



**Skipton Little Theatre**

**Skipton Players' Present**

# **Blue Remembered Hills**

**By Dennis Potter**

**Directed By Jamesine Livingstone**

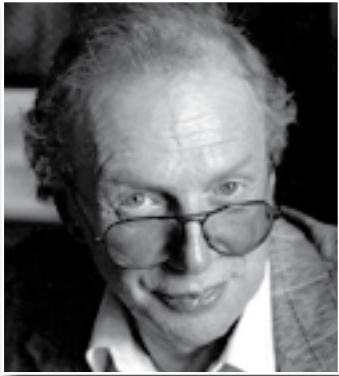


**Tuesday 20th to  
Saturday 24th April 2010**

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## Director's notes

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Dennis Potter

Dennis Potter was born in 1935 in Gloucestershire. After National Service he won a place at New College, Oxford where he read Philosophy, Politics and Economics. He became one of Britain's most accomplished and acclaimed dramatists. His plays for television include *Blue Remembered Hills* (1979), *Brimstone and Treacle* (commissioned in 1975 but banned until 1987), the series *Pennies from Heaven* (1978), *The Singing Detective* (1986), *Blackeyes* (1989) and *Lipstick on Your Collar* (1993). He also wrote novels, stage plays and screenplays. He died in June 1994.

Some television drama ages badly: even the most revered classics creak a bit when watched again in the cold, contemporary, high-definition light of day. This does not apply to Dennis Potter's 1979 television film *Blue Remembered Hills*. It was part of the 'Play For Today' strand, and it originally lasted an hour and a quarter. Being Potter it looks without romanticism and with an analytical eye at the long summer days of childhood during the war. Although we laugh at the child characters we also recognise their cruelty and selfishness. This is why casting adults as children works so well.

The piece was originally set in Potter's home county, in the Forest of Dean. When I was researching the production I discovered that Skipton also had its prisoner of war camp during World War Two. As a result of this the script has been re-written with a Yorkshire accent and the back drop is Sharp Haw, Pin Haw and Skipton Woods.

Overdale Camp was situated on the A59 (just past the turnoff for Embsay) near Skipton in North Yorkshire. It was Camp no. 60, holding both Italians and Germans. There was also a POW camp close to this site during the First World War. Although surrounded by barbed wire, the security was quite lax. Local children used to crawl under the wire and swap badges, etc. Some of the Italians were great craftsmen. They made cigarette lighters from old shell cases, using just a hammer and a nail and other odds and ends. Most of the prisoners worked in and around Skipton and quite a few stayed on after the War and had their families join them. Today the site is used as a caravan site, located just off the A6131.



Countryside near Overdale Camp today

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## From the Chairman

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# Hello and welcome to our penultimate play of this our anniversary season, celebrating 50 years of dramatic art at the Little Theatre.

Next month on Saturday May 15th here in the Little Theatre we are putting on a fond remembrance in the form of an evening of "Nosh and Neuralgia", sorry that should be "Nosh and Nostalgia" when we look back at some of the events and performances from those years from our archives, and yes the "nosh" means it will be accompanied by a buffet supper. Please come and join us!

Also to mark this anniversary year the final play in the season will be a rerun of one of those first years' productions from 1960 "Grand National Night". No this isn't a "racenight" but a very thrilling play.

We are always wanting to invite anyone who would like to help in any of our productions in any capacity whatever (no experience necessary!) from helping on the door, selling refreshments, backstage with lights, sound and props, set-building, or even on stage. Just contact me on the normal bookings number (see posters) and help us with the next 50 years in the Little Theatre!

**Beryl Binns**  
Chairman

# Blue Remembered Hills

By Dennis Potter

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## Synopsis

The action takes place on a sunny summer's day in 1943, in Skipton Woods. Songs are performed by members of the cast.

## Cast Of Characters

Angela	Beth Welch
Audrey	Carole Baker
Donald Duck	Stephen Charlton
John	James Fellows
Peter	David Nicholson
Raymond	Darren Lorriman
Willie	Chris Cundell

## Production Team

Directed by	Jamesine Livingstone
Prompt	Angela Freeman
Lighting, Sound, Set Design & Construction	David Brett, Laurence Lorriman, Jamesine Livingstone, Chris Rose
Poster & Programme Design	Tom Fisher
Front of House	Wena Bean, Ann Busfield Martin Cole, Linda McKirdy, Wendy Sanderson, Eileen Ward, Linda Witham

### Beth Welch (Angela)

Beth has been a member of SLT since she moved to the area in 2004. Her last production was 'A Month of Sundays' when she played a caring nurse. She is also a member at Keighley Playhouse. She looks forward to playing a spiteful seven year old.

### Darren Lorriman (Raymond)

Darren has performed in musicals and panto, mainly with Keighley Operatics but more recently at Sutton. He worked in collaboration with Jamesine on 'Fiddler on the Roof' at Keighley. This will be his first production at SLT, although he is a regular audience member.

### Carole Baker (Audrey)

Carole has performed in various plays and pantos with Addingham Drama Group since 2002 and she also directs. She has a long history in amateur theatre since the days before she came to live in Addingham. She met Jamesine in 2009 when she played 'Vera' in 'Straight and Narrow'. She looks forward to playing a truculent seven year old.



### Stephen Charlton (Donald Duck)

Having spent many years in the back row of the chorus, Stephen has finally found the courage to face an audience without the backing of a band. Playing a seven year old child has come very naturally to him.



### David Nicholson (Peter)

This is David's second appearance at SLT after playing Salty in 'Teechers' in 2008. David also appears with Skipton Operatics playing handsome heroes. In this play he is being challenged to play a seven year old bully. He is a member of the SLT committee.

### James Fellows (John)

James has been performing in amateur dramatics since playing a sailor in Skipton Operatics production of 'South Pacific' in 2005. Since then he's played a butler, another sailor and a 17 year old American. He looks forward to being a seven year old from Yorkshire.

### Chris Cundell (Willie)

Chris is a familiar face at SLT having been a member for a number of years. He also appears with Skipton, Keighley and Bradford Catholic Operatic societies and Addingham Drama Group and is open to offers from any society!

### Squirrel

Although squirrel plays a significant part in the production, he is sadly doomed to come to a sticky end and this will be his last production with SLT.

## Volunteers Wanted

### 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.

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 just contact Beryl Binns on the normal bookings number (see posters).

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



## Nosh and Nostalgia!

ALL WELCOME!  
FREE ADMISSION!

Celebrating 50 golden years of the Little Theatre!  
**Saturday 15th May 2010 at 7.30pm**

An evening of nostalgia from our archives.

If you know of anyone who has been involved in any way with the Little Theatre in the past let them know. We would be delighted to welcome old faces!

Free light buffet supper & wine.



A press report from 1960

# Skipton Players' 2010 Productions

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22nd to 26th June 2010

## “Grand National Night”

by Campbell & Dorothy Christie

Directed by Joan Nicholson

A play from the original 1960 season

A detective story about what happens after Gerald's (Mr. Patrick)  
horse wins the national.

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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.