeline** with the Arcadians. Previous performances include Perdita in **A Winter's Tale** at the University of Reading and Luciana in **A Comedy of Errors** for Trinity Theatre, Tunbridge Wells. Other credits include **Noises Off** and **Teachers**.



## Richard Lock (Henry)

Richard has been involved with FDS for many years and is most often found playing in the panto band, or working backstage although his misspent youth included many stage appearances in pantomimes and musicals.. He has made occasional forays onto the stage for FDS, but has not taken a speaking role since 2008 when he portrayed a toff (Alex) in **Outside Edge** and a blacksmith (Solomon) in **Candleford**.

## Joan Lee (Miss Erikson)

We last saw Joan as librarian Ellen in **I Thought I Heard a Rustling**. She joined the Dramatic Society in 1987, and after making the mistake of admitting that she could sew, has been on the wardrobe team ever since. A panto star, she has specialised in animal roles, being in her time a lion, two halves of a horse, a fish and a toad. Other "human" credits include Martha Brewster in **Arsenic and Old Lace** and Miriam in **Outside Edge**.



## Austen Roberts (Fred)

With a degree in Drama and Theatre Studies, Austen brings a depth of knowledge and experience to the group. He founded a drama school for 5 to 17 year olds, appeared in **The Bill**, and worked in both professional and amateur theatre in London and Derby. FDS productions he has appeared in have included **The Importance of Being Earnest**, **Candleford**, and **Peter Panto**.

## Carolyn Taylor (Lady Saltburn)

Carolyn has appeared in and directed many productions; recent highlights include directing **Outside Edge** which FDS took to Canada in 2008. Recent stage appearances were as Aunt Ada Doom in **Cold Comfort Farm** (where she "saw something narsty in the woodshed!") and Mrs Semple in **London Suite**. To her list of many talents she can add that of playwright, being the author of **Beauty and the Beast**, the FDS panto in 2009.



## Faringdon Dramatic Society

Faringdon Dramatic Society was formed over sixty years ago, in 1948.

Since then it has mounted around 150 productions, ranging from pantomime to dramas, comedies and Shakespeare. Recently we have carried off a number of awards including the NODA Flame Award for **Heroes** in 2010: 'for inspirational contribution to the pursuit of excellence in Theatre'.

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)

## Forthcoming Productions

**January 2013** - our Panto is **Jack and the Beanstalk** written and directed by Peter Webster. Another fun filled production is guaranteed. So do come along if you would like to act, sing or dance, for the read through, 7.30 at the United Church on **Monday 5th November** (children Year 5 and over) with auditions on **Thursday 8th November** (children from 7.00 - 8.30 and adults from 8.00 - 10.00).

**June 2013** - a very exciting production of **A Midsummer Night's Dream** by William Shakespeare to be performed in the grounds of Sudbury House Hotel on **June 12th 13th & 14th**. Directed by Carolyn Taylor, this outdoor production is our second collaboration with the British Heart Foundation and all proceeds will go to that worthy cause. We hope you will all come along and support us, enjoy the summer evening, and watch one of Shakespeare's best loved plays.