The Courtyard Theatre, Chipstead presents

In the darkly comic corridors of a sinister institution...



THE HOTHOUSE

BY HAROLD PINTER

Mon 24 – Sat 29 February 2020

Directed by Chris Hearn



The White Hart, Chipstead











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IMPORTANT—SAFETY AT THE COURTYARD THEATRE

All gangways, passageways and staircases shall be kept entirely free from chairs or any other obstruction, and no person shall be allowed to sit or stand during any performance or entertainment in such gangways, passageways and staircases. The public shall be permitted to leave by all exits and entrance doors after each performance or entertainment.

CAMERAS, MOBILE PHONES OR OTHER FILMING OR RECORDING DEVICES MAY NOT BE USED DURING THE PERFORMANCE.

Book online at www.chipsteadplayers.org
or at the Box Office on Saturday mornings 10:00 to 11:00
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The Courtyard Theatre Chipstead



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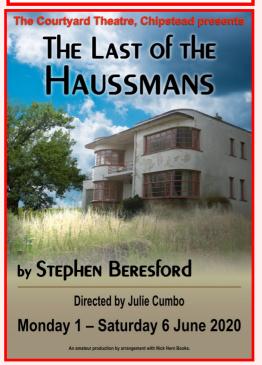
The Chipstead Players, registered charity number: 263596

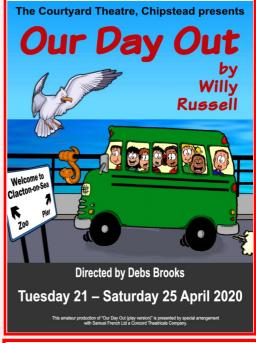
Coming up at The Courtyard

Our Day Out By Willy Russell Directed by Debs Brooks

Join the 'Progress Class' on a rare outing from the deprived area in which they live. Accompanied by their ever patient teacher Mrs Kay and disciplinarian Mr Briggs the group cause havoc as they stop off at a zoo, castle and petrol station along their way to a theme park.

Exploring themes of education, poverty and the ever present social glass ceiling, Willy Russell draws on his personal teaching experience of an inner city school with hilarious and heart breaking results. This funny, gritty play is a great vehicle for our youth theatre.





The Last of the Haussmans

By Stephen Beresford Directed by Julie Cumbo

Judy Haussman is an incorrigible ageing hippy, still anarchic and feisty but now ill and so members of her dysfunctional family, as well as neighbours, come to visit her. The play is set in and around the Haussman family home, a 1930s' art deco property in a state of virtual dereliction, on the South Devon coast. There are rows, revelations, touches of comedy and touches of pathos in this lively, funny and touching drama.

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The Grape Variety - Chipstead's very own Wine Bar

TGV has quietly become a firm favourite for people of Chipstead and around to enjoy a glass of wine and beautiful cheese & charcuterie boards in a relaxed and intimate environment.

Thomas opened The Grape Variety in Spring 2018 when it was just a wine shop. Quickly the demand grew, so he grew the team and now offers regular wine tasting evenings, themed regional food events, wood fired pizza nights alongside one-off events such as Mothering Sunday Afternoon Tea, Scalextric racing, and flower workshops.

A constantly changing cellar of over 150 references provides wines for all palates and pockets, personally curated by Matthieu from Burgundy, whose exceptional knowledge of wine and love of passing this knowledge on has won him fans from far and wide. Catherine, a local Chipstead Mum with a passion for people and parties, brought expertise from industry to bring the people of Chipstead a warm & inviting coffee shop during the daytime with homemade cakes, Belgian waffles, cinnamon bagels as well as free WiFi.

Open from 10am-10pm Wednesday - Saturday, the Team at The Grape Variety will go out of their way to ensure that you have an exceptional experience when you come down to 12 Station Parade.

So, if you have heard about us but haven't been in yet -

come on down and say hello or bonjour! - Matt loves it when people say bonjour!

The Grape Variety Team - Bringing Wine to Life.

The Chipstead Players present

The Hothouse

By Harold Pinter

Directed by Chris Hearn

The action takes place in two offices, a stairway, a sitting-room and a soundproof room, sometime in the 1960s.

An amateur production by arrangement with Samuel French.

Please order your interval drinks at the bar before the performance commences.

The bar will close 30 minutes after the final curtain.

A hearing loop is installed in the auditorium.

To make use of it, please turn hearing aids to the 'T' position.

Cast

Lamb Scott Latham

Roote Mel Morgan

Gibbs Nick Foster

Miss Cutts Laura Worley

Lush Neil Black

Tubb Nick Gane

Lobb John Shepherd

"Between ourselves, man to man, you're not by any chance taking the old wee-wee out of me, are you?"

Backstage Crew

Chris Hearn Director

Jo Hopkins Production Assistant

Mary Morgan Production Secretary

Marie Ricôt Stage Manager

Alan Croft Set Design

Construction crew Set Construction

James Willis Lighting Design &

Lighting Operation

Mel Morgan Sound Design

Andy Mills Sound Operation

Vicky van Manen Wardrobe Mistress

Lucy Morrell Wardrobe Assistant

Mags Alexander Props Manager

Cast/Crew Furniture

Cathy Goodey Prompt

Lamb Scott Latham

This is Scott's fourth production with the Chipstead Players, having appeared in two family shows—Anne of Green Gables in 2020 and Wendy and Peter Pan in 2019. He was also a professor in the University drama Blue Stockings. Scott has enjoyed the opportunity to return to the stage with his fellow professors from that show, Neil Black and Nick



Foster, as well as having the chance to work alongside other experienced members of The Players and director, Chris. In less cold and dark times of the year Scott enjoys playing cricket for his local Surrey village team.

Roote Mel Morgan

Mel's passion with drama started at school when he joined the stage crew to get out of the rain, and he's been a convert ever since. In the years before kids he seemed to live at Richmond Theatre, stage managing for a number of operatic groups. But he then crossed the boards and has had parts from the 'best



goodie' (Jesus, in *Godspell*) to the 'worst baddie' (Herod, in *Rock Nativity*) and all things in between. His involvement with *The Hothouse* started when he volunteered to design and put together the sound for the show, but having read the script and started laughing, he asked Chris if he could audition as well. He says, "Little did I know what I was letting myself in for!"

Gibbs Nick Foster

Nick was delighted to be given the opportunity to take part in his first Pinter play, and also to work again with director Chris Hearn. It has been fun exploring the dysfunctional bureaucracy, uncertain motivation and underlying menace of Pinter's world – 15 years spent working in the Civil Service has certainly helped in



this regard. Previous plays at the Courtyard Theatre include *Proof* and *A Doll's House* (both directed by Chris), The *Diary of Anne Frank, The Ladykillers* and *Blue Stockings*. Nick also co-directed (with his wife Jane) *Mugged* and *Taking Breath* in 2017 and *The Sneeze* in 2018, both with the Youth Theatre.

Miss Cutts Laura Worley

Laura has been welcomed back to The Courtyard Theatre after first appearing here in *Trap For A Lonely Man* in 2018. A regular performer with KADDS in Kingswood, she has taken a little break to join us in Chipstead and has enjoyed being back and getting to know a new cast of talented actors. Although Laura



has been involved in the world of 'Dance and Drama' for over 20 years, nothing could have prepared her for appearing on stage in her negligee!

Lush Neil Black

After 3 minor roles in recent productions, Anne of Green Gables, Blue Stockings and The Dark Earth and Light Sky, Neil is thrilled to have a role that requires more character development - and lines! The Hothouse is, in fact, Neil's sixth production in this, his first year as a member of The Chipstead Players. He has



also prompted for both *Emil and the Detectives* and *The Nether*. Having this opportunity seems a fitting way to commemorate this anniversary. All in all, Neil is having a great time as a member - he might even describe it as "Lush".

Tubb Nick Gane

Since first appearing in the opening production at the theatre, *Tom Jones*, Nick has had a number of roles, frequently involving uniforms. He has been several policemen, a fireman, an airman and a naval officer. When he first read the script for *The Hothouse*, Nick found the plot both intriguing and thought provoking and was pleased to be offered the part of Tubb.



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Lobb John Shepherd

John Shepherd is making his fourth appearance at the Courtyard, having previously had parts in *Collaborators, The Diary of Anne Frank* and, most recently, *The Nether*. Since then, he has made his 27th appearance as the pantomime dame in Sanderstead Dramatic Club's production of *Sinbad the Sailor*. In July



he returns to the Courtyard in the director's chair for our production of Neil Simon's *Brighton Beach Memoirs*. As they say, "variety is the spice of life!"

In Rehearsal...



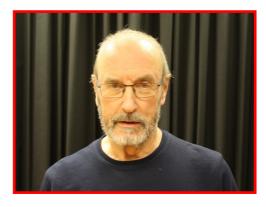






Chris Hearn Director

Chris is honoured to be asked back to direct at the Courtyard Theatre for the third time in recent years. He directed *Proof* in 2015 and *A Doll's House* in 2017 both of which he enjoyed tremendously. He is usually to be found at the Miller Centre in Caterham where he acts, directs, stage manages and generally makes a nuisance of himself. He is also a



member of Parlour Players in Sanderstead. He would like to thank everyone involved in this production for making it such an enjoyable experience.

Director's Notes

Harold Pinter was a British playwright, screenwriter, actor and director. He was born in Hackney, East London in 1930 and educated at Hackney Downs School. After completing his education he attended the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art but did not complete the course. He was called up for national service but refused to serve claiming he was a conscientious objector and was subsequently fined. He continued his training at the Central School of Speech and Drama and then worked in repertory theatre in England where he began to write.

His first play was The Room written in 1957. His second play The Birthday Party, one of his best known works, lasted just eight days despite an enthusiastic review by the influential Sunday Times drama critic Harold Hobson who wrote that Pinter possesses the most original, disturbing and arresting talent in theatrical London. He went on to write that The Birthday Party and Harold Pinter would be heard of again and urged the public to remember their names.

His career blossomed during the sixties and seventies writing such plays as The Caretaker, The Dumb Waiter, The Homecoming and Betrayal, which have all become classics of modern theatre.

Pinter appeared as an actor in productions of his own work on stage, film and radio as well as undertaking a number of roles in works by other writers. He directed nearly fifty productions for theatre and film and wrote the screenplays for many films including The Go Between and The French Lieutenent's Woman. Throughout his career he received many awards including being made a Companion of Honour in 2002, receiving the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2005 and the French Legion d'honneur in 2007.

He married the actress Vivien Merchant in 1956 and they had a son Daniel. They divorced in 1980 and he married Lady Antonia Fraser later that same year. Despite frail health after being diagnosed with oesophageal cancer in 2001, Pinter continued to act on stage and screen last performing the title role in Samuel Beckett's play Krapp's Last Tape at the Royal Court Theatre in October 2006. He died from liver cancer in December 2008.

Pinter remains the ultimate challenge to actors and directors both amateur and professional, so it was a great thrill, mixed with a certain amount of trepidation, to be asked to direct The Hothouse here at Chipstead.

The play was written in 1958 just after he finished The Birthday Party but, perhaps with the failure of that play firmly in mind, he put it aside. Twenty years later he resurrected it, made a few alterations and directed the first production at Hampstead Theatre in 1980.

We have had tremendous fun doing this rarely performed play, although we seem to have spent as much time discussing its meaning as we have actually rehearsing!





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