



Skipton's Little Theatre

Season 2008-2009

Skipton Players Present

Charley's Aunt

By Brandon Thomas

Directed by
Richard Wilkinson



Tuesday 23rd to Saturday 27th June 2009



Forthcoming Events at Skipton's Little Theatre



Skipton's Little Theatre New Year Party

Saturday 9th January 2010

For members, players, friends and guests

AN EVENING OF NOSTALGIA

SATURDAY 15TH MAY 2010

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Skipton Player's opening
of their Little Theatre

The evening will include a "sound and light" presentation of
slides, photographs, reminiscences and newspaper reports
from the early years of the Little Theatre.

Notes from the Green Room



Welcome to our final play in the 2008/9 season - the hugely successful (and funny) *Charley's Aunt*. This will not be the first time it has been produced at the Little Theatre, and I am sure it will not be the last!

The cast contains some of the usual suspects, but I wish to introduce to you two new cast members (new to Skipton Players that is), namely David Knights and Sarah French, who debut with us in this production. We are always keen to welcome new acting or behind-the-stage members.

Charley's Aunt is probably one of the most famous comedies ever written for the English stage; it certainly had one of the longest runs (1,466 in its original London run alone) and has never been out of the professional and amateur repertoire. It was first performed at the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds, being produced by W S Penley, a D'Oyly Carte Opera Company actor and a friend of the playwright, in 1892. Brandon Thomas himself played the part of Lord Fancourt Babberly. It was a success, and was transferred to the capital, where it was produced at the Royalty Theatre later that same year, and then at the larger Globe Theatre the following January. Across the Atlantic, it opened at the Standard Theatre on Broadway the same year for another historic long run of four years, and was toured internationally, with long runs in Paris and elsewhere.

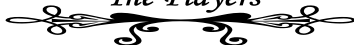
The play was taken up by the new motion picture industry - in 1915 a silent version was released, and another in 1925 - this time featuring Sydney Chaplin (brother of Charlie). A "talkie" version in 1930 was one of the first "talkie" comedies. Perhaps the best known film version was released in 1941, directed by Archie Mayo and starring Jack Benny in the principal role. In 1948 the play was also adapted as a musical on Broadway (called *Where's Charley?*), which was later made into a 1952 film; later the musical began a successful London run.

The play has inspired many international adaptations, including, perhaps a trifle improbably, a musical Soviet one called *Hello, I'm Your Aunt!*, and others in Denmark, Germany and Spain, to name a few.

Thank you for supporting the Little Theatre and I hope on behalf of all of us at Skipton Players that you enjoy the show, and come back again next season, when we look forward to welcoming you!

Martin Cole, Chairman

The Players



Jack Chesney

An Undergraduate at St Olde's College, Oxford

Played by Mr David Knights

Brassett

A College Scout

Played by Mr Andrew Walker

Charles Wykeham

An Undergraduate at St Olde's College, Oxford

Played by Mr Brian Wakeling

Lord Fancourt Babberley

An Undergraduate at St Olde's College, Oxford

Played by Mr Philip Smith

Kitty Verdun

Mr Spettigue's Ward

Played by Miss Roxanne Williams

Amy Spettigue

Mr Spettigue's Niece

Played by Miss Caroline Paley

Colonel Sir Francis Chesney, Bart

Late Indian Service

Played by Mr Neil Hellewell

Mr Stephen Spettigue

Solicitor, Oxford

Played by Mr Christopher Birch

Donna Lucia D'Alvadorez

From Brazil

Played by Miss Beryl Binns

Ela Delahay

An Orphan

Played by Miss Sarah French

Synopsis of Scenes

Act 1

Jack Chesney's Rooms in College (Morning)

"When pious frauds ...are dispensations"

- Hudibras

Interval

Act 2

Garden Outside Jack Chesney's Rooms (afternoon)

"While there's tea there's hope" - Pinero

Act 3

Drawing Room at Spettigue's House

"Dinner Lubricates business" - Boswell





Charley's Aunt Production Team

Producer	Richard Wilkinson
Prompt	Angela Freeman
Lighting & Sound	Emma Waters
Lighting Designed by	Brian Wakeling
Set Design	Richard Wilkinson
Set Construction by	Phil Smith and various cast members
Costumes	Northern Costume Hire and Skipton Little Theatre
Props	The Cast
Poster and Programme design	Neil Hellewell

Front of House Staff

Wena Bean	Shirley Rowland
Linda McKirdy	Nicola Murphy
Wendy Sanderson	Eileen Ward
Linda Whitham	



CHARLEY'S AUNT - EARLY REHEARSAL PHOTOGRAPH

Skipton Little Theatre is pleased to support



Saturday 18th July 7.30pm

Field open from 2.00pm - Free Car parking

Sycamore Farm Brunthwaite Silsden

Featuring Music by

The Yorkshire Building Society Brass Band

Playing favourites from "The Last Night of the Proms"



Featuring Sarah Halstead - soloist



Silsden's One Night Only...Again!



and



HERR JEN'S CONCERT BAND



Tickets £10 Awning Space £10

Tickets available from Twigg's Newsagents, Kirkgate, Silsden

Or telephone 01535 653575 (awning space to be booked by phone)

Proceeds in aid of Manorlands Hospice & Silsden Methodist Church Building Fund



The New Season at



Skipton's Little Theatre

2009-2010

6 – 10 October 2009

Talk Radio

by Eric Bagasian,
Producer Johnny Socha

8 – 12 December 2009

Hotel Paradiso

by Georges Feydeau
Producer Thelma Hebden

Productions for February, April & June 2010
To Be Announced

**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**