

THE HAPPIEST DAYS OF YOUR LIFE

A COMEDY
BY JOHN DIGHTON



May 15th – 18th, 2019

The Dunn Village Hall,
Rushlake Green

PROGRAMME

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The Happiest Days of Your Life – Director's notes

The Happiest Days of Your Life by John Dighton was first performed at the Apollo Theatre in London in 1948 and later made into a very successful comedy film directed by Frank Launder in 1950. This delightful farce is set after World War II in a boys' school when they receive the news that they are to billet another school, which turns out to be all female! Events are complicated by the arrival of the parents. Each headmaster/mistress tries to conceal the fact that his/her school is now co-ed and chaos ensues.

From a Director's viewpoint, this play did present a few challenges – not least a cast of eleven actors (including two young pupils!) amidst quite a bit of furniture, dashing in and out of various doors from our small stage with lots of props and costumes authentic to the period. However we've all had great fun and, as always, the whole team – cast and crew, who make up The Village Players – have worked incredibly hard to produce what I hope will be a very enjoyable and entertaining evening for you.

About the Director, Heather Young

Heather is a founding member of The Village Players having appeared as Carrabosse, the Wicked Witch, in *The Sleeping Beauty* – the very first pantomime the group put on in February 1992. Since then, she has been involved in practically every production whether as an actress, in the chorus or as director.

This is Heather's sixth play that she has directed for The Village Players – previous productions were: *Seasons Greetings*, by Alan Ayckbourn, *Not Now Darling* by John Chapman & Ray Cooney, *See How They Run* by Philip King, *Make Way for Lucia* by John Van Druten and *Fatal Encounter* by Francis Durbridge.



Heather Young

The cast



James Donohue



Jim Edmonds



David Hayes



Clyde Young



Ann Walker



Kate Rolff



Jonathan Gray



Lizzie Hutcheson



Pam Edmonds



Stephen Cottrell



Jane Uren



Ian Charlesworth



Elizabeth Williams

Cast (in order of appearance)

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Dick Tassell, Assistant Master at Hilary Hall | James Donohue |
| Rainbow, School Porter and Groundsman | Jim Edmonds |
| Rupert Billings, Senior Assistant Master at Hilary Hall | David Hayes |
| Godfrey Pond, Headmaster of Hilary Hall | Clyde Young |
| Miss Evelyn Whitchurch, Principal of St Swithins School | Ann Walker |
| Miss Gossage, Senior Assistant Mistress at St Swithins | Kate Rolff |
| Hopcraft Mi, Pupil at Hilary Hall | Jonathan Gray |
| Barbara Cahoun, Pupil at St Swithins | Lizzie Hutcheson |
| Joyce Harper, Assistant Mistress at St Swithins | Pam Edmonds |
| The Reverend Edward Peck | Stephen Cottrell |
| Mrs Peck, his wife | Jane Uren |
| Edgar Sowter | Ian Charlesworth |
| Mrs Sowter, his wife | Elizabeth Williams |

The production team

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Director | Heather Young |
| Producer | Anita Gunn |
| Stage Manager | Clive Uren |
| Props | Jane Leney |
| Sound | Jonathan Austin |
| Lighting | Andrew Nairne |
| Set Design | John Gunn |
| Set Construction | John Gunn, Graham Stoner, Johnny Bates, Ian Charlesworth & Team |
| Prompt | Chris Cogdell & Inyca Humphreys |
| Wardrobe | Sue Wilson |
| Front of House | Anita Gunn & Team |
| Bar | Peter Williams & Team |
| Raffle | Nannette Burton |
| Publicity | Peter Williams |
| Catering | Mary Dick-Cleland |

Running order

Setting

The action of the play takes place in the Masters Common Room at Hilary School for Boys, in Hampshire.

Act 1: The first day of the Summer Term. Afternoon.

Act 2: Saturday afternoon. Three weeks later.

Act 2: Two Hours later.

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.

Last year’s winners were Kate Rolff as “The Most Deserving Actor” for her performances in both *A Woman of No Importance* and *Calamity Jane* and Johnny Bates as “The Most Valuable Input” for his extensive support to the group over many years in both acting roles and backstage. As an exception, we also decided to make a third award entitled “The Most Promising Newcomer” and this was presented to Zak Nicholls for his performance in *A Woman of No Importance*.

Forthcoming events

The next Café Theatre production by The Village Players will be *Comfort & Joy* a hugely funny play written by playwright and entertainer, Mike Harding. It is set in Lancashire over the Christmas period. Relatives you hardly ever see and who are very different from you, arrive at your house for the festivities. No-one receives a present that is at all appropriate. Culinary disasters abound. Long-buried resentments rear their ugly heads as the alcohol flows and tongues are loosened!

This will be performed here at the Dunn Village Hall from 13th to 16th November so make a note of the dates in your diary. However, please be aware that this play includes adult language so is probably best suited for those aged 18 or over.

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.

Gareth Looker of Looker Marketing Communications for the design and artwork of our programmes, flyers and posters.

Mark Bostock for taking the cast photographs.

Mary Dick-Cleland for arranging and preparing the catering for each evening.



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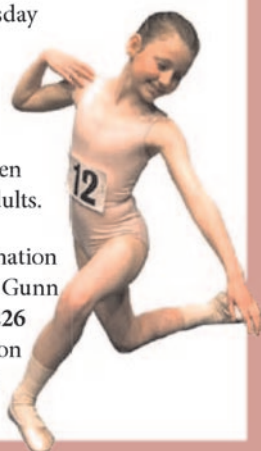
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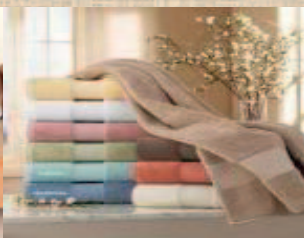
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The Village Players

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

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 |
| November 2018 | Relative Values |