



Skipton's Little Theatre

Season 2008-2009

Skipton Players present

“A Garden Fete”

One of the sequence of

Intimate Exchanges

By Alan Ayckbourn

Directed by Ann Busfield

Tuesday 21st to Saturday 25th April 2009

7.30pm (doors open at 7.00pm)

Tickets £7.50

Intimate Exchanges

by Alan Ayckbourn

Intimate Exchanges: a related series of plays to be played by two actors. The plays begin with a woman faced with a small, fairly trivial decision. Should she resist the first cigarette of the day before 6pm? On some nights her willpower is strong enough, on others it isn't. Several chains of events ensue, as, at the end of each scene a character has to make a further decision, this time of a slightly more important nature. As each scene ends further and more crucial choices still have to be made. Thus each play is a single strand of a much larger web of interconnecting scenes. The chart on the centre page shows all the possible scenes which result in eight plays with two endings each. You can plot the course of tonight's play on the chart. Alan Ayckbourn describes this as "a piece of theatrical lunacy".

Tonight's sequence of Intimate Exchanges will be

How it All Began

A Gardener Calls



A Self Improving Woman

INTERVAL

A Garden Fete



A Christening OR Return of the Prodigal

The Cast

Lionel/ Toby/ Joe

Bruce Woodhouse

Celia/ Sylvie

Debbie Bowman



Production Team

Director	Ann Busfield
Props	Wendy Milner
Set Designed by	Ann Busfield
Set Construction by	Martin Cole & Ann Busfield
Set Painting	Leslie Woodhouse & Ann Busfield
Lighting & Sound Effects	Tom Cox
Prompt	Hazel Sinclair
Programme & Poster	Neil Hellewell



Front of House

Wena Bean	Wendy Sanderson
Linda Mackirdy	Angela Freeman
Linda Whitham	Neil Hellewell
Martin Cole	Chris Birch
Ann Fisher	

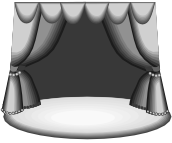


Why Not Reserve Your Tickets for Skipton's Little Theatre online???

Visit us at
www.skiptonlittletheatre.org.uk

Please note that online reservations
must be made at least 24 hours
before the performance





Notes from the Green Room

The recent demise of Woolworth's took away from the nation's confectionery diet its popular Pick'n'Mix range of sweets, to the secret chagrin of dentists everywhere. The concept of select what you like from a range of possibilities, like the choice offered to candy aficionados, became adopted by much modern marketing; and even by the theatre. Witness Alan Ayckbourn's remarkable *Intimate Exchanges* plays in which the Producer can make selections from a mouthwatering display of possible scenes. Fancy a Happy Ending today? - pick Scene X. Or maybe an Unforeseen Circumstance would tickle your fancy? - pick Scene Y. Perhaps I exaggerate slightly - after all, the plot line has to make sense - but you get the picture. Ayckbourn's genius was to realise that life continually presents us with decision points, often clear cut (do I go for that new job or not?), but often the decision is entirely unconscious, in which mere whims and chance thoughts set one up on a path where the branch point only becomes obvious retrospectively. Our lives, he realised, are a web of events and interactions, not the linear flow presented by traditional plays. We are not living a pre-ordained Plot. Rather we flow in a turbulent, chaotic fashion around the obstacles of existence in a quantum universe without certainty in any absolute sense. Ayckbourn's original idea arose from his previous play *Sisterly Feelings* which had variant, but randomly selected, endings. In the later play he wanted to explore overtly the possibility of expressing the web-like nature of real life. Scenes would not be chosen arbitrarily but as the result of previous decisions, whether conscious or not. At the end of the tour of his play *Way Upstream* in Houston in 1982 he was left with just two players, Lavinia Bertram and Robin Hershman, and proposed to write a two-hander of intertwined scenes, the course of which would portray the way in which the lives of the two central characters could have been very different as a result of the life-choices they made, unwitting or not. Thus *Intimate Exchanges* was born; written by Alan Ayckbourn during the course of 1982 to mark the 25th anniversary of his arrival in Scarborough. It still stands as one of his most ambitious works, containing some of his best writing as well as being a technically brilliant *tour de force*. To fully appreciate it, all the variants should ideally be seen, but such is the strength of the concept that each variant (and we are presenting just two on successive nights) can stand alone as a superb play in its own right.

Martin Cole, *Chairman*



Skipton's Little Theatre
2008-2009 Season

21st to 25th April 2009

Intimate Exchanges

By Alan Ayckbourn
Directed by Ann Busfield

23rd to 27th June 2009

Charley's Aunt

By Brandon Thomas
Directed by Richard Wilkinson

**Details of the 2009-2010
Season will be announced in June!**

All Productions start at 7.30pm Doors Open at 7.00pm
See Local Press for Details
Or Visit Us Online at
[WWW.skiptonlittletheatre.org.uk](http://www.skiptonlittletheatre.org.uk)