



The Village Players present a Café Theatre production of

Relative Values

A comedy by Noel Coward
Directed by Helen Halliday

November 7th – 10th, 2018

The Dunn Village Hall,
Rushlake Green

PROGRAMME

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Relative Values – Director's notes

A satire of snobbery in all its guises, *Relative Values* deals with the clash of cultures between Hollywood stars and the English aristocracy, and with "the ancient and inaccurate assumption that, as we are equal in the eyes of God, we should be equal in the eyes of our fellow creatures."

It was one of Coward's last successful plays as the fashion for upper class 'comedy of manners' style theatre began to fade and a desire for gritty realism (*Look back In Anger*, *A Taste of Honey*) became de rigueur. As Noel put it: "How can there be comedy of manners when there are no longer any manners?" Were he still alive Coward would have had no problem with Meghan Markle becoming royalty but his observations of the media coverage and debate leading up to the royal wedding would have been priceless.

Relative Values opened at the Savoy Theatre on 28 November 1951, after a short provincial tour, and ran until 17 January 1953. The play, directed by the author, starred Gladys Cooper as Felicity, Judy Campbell as Miranda, and Angela Baddeley as Moxie.

Relative Values did not have a New York production until 1986, when it was staged by the small Equity Library Theatre. Sarah Brightman played Miranda and Susan Hampshire played Felicity in a 1993 revival at the Savoy. A Coward centenary production was given at the Bournemouth Little Theatre in 1999 and one at the Theatre Royal Bath and Theatre Royal, Brighton in 2013 featured Patricia Hodge, Rory Bremner and Caroline Quentin. This production moved to the Harold Pinter Theatre, London, in April 2014.

A film, based on the play, was made in 2000, starring Julie Andrews as Felicity, Colin Firth as Peter, Jeanne Tripplehorn as Miranda and William Baldwin as Don.

About the Director, Helen Halliday

Helen Halliday trained at Guildford School of Acting. Favourite acting roles include Janice (*The Dead Heart*: Wyndhams), Nellie Forbush (*South Pacific*), Eliza Doolittle (*My Fair Lady*), Sally Bowles (*Cabaret*), Olivia (*Twelfth Night*) and Rachel (*Seasons Greetings*) – for which she received a nomination for best supporting actress at the Theatre Awards. Recent directing includes *Half a Sixpence*, *Bouncers*, *Female Transport*, *Sand Castles*, *Way Upstream*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Daisy Pulls it Off*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *The Pirates of Penzance* and *The Wizard of Oz* – she was also Musical Director for these last two shows. She has written 10 plays, all of which have been performed publicly.

This is the third production Helen has directed for the Players and says frankly, she's surprised they've let her back!

The cast



Jane Uren



Clyde Young



Lizzie Hutcheson



Stephanie Cogdell



Maria Harding



Pam Edmonds



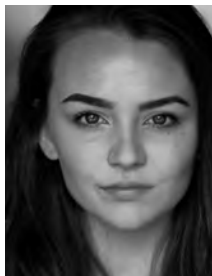
Mark Bostock



Jonathan Gray



Tom Mesimer



Nessie Burns



James Donohue

The characters

Gladys, the housemaid	Jane Uren
Crestwell, the butler	Clyde Young
Alice, the housemaid	Lizzie Hutcheson
Mrs Dora Moxton (Moxie)	Stephanie Cogdell
Felicity, Countess of Marshwood	Maria Harding
Lady Cynthia Hayling	Pam Edmonds
The Honourable Peter Ingleton, Felicity's nephew	Mark Bostock
Admiral Sir John Grayling	Jonathan Gray
Nigel, Earl of Marshwood	Tom Mesimer
Miranda Frayle	Nessie Burns
Don Lucas	James Donohue

The production team

Director	Helen Halliday
Producer	Anita Gunn
Stage Manager	Clive Uren
Set design	John Gunn
Set construction	John Gunn, Graham Stoner
Publicity/advertising	Peter Williams
Sound	Jonathan Austin
Lighting	Andrew Nairne
Costumes	Gonder Gowns
Wardrobe Mistress	Sue Wilson
Props & set dressing	Jane Leney
Prompt	Chris Cogdell
Catering	Mary Dick-Cleland

Running order

Act 1

Scene 1: Saturday afternoon

Scene 2: Two hours later

Act 2

Scene 1: Before dinner

Scene 2: After dinner

Act 3

The following morning

In rehearsals



The Angie Trew award

Members, acknowledge your favourite actor by voting for the annual Angie Trew Award.

Each year at the AGM in October, the Angie Trew Award for “The Most Deserving Actor” is presented to the person who has given an outstanding performance in the preceding 12 months. It doesn’t have to be a leading role, but something that has most impressed, amused or entertained you. So while watching this production please make a note of anyone you would like to nominate when the time comes to vote. We will remind you in the newsletter.

This year’s winners are Kate Rolff as ‘The Most Deserving Actor’ for her performances in both *A Woman of No Importance* and *Calamity Jane*. Johnny Bates as ‘The Most Valuable Input’ for his extensive support to the group over many years in both acting roles and backstage; and finally to Zak Nicholls as ‘The Most Promising Newcomer’ for his performance in *A Woman of No Importance*.

Forthcoming events

There will be another performance in the spring of next year. Details will be posted on the Village Players website in due course.

Our thanks

The Village Players wish to thank everyone who has generously assisted with this production with special thanks to:

The County Group for their sponsorship and help in the preparation of the programme and other publicity materials.

Mark Bostock for taking the cast photographs.



Sir Noël Coward biography

Sir Noël Peirce Coward (16 December 1899 – 26 March 1973) was an English playwright, composer, director, actor and singer, known for his wit, flamboyance, and what Time magazine called “a sense of personal style, a combination of cheek and chic, pose and poise”.



Noël Coward in his teens

Coward attended a dance academy in London as a child, making his professional stage début at the age of eleven. As a teenager he was introduced into the high society in which most of his plays would be set. Coward achieved enduring success as a playwright, publishing more than 50 plays from his teens onwards. Many of his works, such as *Hay Fever*, *Private Lives*, *Design for Living*, *Present Laughter* and *Blithe Spirit*, have remained in the regular theatre repertoire. He composed hundreds of songs, in addition to well over a dozen musical theatre works (including the operetta *Bitter Sweet* and comic revues), screenplays, poetry, several volumes of short stories, the novel *Pomp and Circumstance*, and a three-volume autobiography. Coward's stage and film acting and directing career spanned six decades, during which he starred in many of his own works.

At the outbreak of the Second World War Coward volunteered for war work, running the British propaganda office in Paris. He also worked with the Secret Service, seeking to use his influence to persuade the American public and government to help Britain. Coward won an Academy Honorary Award in 1943 for his naval film drama, *In Which We Serve*, and was knighted in 1969. In the 1950s he achieved fresh success as a cabaret performer, performing his own songs, such as *Mad Dogs and Englishmen*, *London Pride* and *I Went to a Marvellous Party*.

Coward's plays and songs achieved new popularity in the 1960s and 1970s, and his work and style continue to influence popular culture. He did not publicly acknowledge his homosexuality, but it was discussed candidly after his death by biographers including Graham Payn, his long-time partner, and in Coward's diaries and letters, published posthumously. The former Albery Theatre (originally the New Theatre) in London was renamed the Noël Coward Theatre in his honour in 2006.





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The Village Players

The group owes its existence to Angie Trew for it was thanks to her vision that the first pantomime was produced at The Dunn Village Hall in 1992. Having "recruited" Anita Gunn and Jimi Jervis Read to the team, the enthusiasm and creative skills of these three ladies ensured that the pantomime was a great success and this led to the formation of The Village Pantomime Players later that year.

Under the leadership of Angie, and then Anita, the group went on to produce a variety of plays, comedies (in a Café Theatre style) and musicals. In 2003 the name was changed to The Village Players to reflect the group's commitment to providing the village with a wide variety of entertainment. Sadly, Angie lost her courageous battle against cancer in September 2009 but her legacy lives on.

Join us:

Onstage or backstage, plays, pantomimes, musicals, theatre suppers.

Contact:

Anita Gunn 01435 873226 or
Clyde Young 01435 830059

Or visit our website at:

villageplayersrushlakegreen.co.uk

Meet new people, have great fun and help provide that 'certain something' for our local community.

Follow us



You can now follow The Village Players Rushlake Green on Facebook. Like our page and keep up-to-date with all our news, audition dates, ticket sales and sneaky looks behind the scenes at rehearsal and back-stage.

Past productions

February 1992	The Sleeping Beauty
May 1992	Ways and Means
December 1992	Fishy Business / Hidden Meanings
May 1993	The Boyfriend
February 1994	Cinderella
November 1994	The Patient & Rats
June 1995	Variety Show
January 1996	Boeing Boeing
February 1997	Beauty and the Beast
November 1997	Relatively Speaking
March 1999	Holiday Snap
February 2000	Mother Goose
November 2000	Seasons Greetings
October 2001	Fiddler on the Roof
May 2002	Out of Order
February 2003	Jack and the Beanstalk
November 2003	Home is Where Your Clothes Are
June 2004	Theatre in the Round
November 2004	South Pacific
May 2005	Blithe Spirit
February 2006	Dick Whittington and his Cat
November 2006	Don't Dress For Dinner
May 2007	When We Are Married
July 2007	A 15th Anniversary Review
November 2007	The Ghost Train
May 2008	My Fair Lady
November 2008	Not Now Darling
May 2009	Hay Fever
Nov 2009	It Runs in the Family
Dec 2009	A Celebration of Christmas (in aid of The Eve Appeal in memory of Angie Trew)
June 2010	A Midsummer Night's Dream (Shakespeare-on-the Green)
November 2010	Deadly Nightcap
May 2011	Oklahoma!
November 2011	See How They Run
February 2012	An Enchanted Journey (Poetry and Music Evening)
May 2012	Lord Arthur Savile's Crime
November 2012	20th Anniversary Review
June 2013	The Merry Wives of Windsor (Shakespeare-on-the Green)
November 2013	Make Way for Lucia
May 2014	Carousel
November 2014	There Goes The Bride
May 2015	Fatal Encounter
November 2015	Victorian Christmas Evening
February 2016	Cinderella
August 2016	Radio Play
November 2016	Glorious!
June 2017	Sand Castles
November 2017	A Woman of No Importance
May 2018	Calamity Jane