
**FARINGDON DRAMATIC
SOCIETY**

❧❧❧

Souvenir Programme

❧❧❧

**50th PRODUCTION
1966**

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Greetings from our President Lord Faringdon

It is appropriate that on this the occasion of the fiftieth production of the Faringdon Dramatic Society congratulations and thanks should be expressed to them not only for the good entertainment that they have provided but also for experience for which there is no substitute and which would not otherwise be available in a neighbourhood like this. The Dramatic Society has brought the "live" theatre to our doors.

We are all deeply indebted to those who have organised, produced and performed for our pleasure and I hope that we shall show our appreciation in the future as in the past by our steady support for those who so ably and enthusiastically have rendered this service to their fellow citizens.

FARINGDON.

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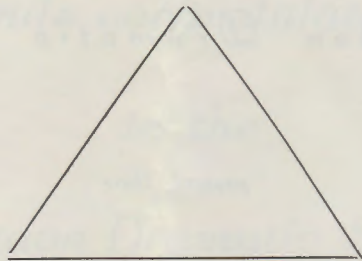
Jubilee Production

*The Importance
Of Being Earnest*

a trivial comedy for serious people

by Oscar Wilde

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**THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING
EARNEST**

cast in order of appearance

Lane (Mr. Moncrieff's man-servant) KEN DURINGER

Algernon Moncrieff (friend of
John Worthing) NORMAN PICKLES

John Worthing, J.P. (of the Manor
House, Woolton, Hertfordshire) JONATHAN BAYLEY

Lady Bracknell NANCY REEVES

Hon. Gwendolen Fairfax
(her daughter) EILEEN DREW

Cecily Cardew (John Worthing's
Ward) ROSEMARY WILKES

Miss Prism EILEEN HEATH

Merriman (Butler to Mr. Worthing) GEORGE YOUNG

Rev. Canon Chasuble, D.D.
(Rector of Woolton) SAM HEATH

produced by EVELYN STOODLEY

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7/6
Rypple

Synopsis of Scenes

ACT I

Algernon Moncrieff's flat in Half-Moon Street, W.

ACT II

The garden at the Manor House, Woolton

ACT III

The morning-room at the Manor House, Woolton

* * *

The intervals will last approx. quarter of an hour, and during the second Coffee will be served.

* * *

Joe Tolma

Bill Stonham

Frank Pearce

Joint Stage Managers Bill Stonham, Frank Pearce

Stage Staff G. R. Gregson, Ron Barlow
Robert Barlow, Doris Willis

of Rypple

Doris
coffee
madam

Electrician Bob Tanner

Props Diedre Van Tinteren, Rose Massingham

Front of House Doris Willis

Make-up Joan Perkins, Eileen Drew

Wardrobe Kath Hill

Publicity Ken Durringer

Faringdon Dramatic Society

In 1948 a group of people interested in Dramatic work formed an Evening Institute class to prepare a play. This was *The Ghost Train* and after long preparation this was finally presented at the Corn Exchange in April 1949. It was well received and the group was so encouraged to form a society, the Faringdon District Dramatic Society. It was penniless but full of enthusiasm and went into its first official production of Busman's *Honeymoon* in December of the same year. Rehearsals in these early days were in the Quaker Chapel, Lechlade road, and scenery was fashioned out of old packing cases. This work was carried out first in a member's garage and open yard and later in the basement of another member's house. Headroom was so limited that the ten foot flats were made and decorated in a horizontal position. Space was so restricted that a pair of French windows were literally made around their producer who stepped into the window panes as he made them. When the completed set was ready it was transported by lorry to the Corn Exchange with the fervent hope that it would fit together. On the weekend prior to a production the whole society turned out to spend a frantic day erecting an extension to the stage, sling up lights, set up the scenery, import chairs for seating the audience and rehearse any special effects. This communal effort developed a great spirit and it also led to the dream of the day when we would have a home of our own and such last minute efforts would no longer be necessary.

So it was when the 'spies' began to hint that the old cinema hut at the Marine Camp seemed to have been abandoned by the Agricultural Training Camp that negotiations began to acquire this present site.

A new era commenced when we finally took possession of this building in 1951-52. The challenge was enormous and the Society was fortunate in having members who by sheer hard work were prepared to turn their dreams into a reality. Money had to be raised to enable the work of restoring the shell of a building to proceed. A concert party was formed and toured the villages around. Rummage Sales, Raffles, Bring and Buy sales were organised. In the meantime plays were still performed in the Corn Exchange though rehearsals and the preparation of scenery were done at Butts Close. During this period the Society found a number of good friends who supplied us with a great deal of material and assistance in decorating and equipping the auditorium. It had been estimated that two years would be required to complete the restoration. In fact we were ready to open in eighteen months and in December 1953 our President Lord Faringdon officially opened the Little Theatre prior to a performance of Emlyn Williams' comedy "*The Late Christopher Bean*"

Since then an average of three plays per year have been performed here. Though some of our difficulties were overcome by having so many facilities to hand, we have also been encumbered by a host of other tasks. Nissen huts were intended only to have a limited life and ours have far exceeded its allotted span. Keeping it waterproof has been expensive both in money and time. We try to do as much of the routine maintenance work as possible ourselves. This applies to the cleaning of the hall too. Our income from the three plays a year does not allow us sufficient capital to cover the normal outlay in connection with royalties, rents, rates, fuel and lighting. Fortunately other activities have brought in sufficient funds so far, to enable us to "keep our heads above water". There is a great deal going on besides strutting the stage, and we have our own social club for relaxation. Each year the society holds a Dinner and Dance and visits are made to other societies in the district at times. We shall be pleased to welcome new members as actors, as members of the "Black Gang" or just supporters. Your subscription alone will help too.

Past Productions

Busman's Honeymoon	Quiet Week-End	Distinguished Gathering
When We Are Married	The Chiltern Hundreds	Who Lies There?
The Happiest Days of Your Life	A Waggonload of Monkeys	
Beggar My Neighbour	The Late Christopher Bean	
See How They Run	A Lady Mislaid	The Shop at Sly Corner
Paradise Enow	The Rose and Crown	As Long as They're Happy
Night Was Our Friend	Mystery at Greenfingers	Miranda
And This Was Odd	Haul for the Shore	Blithe Spirit
Night Must Fall	Queen Elizabeth Slept Here	Love in a Mist
Madam Tic-Tac	Sailor, Beware!	Murder on The Nile
The Blue Goose	Beside the Seaside	Breath of Spring
A Play for Ronnie	The Paragon	Book of the Month
Murder at the Vicarage		Look out for the Catch
The Lovebirds		When we are Married (revived)
Family Album	Russian Salad	Man Alive
		An Inspector Calls
Brush with a Body	Running Riot	The Poltergeist
The Brides of March		The Geese are Getting Fat
Rock-A-Bye-Sailor		Post Horn Gallop

The Little Theatre Club

During the rehearsals and performances of most of their fifty productions, members of the Dramatic Society and their friends have relaxed in the Little Theatre Club. It adjoins the theatre and offers you too a warm welcome and refreshment — before and after the show as well as during the intervals.

Why not become a member of the club and add to your evening's enjoyment? Membership still cost only 2/6 for one year.

Acknowledgements

The Society wish to thank

NESCAFE. WHITE HORSE DAIRY
VOGUE HAIR FASHIONS. DURINGERS

and all those who assisted in this production.



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