

Panic Stations

An old country cottage in Spring.

Act I

Afternoon

Interval : Refreshments available in the Small Hall

There will be a raffle at each performance in support of:

Christian Aid

Act II

Scene 1 Early evening

Scene 2 Half an hour later

Panic Stations was not our first-choice play, licensing conditions with which *St Martin's Players* were unwilling to comply prompted a re-think; hardly the ideal scenario for Tony Robins making his debut as part of the production team. Undeterred he and Richard Percival turned to the trusted pen of Derek Benfield, the author of *Post Horn Gallop*, *Running Riot and Over My Dead Body*, comedies which we have previously enjoyed.

Chester Dreadnought has bought a cottage in the country for himself and his wife. Idyllic one might assume; but this rustic idyll has an army training camp nearby, a local handyman to help move in, an attractive young lady who seems to have taken residence and a father-in-law with a shotgun! What more could one ask for? Yes, of course there will be a scantily-clad girl, missing trousers, misunderstandings and far-fetched excuses!

Bethany Allchin, Rebecca Thomas, Kirsty Scotter and Anna Sims make their debuts in a 'play', though all have previously appeared in our pantomimes and musical plays; to these we add some familiar faces in, perhaps, not-so-familiar situations. So, sit back, relax and let us hope we all enjoy *Panic Stations*.

Derek Benfield, who died in 2009, was a regularly seen television actor; at various times he played 9 characters in *Z-Cars*, 6 in *Dixon of Dock Green* and 3 in *Coronation St*. Latterly, he appeared as *Hetty Wainthrop's* husband, he was *Rumpole of the Bailey's* clerk, Albert Handyside, and for those with longer memories, the foreman lorry driver in *The Brothers*. Derek Benfield was the prolific writer of a much-visited library for amateur groups; *Beyond a Joke* and *Bedside Manners* also enjoyed success on the professional stage.

The Players

<i>Abel Bounty</i>	David Barnett
<i>Chester Dreadnought</i>	Simon Watkins
<i>Carol</i>	Bethany Allchin
<i>Patricia Dreadnought</i>	Kirsty Scotter
<i>Lady Elrood</i>	Wendy Barnett
<i>Miss Partridge</i>	Rebecca Thomas
<i>Lord Elrood</i>	Barry Gavin
<i>Sergeant Everest</i>	Martin Stone
<i>Mrs Bounty</i>	Anna Sims

The Crew

<i>Prompt</i>	Daryl O'Sullivan
<i>Sound and Lighting</i>	David Batchelor, Chris Suggitt
<i>Set Design & Realisation</i>	<i>The Usual Suspects</i>
<i>Refreshments</i>	Ann Batchelor
<i>Props</i>	Sue Reid, Steve Oates
<i>Weaponry</i>	www.2hireornot2hire.co.uk
<i>Lord Elrood's attire</i>	www.stagecostume.co.uk
<i>Box Office, Publicity</i>	Richard Percival, Martin Stone

We shall be reading very soon for our next production:

The Ghost Train

written by Arnold Ridley

to be directed & produced by Steve Morley and Paul Rendle
for performances on

Friday 5th & Saturday 6th October 2012

Readings/Auditions: Fri 8th June, Fri 15th June at 8pm