



ST. MARTIN'S PLAYERS



present

a play by Bill Cronshaw,

directed and produced by Barry and Debra Gavin

Free And Easy

*A Musical Play
set in a 1960s pub*

at the

*Huxtable Hall, St Martin's Church,
Erith Road, Bexleyheath*

Friday 11 May 2018, 7:30pm

Saturday 12 May 2018, 2:30pm, 7:30pm

PROGRAMME

50p

WELCOME TO THE SHOW!

In 2004, the St Martin's Players tried something different – a musical play. Our production of 'The End Of The Pier Show' provided us with the new challenge of learning songs as well as lines. Since then, we have enjoyed performing six further musical productions, and we now return to the genre for the first time in three years, since performing 'The Wizard Of Oz'.

Barry and Debra make a formidable team whenever they direct together; they have previously given us some of our most successful pantomimes ('Snow White '11', 'Sleeping Beauty '15' and 'Beauty And The Beast'). In 2013, they gave us 'Crazy Capers, Dodgy Deals', a musical play based around a bank robbery during a 1970s school reunion; today's production is set a few years earlier, and once again combines the developing relationships of the characters, with untrustworthy activities, and well-known music of the era.

Taking inspiration from last year's murder mystery evening, we have changed from our usual audience layout; with seating in small groups and your own drinks and nibbles, we hope that you enjoy being immersed in the pub atmosphere we are trying to create.

As with the pantomimes, we are eternally grateful to Peter, our Musical Director, for arranging each piece and his continued dedication to supporting the cast at each rehearsal.; this is the first time that Peter has performed on our stage, rather than on the sidelines. The musical experience does not stop on the stage this time – please feel free to sing along and join in (but don't worry, we won't drag you onto the stage – it isn't a pantomime!)

Now, grab your drinks and snacks and make yourselves comfortable; we hope that you enjoy the show, thank you for joining us, and look forward to seeing you again soon.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR RAFFLE

As usual, we will hold a raffle for charity at each performance. Tickets will be on sale before the performance and during the intervals. The draw will take place during final act, and the winning numbers will be announced at the end of the performance.



The Alzheimer's Society helps over 25,000 people across the UK, offering assistance to those who have a range of different types of dementia and their carers. Our raffle will support the Bexley branch of the charity, in aid of the local dementia café.



THE PLAY

'The Last Drop', with its friendly atmosphere, has run evenings of 'Free And Easy' (now known as karaoke) for a number of years; they have won the 'Pub Of The South' competition twice. Their peaceful existence is threatened by Ron Stone, the brewery's external premises consultant, who has a five-year business plan and revised tenancy agreement – an ultimatum to pay a fortune for a new agreement, or be evicted and allow the pub to become an entertainment venue for salacious activities. Vanessa, who has previously 'danced' at one of Stone's clubs, then shares her plan for the other barmaids and regulars to steal the files from his office, stop Stone in his tracks, and ensure a brighter future for the pub.

The play comprises two acts; there will be a short interval at the end of Act 1. Refreshments will be available during the performance.

The year is 1967.

The action takes place in the bar of 'The Last Drop', a South London public house. Act 1 includes scenes set in Kev Sutcliffe's house and the Dobbins' private sitting room. Act 2 is set a few days later, and includes scenes in the Dobbins' private sitting room, outside the pub, and at Ron Stone's office.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Da Doo Ron Ron	The Company
Living Doll	Eric
Bobby's Girl	Vanessa and Sharon
Bye Bye Love	Kev and Switch
Down Town	Sharon
Ghost Riders In The Sky	Lonnie
Why Do Fools Fall In Love	Vanessa and Lonnie
Cry Me A River	Vanessa
Rock Around The Clock	The Company
Can't Help Falling In Love	Kev
These Boots Were Made For Walking	Tracy, Vanessa and Sharon
When I Fall In Love	Tracy and Switch
Dedicated Follower Of Fashion	The Company
Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow	The Company
Final Medley	The Company

THE CAST



DAVID BARNETT as Eric Dobbins

As one of the longest-serving members of the group, Dave has played a wide range of roles. In our most recent musical productions, he played a cross-dressing bank robber and The Wizard Of Oz. Some might say, with many rehearsals and set-building sessions concluding in the local pub, this could be the part he has best prepared for, although this time he is the landlord, rather than a regular customer.

HAZEL BERGMAN as Iris Dobbins

Hazel first joined us for 'Party Piece' in 2003, and appeared regularly for a number of years, and has also directed a play and a pantomime. Moving away a number of years ago, Hazel (and husband Paul) often returned to see us, but joined the group again to appear in the chorus of our last pantomime. This is her first main role since playing the housekeeper in 'And Then There Were None' in 2010.



JULIE EXELL as Sharon Booth

First appearing 24 years ago, Julie has made numerous on-stage appearances over the years, and has performed in all of our previous musical plays. We are always grateful for her work in sourcing and preparing costumes for our plays, and often wonder how she finds the time to do this while preparing for some of the demanding roles, including Ratty, the March Hare and Robin Hood.



LINDSEY CLAYTON as Vanessa Spinks

Even though Lindsey directed our last pantomime, it didn't stop her from appearing on-stage, standing in most competently for an injured cast member at one performance. She has appeared in every production since joining the group in 2016 (she wasn't cast in three of those plays initially, she is always ready to jump in and ensure the show goes on).



ABBIE WATKINS as Tracy Dobbins

Although she is the youngest member of the cast in this production, Abbie has appeared in thirteen previous plays and pantomimes. The last time Abbie appeared, she committed a murder – luckily only on stage! She is a talented actor and singer, perfectly suited to her current role, and has worked hard to deliver her lines and songs with great impact and emotion.



PAUL BERGMAN as Steve 'Switch' Mullen

First appearing as a chorus member in 'The End Of The Pier Show', Paul showed his skills and talent as the pantomime dame in 'Bluebeard'. Like Hazel, this is Paul's first main role for a number of years, last appearing as Pontius Pilate in 'The Day God Died', and as the old General Mackenzie in 'And Then There Were None'.



SIMON WATKINS as Kev Sutcliffe

Simon has appeared in forty of our group's previous productions, including a good mix of pantomimes and plays. In the last year, he has appeared as a vicar who had forgotten his trousers, and the royal gofor, specialising in making as much mess on stage as possible. In this production, he is playing a much more serious role – a Scoutmaster – but no doubt the laughs will return as the character tries to impress.



HARRY OWEN as Lonnie Lennox

Harry was one of many new members to join the group for our last pantomime, in which he played Ball (of the 'Ball and Socket' double-act), making this production his first play with the group. This performance should be memorable – and perhaps more painful – than falling out of Rapunzel's tower (you'll see why when he performs his song!)



STEVE MORLEY as 'Dodgy' Ron Stone

Having appeared in a number of pantomimes in the preceding years, Steve's first main role was in our first musical production, 'The End Of The Pier Show'. Since then, he has participated in a range of different roles on stage and behind the scenes, enjoying the variety of aspects and within a production. He mostly enjoys roles when he gets to have a good shout and a rant on stage – and this part gives him another chance to do this.



THE CAST

Our Musical Director, PETER WILSON

Peter first played the piano for us in our 2002 production of 'Cinderella', and has been our Musical Director for almost every pantomime and musical play since then. Peter always works hard to adjust each piece to suit the singer, and give us a nod when we need to start singing – but that won't help us this time, as he performs from the stage as part of the pub's extended family (he's behind us!)



CHORUS OF PUB REGULARS



LUCIE BACHE



WENDY BARNETT



MARION BIRAM



STEWART BULL



MONICA CANE



DARYL O'SULLIVAN

Why not join us? We are always happy to welcome new members – whether you would like to appear on the stage, or try one of the many roles behind the scenes, we are sure you can find something to show your creative talents, as well as being part of a fun, friendly atmosphere. Why not come along to our next audition, or contact us to find out more?

THE CREW

Musical Director	PETER WILSON
Prompt	SUE ADAMS
Stage Crew	GINO EXELL
Wardrobe & Costumes	MONICA CANE, JULIE EXELL
Set Construction	'THE USUAL SUSPECTS'
Lighting & Sound	DAVID BATCHELOR, CHRIS SUGGITT
Box Office	RICHARD PERCIVAL
Front Of House	FRIENDS OF THE PLAYERS
Refreshments	ANN BATCHELOR
Poster & Programme	STEVE MORLEY

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

LOVE
BEGINS
AT
FIFTY

A FARCE

by Raymond Hopkins

Directed and Produced by
Lisa Scutt and Dave Barnett

28-29 September 2018

Readings and auditions will take place
on Friday 18 May and Friday 25 May
at 8:00pm in the Small Hall



OUR PAST PRODUCTIONS



1991

**Sleeping Beauty
See How They Run!**

1992

**Snow White And The Seven Dwarves
Virtue Triumphant**

1993

**Cinderella
Continental Quilt
Surprise Package**

1994

**Aladdin
Laugh! I Nearly Went To Miami
Post Horn Gallop**

1995

**Babes In The Wood
Keeping Down With The Joneses
Play On!**

1996

**Dick Whittington
When We Are Married
The Roses Of Eyam**

1997

**Jack And The Beanstalk
Pardon Me! Prime Minister
Murder In Company**

1998

**Puss In Boots
Pull The Other One
Blithe Spirit**

1999

**Mother Goose
Bedroom Farce
Pride And Joy
Last Tango In Barnehurst**

2000

**Peter Pan
See How They Run!
My Friend Miss Flint**

2001

**Treasure Island
Shock Tactics
Outside Edge**

2002

**Cinderella
The Murder Room
Running Riot**

2003

**King Arthur
Party Piece
No Time For Fig Leaves**

2004

**The Sleeping Beauty
Kindly Keep It Covered
The End Of The Pier Show**

2005

**Bluebeard
A Murder Is Announced**

2006

**Aladdin
How The Other Half Loves
Noah's Animals**

2007

**The Three Musketeers
Murder Weekend
Out Of Focus**

2008

**Little Red Riding Hood
Murder In Play
Toad Of Toad Hall**

2009

**Jack And The Beanstalk
The Day God Died
Barbecues 'R' Murder
Lady Lollipop
Jekyll And Hyde**

2010

**Dick Whittington
And Then There Were None
Over My Dead Body**

2011

**Snow White
Alice In Wonderland
Murder At The New Vicarage**

2012

**Cinderella
Panic Stations**

2013

**Robin Hood
Crazy Capers, Dodgy Deals
The Ghost Train**

2014

**Mother Goose
Henry The Tudor Dude
Murder Backstage**

2015

**Sleeping Beauty
The Wizard Of Oz
See How They Run!**

2016

**Aladdin
Key For Two
Hound Of The Baskervilles**

2017

**Beauty And The Beast
I'll Get My Man
It's Never Too Late**

2018

Rapunzel



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