

THE DEBEN PLAYERS

www.debenplayers.org.uk

Newsletter March 2009

ROSES OF EYAM

Rehearsals are progressing very well and it's great to see the hall brimming with our enthusiastic cast and crew. This is the first play in the society's history where we have used so many of our juniors and again it's lovely to see them getting involved. Anna is doing a great job in directing so many people and she does it so calmly to. Costumes are coming along very well, thanks to Patsy and her crew, the set is progressing well, thanks to Mac and his crew, publicity is now gearing up, thanks to Sam and we have just 8 weeks to curtain up at the Seckford. It will be a stunning piece of theatre.

This is where the membership come in and assist by booking as many tickets as possible. Dates are: **Wednesday 13th May 09 to Saturday 16th May 09 – nightly at 7.30pm**

You can book tickets by calling the box office on: **01394 615015** Mon to Fri, 10am to 4pm

DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER

The play for September 09 has been chosen and it's an hilarious farce called "Don't dress for Dinner". Peter Wells is directing and auditions are on:-

Wednesday 8th April 09 – 7.30pm at Melton Parish Rooms

Wednesday 15th April 09 – 7.30pm at Melton Primary School

A full synopsis of the play and characters is on page two of this newsletter.

Scripts will be available W/C Monday 23rd March for those who want to read it.

See Steve Parks at rehearsals or email him on: steveparks@debenplayers.org.uk

The performance dates at the Seckford are:

Wednesday 23rd September to Saturday 26th September 09.

DEBEN PLAYERS WEBSITE

Ash has updated and improved our website.

You can now also pay your membership online by debit or credit card. Take a look at: www.debenplayers.org.uk

DATE OF THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 1st April 2009

Comments/Requests to Steve by 31st March 09

steveparks@debenplayers.org.uk

DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER

A comedy by Marc Camoletti, adapted from the French by Robin Hawdon

For the second of what we hope will be our regular autumn production at the Seckford theatre, we have chosen 'Don't Dress for Dinner' by French playwright Marc Camoletti. It was a smash hit in Paris under its French title 'Pyjamas pour Six' and then had a long and successful run at the Apollo theatre in London with great critical acclaim, starring such well known comedy names as Simon Cadell, Su Pollard and John Quale. Appropriately, the Sunday Times said of it at the time (early 1990s) 'a nifty comedy about double adultery and gourmet cooking...no better way of forgetting the recession'

The action is set in the stylish surroundings of a converted French farmhouse not far from Paris. Owner BERNARD is planning to entertain his chic Parisian model girlfriend for the weekend, having arranged for his wife JACQUELINE to visit her mother. As an additional alibi he has also invited best friend ROBERT to come as well, and to give the best impression he has ordered the services of a cordon bleu cook to provide the gourmet delights.

A foolproof plan??...But of course in the true tradition of farcical comedy, things definitely do not go according to plan. ROBERT turns up not knowing why he has been invited and in fact, he and JACQUELINE are secret lovers! The cook arrives early and is mistaken for the mistress SUZANNE, JACQUELINE cancels her visit and the mistress, who cannot cook, finds herself in charge of the kitchen. Complication piles on complication and BERNARD and ROBERT have to improvise at breakneck speed and the result is an hilarious evening of confusion. To add to their problems, GEORGE, the cook's rather aggressive husband, arrives to collect her.

Like all farce, 'DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER' must be played with absolute seriousness, great cues, bite and pace. As a French farce, verbal dexterity and timing are a must to make the most out of the dialogue. The play does not of course need French accents from anyone.

PLEASE NOTE: AGES SUGGESTED BY THE SCRIPT FOR CHARACTERS ARE PURELY A ROUGH GUIDE AND CAN BE FLEXIBLE. CHARACTERS MUST OF COURSE BE OF COMPATIBLE AGES.

CHARACTERS

BERNARD (40-50) Smart, but casually dressed. Businesslike and confident to start in his plans to entertain his model girlfriend. As things go wrong he becomes increasingly panicky and desperately inventive in his efforts to escape disaster.

JACQUELINE (35-45) His wife. Smart, charming and slightly bossy? Seems very proper at first, but as the play progresses we see her in a very different light.

ROBERT (40-50+) Bernard's best friend. Charming and enthusiastic but tends to be rather nervous, and panics when things begin to go awry. Easily shocked. Formal hat and suit on arrival.

SUZANNE (30+) Bernard's chic Parisian model girlfriend. Beautifully dressed and made up and of course very possessive of the expensive coat Bernard has given her, all of which makes her forced transformation to cook's apron etc. even funnier.

SUZETTE (30+) The cook from the agency. Arrives in formal cook's dress/apron she soon hands this over when she sees what is going on and realises what she can make out of it with lots of extra cash from the unfortunate Bernard and Robert. This is a great comedy role, very sparkling, great fun throughout, needing really good timing.

GEORGE (35-45) Suzette's husband. Smaller role (Act 2 only). Needs to be a biggish man and a bit menacing perhaps, very different in background etc. to the other men. He is definitely rather aggressively inclined!