



Skipton's Little Theatre

Season 2009-2010

Skipton Players present

# Strike Up the Banns



By  
Olwen Wymark



Directed by  
Phil Smith

Tuesday 13th to Saturday 17th October 2009

*Skipton Players'*  
*2009-2010 Productions*

December 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 2009

*Outward Bound*

By Sutton Vane

Directed by Thelma Hebden

February 23<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> 2010

*Humble Boy*

By Charlotte Jones

Directed by Chris Birch

April 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> 2010

*Blue Remembered Hills*

By Dennis Potter

Directed by Jay Livingstone

June 22<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> 2010

*Friends and Neighbours*

By Austin Steele

All Productions start at 7.30pm. Doors open at 7.00pm.  
To book seats either go to [www.skiptonlittletheatre.org.uk](http://www.skiptonlittletheatre.org.uk)  
or phone 01756 791552, during the week before the play.

## *Celebrating a Half Century*

Welcome to the 50<sup>th</sup> season of plays in this theatre. In 1959 a former stables was purchased for £250 and work undertaken to convert the buildings into what was probably one of the smallest “little theatres” in the country. The total expenditure was £2,000 (equivalent to £27,500 today) and in May 1960 Skipton Little Theatre was opened by Cllr E P Rowley, Chairman of Skipton Urban Council.

During the last half century additions, alterations and improvements have been made to the buildings and the fixtures and fittings, the most recent of these refurbishments being the replacement of the auditorium seating in summer 2005, and the instillation of a redesigned kitchen in summer 2008. Interestingly the 2008 kitchen cost as much as the original conversion work!

Whilst acknowledging and celebrating the achievements of the past 50 years, those early visionaries would be the first to tell us that we must keep our focus on the future. With that in mind, we admit this season’s programme is indulgently backward looking, but the Committee will harness the opportunities and interest generated by this Golden Jubilee to bring in new faces, and to attract more visiting productions to complement our own productions.

To be able to celebrate the theatre’s Diamond Jubilee in 10 years time we need to more people to become actively involved in both the running of the theatre and the production of plays and live entertainments. Yes, DVD’s and downloads can be watched at any time, but there is absolutely nothing, in the world of entertainment, to rival a live performance. No matter how carefully edited and crafted, **a recording can never rival the spontaneous intimacy and real pleasure of a live performance**, especially when you are sat within a few feet of the action!

If you would like to become more involved there are volunteering forms available in the foyer.

## *Synopsis*

Geraldine and Reginald, ageing hippies now trapped in Green Belt respectability by Geraldine's domineering mother Mrs Carmichael, are giving a dinner party. Their guests are Reg's boss, the publisher and moral rights campaigner Mr Beamish and his soft-left son Bunny, who is to marry their daughter Billie.

Both Mrs Carmichael and Billie, admirers of Mr Beamish's views, are anxious to make a good impression but Geraldine has had enough of being pushed around and decides to liven up the evening by impersonating Reg's imaginary brother Rollo, a cad and a bounder. When Rollo's eccentric wife Lillian, madness and mayhem becomes inevitable.

## *Scenes*

### *Act 1*

**Scene 1** The Stringer's front room – Early morning, 5 a.m.-ish.

**Scene 2** The Stringer's front room – Breakfast, just after 8 a.m.

**Scene 3** The Stringer's front room – Early evening, 7.30 p.m.-ish.

### *Act 2*

The Stringer's front room – Just after dinner.

## *Cast*

<i>Mrs Carmichael</i>	Ann Busfield
<i>Reginald Stringer</i>	Philip Smith
<i>Geraldine Stringer</i>	Beryl Binns
<i>Billie Stringer</i>	Roxanne Williams
<i>Mr Beamish</i>	Richard Wilkinson
<i>Bunny Beamish</i>	Philip Boocock

## *Production Team*

<b>Producer</b>	Phil Smith
<b>Assistant Director</b>	Cast Members
<b>Prompt</b>	Angela Freeman
<b>Light and Sound Design</b>	Tom Cox
<b>Light and Sound</b>	Sarah French and Zac Carr
<b>Props</b>	Claire Cartman
<b>Set Construction</b>	Roxy Williams, Chris Birch and Phil Smith
<b>Set Decoration</b>	Phil Smith and Serena Pickard
<b>Costumes</b>	Skipton Little Theatre and Cast
<b>Poster Design</b>	Neil Hellewell
<b>Programme</b>	Neil Hellewell and Linda Witham

## *Front of House Staff*

Wena Bean

Chris Birch

Martin Cole

Ann Fisher

Linda MacKirdy

Shirley Rowland

Wendy Sanderson

Eileen Ward

Linda Witham

### **Might you be interested in becoming actively involved in the theatre?**

Whether you aspire to “treading the boards”, or prefer to help behind the scenes, please complete an “Interested in” slip, available in the foyer.

**Or**, if you would like a little more information before committing yourself, ring Linda Witham (Hon. Secretary) on 01274 606869

## **New members always welcome**

If you are interested in becoming a member, we have application forms available in the foyer.

Membership is just £30 per year or £15 for under-16's and card-carrying students. If you join part way through the year, the fee is reduced according to the number of productions left in the season. And remember, membership tickets are transferable so if you can't use your ticket, for whatever reason, you can let a friend or relative use it instead.

If you join tonight your £7.50 (or £4.00) entrance fee will be refunded.



*Events to celebrate 50 years of*

*Skipton Little Theatre*

Saturday 15th May 2010

*An Evening of Nostalgia*

To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the opening of their Little Theatre, Skipton Players will take a walk down memory lane with an evening which will include a "sound and light" presentation of slides, photographs, reminiscences and newspaper reports from the early years of the Little Theatre.

June 22<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> 2010

*Friends and Neighbours*

By Austin Steele

Do you remember JFK's inauguration speech; and the ending of National Service?

In 1960 Cliff Richard and the Shadows sang of a "Living Doll", Lonnie Donegan proclaimed "My Old Man's A Dustman", "Psycho" came to a cinema near you!

June's "Friends and Neighbours"; one of the first plays to be performed in this theatre; will take us back to an age when beer was about 1/6 (8p) a pint and, crisps came with a blue paper twist of salt! Come and enjoy an evening in a world where doors were left on the "sneck" and the Russian's were viewed with suspicion.

## *Forthcoming events*

20<sup>th</sup> October 2009, 7.30pm.

Angus and Ross Theatre Company  
in conjunction with Helmsley Arts Centre presents

### *The Mystery of Irma Vep*

By Charles Ludlam

**Tickets: £9 / OAP £8 from: Skipton TIC: 01756 792809**

Doors open 7pm

December 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 2009

Skipton Players present

### *Outward Bound*

By Sutton Vane

A group of people find themselves on a small liner.  
After a while it becomes apparent to them that they  
are dead and travelling across the River Styx...

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2010

### *Skipton Players' New Year Party*