



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 rigour. 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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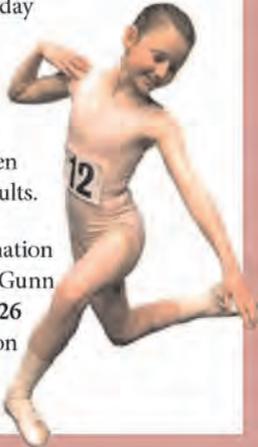


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## The Village Players

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](http://villageplayersrushlakegreen.co.uk)

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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  
May 1992  
December 1992  
May 1993  
February 1994  
November 1994  
June 1995  
January 1996  
February 1997  
November 1997  
March 1999  
February 2000  
November 2000  
October 2001  
May 2002  
February 2003  
November 2003  
June 2004  
November 2004  
May 2005  
February 2006  
November 2006  
May 2007  
July 2007  
November 2007  
May 2008  
November 2008  
May 2009  
Nov 2009  
Dec 2009

The Sleeping Beauty  
Ways and Means  
Fishy Business / Hidden Meanings  
The Boyfriend  
Cinderella  
The Patient & Rats  
Variety Show  
Boeing Boeing  
Beauty and the Beast  
Relatively Speaking  
Holiday Snap  
Mother Goose  
Seasons Greetings  
Fiddler on the Roof  
Out of Order  
Jack and the Beanstalk  
Home is Where Your Clothes Are  
Theatre in the Round  
South Pacific  
Blithe Spirit  
Dick Whittington and his Cat  
Don't Dress For Dinner  
When We Are Married  
A 15th Anniversary Review  
The Ghost Train  
My Fair Lady  
Not Now Darling  
Hay Fever  
It Runs in the Family  
A Celebration of Christmas  
(in aid of The Eve Appeal in  
memory of Angie Trew)  
A Midsummer Night's Dream  
(Shakespeare-on-the-Green)  
Deadly Nightcap  
Oklahoma!  
See How They Run  
An Enchanted Journey  
(Poetry and Music Evening)  
Lord Arthur Savile's Crime  
20th Anniversary Review  
The Merry Wives of Windsor  
(Shakespeare-on-the-Green)  
Make Way for Lucia  
Carousel  
There Goes The Bride  
Fatal Encounter  
Victorian Christmas Evening  
Cinderella  
Radio Play  
Glorious!  
Sand Castles  
A Woman of No Importance  
Calamity Jane

June 2010

November 2010  
May 2011  
November 2011  
February 2012

May 2012  
November 2012  
June 2013

November 2013  
May 2014  
November 2014  
May 2015  
November 2015  
February 2016  
August 2016  
November 2016  
June 2017  
November 2017  
May 2018