



Skipton Little Theatre

Skipton Players' Present

# Humble Boy

a Comedy by Charlotte Jones

Directed by Chris Birch



Tuesday 23rd to  
Saturday 27th February 2010

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## Charlotte Jones

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Charlotte Jones' first play, *Airswimming*, was premièred at the Battersea Arts Centre, London and later broadcast on Radio 4. *In Flame* was premièred in January 1999 at the Bust Theatre, London and revived at the New Ambassadors, London in September 2000. *Martha, Josie and the Chinese Elvis* premièred at the Bolton Octagon in April 1999 and transferred to the Liverpool Everyman in May of that year. It won the *Manchester Evening News Best Play Award* and the *Pearson Television Best Play Award* of 1999. It was recently revived at the Watford Palace Theatre. Charlotte Jones won the *Critics' Circle Award for the Most Promising Playwright* in 2000 for *In Flame* and *Martha, Josie and the Chinese Elvis*. *Humble Boy* was awarded the *Susan Smith Blackburn Award*, 2001, the *Critics' Circle Best New Play Award*, 2002, and the *People's Choice Best New Play Award*, 2002.

The Royal National Theatre production of this play was recorded by the National Video Archive of Performance at the Theatre Museum.

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## The Buzz on Bees

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Bakers' fondant (soft sugary cream) will keep a colony ticking over during the winter.

- ◆ A winter colony of 5,000 will start hatching 2,000 eggs a day at the beginning of spring and be 5,000 strong by high summer.
- ◆ Shoppers like liquid honey, because they can pour it – but all honeys will pour after a blast in the microwave oven.
- ◆ Plucking a bee sting out of the skin squeezes the remaining venom out of the barb. It should be lifted out from underneath.
- ◆ More info at [yorkshirebeekeepers.org.uk](http://yorkshirebeekeepers.org.uk) or [britishbee.org.uk](http://britishbee.org.uk)



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## From the Chairman

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Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen  
and welcome to our production of  
*Humble Boy* by Charlotte Jones.

The play was first produced at the National Theatre in August 2001 starring among others Simon Russell-Beale as Felix and Diana Rigg as his mother, Flora. The play won the *Critics' Circle Award for Best New Play* and Marcia Warren who played the part of Mercy, won *Best Supporting Actress*.

*Humble Boy* is a comedy drama which allows us a glimpse into the lives and loves of the Humble family. We are party to a family crisis, where a death has brought about a series of changes that may push fragile relationships over the edge. It is a play which is at times touching and sometimes shocking – but then life is isn't it?

Here are some of the critical reviews of the production:

“...rich, intelligent, original and funny.”

*The Daily Telegraph*

“Whatever her influences, the dialogue is fresh, her observations are original, humorous and humane.”

*The Times*

“Don't miss this play – make a beeline for it.”

*The Observer*

Don't forget to make a note in your diary of the 15th May which is our 'Nosh 'n' Nostalgia' evening. Please come along and help us celebrate our Golden Jubilee in this our own Little Theatre.

**Beryl Binns**  
**Chairman**

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## Synopsis

The action of the play takes place in a pretty country garden throughout the summer.

Time: The Noughties



## Cast Of Characters

(in order of appearance)

Felix Humble	Philip Smith
Mercy Lott	Beryl Binns
Flora Humble	Helen Parkinson
Jim (The Gardener)	Richard Wilkinson
George Pye	Alan Parkinson
Rosie Pye	Roxanne Williams

## Production Team

Directed by	Chris Birch
Props	Claire Cartman
Prompt	Angela Freeman
Lighting & Sound	Chris Rose
Set Design & Construction	Philip Smith, Chris Rose Roxanne Williams, Chris Birch
Set Dressed by	Thelma Hebden
Poster & Programme Design	Tom Fisher
Front of House	Wena Bean, Ann Busfield, Martin Cole, Ann Fisher, Linda McKirdy, Wendy Sanderson, Eileen Ward, Linda Witham

Rose bushes provided by FOCUS OF SKIPTON.

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## Volunteers Wanted

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### Inside House and Outside House Managers

We are looking for volunteers willing to join our team of House Managers, who provide the front-of-house services; “front desk”, programme and raffle sales, refreshments; and are responsible for audience safety and security within the theatre before, during and after performance. This is not an onerous commitment.

If you volunteer you would be committing yourself to attend a 1 hour orientation/briefing session in the Theatre, to be arranged for a mutually convenient Saturday morning in late January/early February 2010, and one (or more if you wish!) evening up to 5 times a year.

A small “bonus” for inside house managers is that, because you must remain within the auditorium throughout the performance, you get to see the play for free!

If you are interested please complete and return a volunteer slip, available in the foyer, or contact Linda Witham, Hon. Secretary, phone 01274 606869 or e-mail [lindawitham@btinternet.com](mailto:lindawitham@btinternet.com)

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## Can You Help?

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Skipton Little Theatre was opened in May 1960, and to celebrate Skipton Players will be hosting

An Evening of Nostalgia on Saturday 15th May 2010

The evening will include a “sound and light” presentation of slides, photographs, reminiscences and newspaper reports from the past 50 years. Tickets will be available nearer the date.

You may be able to help us with this walk down memory lane!

If you are happy to share your memories and/or pictures (we will take copies and return the originals to you) of Skipton Little Theatre in the 60’s, 70’s, 80’s and/or early 90’s please contact Linda Witham, Hon. Secretary, phone 01274 606869 or e-mail [lindawitham@btinternet.com](mailto:lindawitham@btinternet.com)

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

Visit us at

*[www.skiptonlittletheatre.org.uk](http://www.skiptonlittletheatre.org.uk)*

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



# Skipton Players' 2010 Productions

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April 20th to 24th 2010

## “Blue Remembered Hills”

by Dennis Potter  
Directed by Jay Livingstone

June 22nd to 26th 2010

## “Grand National Night”

by Campbell & Dorothy Christie

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All productions start at 7.30pm. Doors open at 7.00pm.

To book seats either go to *[www.skiptonplayers.org.uk](http://www.skiptonplayers.org.uk)*  
or phone 01756 791552, during the week before the play.