

# Past Productions

**The Sleeping Beauty**

February 1992

**Ways and Means**

May 1992

**Fishy Business /  
Hidden Meanings**

December 1992

**The Boyfriend**

May 1993

**Cinderella**

February 1994

**The Patient & Rats**

November 1994

**Variety Show**

June 1995

**Boeing Boeing**

January 1996

**Beauty and the Beast**

February 1997

**Relatively Speaking**

November 1997

**Holiday Snap**

March 1999

**Mother Goose**

February 2000

**Seasons Greetings**

November 2000

**Fiddler on the Roof**

October 2001

**Out of Order**

May 2002

**Jack and the Beanstalk**

February 2003

**Home is Where**

**Your Clothes Are**

November 2003

**Theatre in the Round**

June 2004

**South Pacific**

November 2004

**Blithe Spirit**

May 2005

**Dick Whittington and his Cat**

February 2006

**Don't Dress For Dinner**

November 2006

**When We Are Married**

May 2007

**A 15th Anniversary Review**

July 2007

**The Ghost Train**

November 2007

**My Fair Lady**

May 2008

**Not Now Darling**

November 2008

**Hay Fever**

May 2009

**It Runs in the Family**

November 2009

**A Celebration of Christmas**

December 2009

*(in aid of The Eve Appeal in*

*memory of Angie Trew)*

**A Midsummer Night's Dream**

June 2010

*(Shakespeare-on-the Green)*

**Deadly Nightcap**

November 2010

**Oklahoma!**

May 2011

**See How They Run**

November 2011

**An Enchanted Journey**

**around the world**

February 2012

*(poetry and music evening in aid  
of Queen Victoria Hospital)*

**Lord Arthur Savile's Crime**

February 2012

**20th Anniversary Review**

December 2012

**The Merry Wives of Windsor**

June 2013

**Make Way For Lucia**

November 2013

**Carousel**

May 2014

**There Goes The Bride**

November 2014

**Fatal Encounter**

May 2015

**Victorian Christmas Evening**

November 2015

**Cinderella**

February 2016

**Radio Play**

August 2016

**Glorious**

November 2016

**Sandcastles**

June 2017

**A Woman of No Importance**

November 2017

**Calamity Jane**

May 2018

**Relative Values**

November 2018

**The Happiest Days**

**of Your Life**

May 2019

**Comfort and Joy**

November 2019

**Local Affairs**

November 2021

**Sound of Music**

May 2022

**Dracula -The BloodyTruth**

November 2022

**Witness for the Prosecution**

June 2023

**Aladdin - a Pantomime**

Nov/Dec 2023

**Upham Hall**

**June 2024**

**Blue Murder at the Blue Parrot**

**August 2024**



present

# The Late Mrs Early

A café theatre production



A light comedy by  
Norman Robbins

Wed 20th to Sat 23rd  
November 2024

Dunn Village Hall, Rushlake Green, TN21 9QD

## Programme

Charity No: 1184546

This amateur production of "The Late Mrs Early" is presented  
by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd on behalf of  
Samuel French Ltd. [www.concordtheatricals.co.uk](http://www.concordtheatricals.co.uk)



Registered Charity No: 1184546

Programme design by Quest Graphics  
[rb@questgraphics.co.uk](mailto:rb@questgraphics.co.uk)

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

# The Late Mrs Early

The action of the play takes place in the living-room of the Early's terraced council house in Catlow Street, Castleford, Yorkshire, in the mid 1970s.

Prologue	Frying Tonight
ACT 1	
Scene 1	Saturday morning
Scene 2	The following Saturday evening

Prologue	Back at the Chippy
ACT 2	
Scene 1	Sunday afternoon, one week later
Scene 2	The following Saturday, early evening

## Cast

Cast (in order of appearance)	
Ivy .....	Lizzie Hutcheson
Maude .....	Jilly Edmeads
Terry Early.....	Marc Twinn
Susan Rickworth .....	Isla Mayhew
Mabel Sutton.....	Irene Osprey
Sam Early .....	Peter Savell
Alice Early .....	Ann Walker
Joe Gittings .....	Jonathan White
Reuben Rickworth .....	David Hayes
Lucy Rickworth.....	Kim Twinn

## Production Team

Director .....	Pam Edmonds
Producer .....	Anita Gunn
Set Lead.....	Graham Stoner
Set Team .....	Graham Stoner, Jonathan Austin, Ian Charlesworth, Pam Edmonds
Sound .....	Jonathan Austin
Lighting.....	Suzanne Toynton, Andrew Nairne
Wardrobe .....	Sue Wilson
Stage Management, Props and Set Dressing .....	Chris Wickham Annie Wickham
Prompt .....	Sue Turner
Front of House .....	Anita Gunn and Team
Publicity .....	Robert Barker, Clyde Young
Catering.....	Janet Smith
Bar .....	Pippa Clarke and Team

# Director's Notes

Norman Robbins is regarded by many as the world's most prolific and successful pantomime writer and playwright who entertained audiences world-wide with his comedies and thrillers for over sixty years. Norman was born in Yorkshire in the mid Nineteen Thirties and made his professional debut in pantomime at the Hippodrome Theatre in 1965, with comedian Ken Dodd and was asked to return the following year as a "feed" to Morecambe & Wise. Over the next fifteen years he appeared with many other show business luminaries including Charlie Chester, Roy Hudd, Harry Worth, Brian Rix, Roy Barraclough, Jack Douglas, Jimmy Jewell, Hylida Baker, Wilfred Pickles, Irene Handl, Ronnie Barker, David Jason, Bernie Winters and several of the "Carry On" team, while on television he was seen in "Open all Hours", "Last of the Summer Wine", "For the love of Ada", "All Creatures Great and Small", "Survivors", "Get Some In", "Grange Hill", "Crossroads" etc., plus a host of Variety programmes, and worked in Summer Season plays around the country.

However throughout this period Norman continued to write plays and pantomimes in his spare time. The Late Mrs Early is a return to Norman Robbins’ roots: although the characters and events are fictitious, the town of Castleford in West Yorkshire does exist. In the 1970s it was a small mining district and our playwright lived there for over twenty years of his life, giving him ample time to observe his neighbours.

Although the play is set in 1975, the characters Alice and Sam would have married in the mid-fifties and therefore we have created a set reminiscent of that time, as- like many other working class folk of that era- Alice Early would have made sure that her furniture and goods were made to last -along with her marriage - for life!

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with this talented group of actors and backstage crew and I cannot thank them enough for all the work they have put into this production. It has been a privilege to welcome and work with the newcomers to our acting team, as well as to enjoy the skills of our returning cast members.

But, most importantly, I would like to thank you, our audience, for supporting us. I hope you have a great evening and enjoy the show as much as we have enjoyed creating it!

And now, I’ll “sling my hook”, as Alice would say...

Pam Edmonds

# The 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 our audiences. We have a panel of three regular audience members who make the decision for the Most Deserving Actor and the winner for 2023-2024 was Lizzie Hutcheson for her comedic performances and ability to engage her audience, in “Aladdin “ and “ Upham Hall”. The panel also commended performances by Jilly Edmeads, Kirsty Coles, Isla Mayhew, Izzy Waterhouse and Clyde Young for his wonderful performance as Darling.

The Village Players also value our wonderful production teams and the Committee nominate the person who has given “The Most Valuable Input” into productions and the award went to Suzanne Toynton for both Lighting and Ticketing.

## Forthcoming events

The next Café Theatre production by The Village Players will be in May 2025. The play is yet to be decided.  
This will be performed here at the Dunn Village Hall.

## 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.  
Robert Barker of Quest Graphics 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.