



The Village Players present a Theatre on the Green production of

Sand Castles

A comedy by Bob Larbey

Based on an idea by Trishia Larbey

22nd – 24th June, 2017

on the Village Green, Rushlake Green



PROGRAMME



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Sand Castles – Director’s notes

This is the third time I have directed this wonderful little play by Bob Larbey. Creator of Television classics *The Good Life* and *Ever Decreasing Circles*, Larbey excels at getting across the voice of the ordinary person and highlighting the absurdities of everyday life. He sees humour in the mundane and manages to introduce pathos for good measure. And each new actor and actress that take on the roles manage to also find different nuances and meanings within the script and the action. So whilst the story may seem an innocent and simple tale, the many levels that it works on and the messages it has about relationships, is always pertinent.

Outdoor productions carry their own challenges and the actors, stage crew and technical crew should be commended for their flexibility and courage, especially if the weather is less than kind to them. When you examine what actors actually do it is quite remarkable. They make themselves vulnerable and run the risk of suffering severe and acute embarrassment in the pursuit of telling a story. The great comedian and Actor George Burns said: “Acting is all about honesty. If you can fake that, you’ve got it made!” Well I hope you are entertained and amused and can suspend your disbelief for an enjoyable couple of hours this evening and let the Village Players tell this lovely, simple story with honesty and skill.

About the Director – Helen Halliday

Having trained at Guildford school of Acting, Helen has directed musicals and plays across the country. Her roles in theatre have included Eliza Doolittle (*My Fair Lady*: Wakefield Opera House) Nellie Forbush (*South Pacific*: The Dome, Brighton) Sally Bowles (*Cabaret*: Theatre Royal, Bath) Olivia (*Twelfth Night*: Touring Production) Sally Hardcastle (*Love On The Dole*: World Premier, Guildford). She has a best supporting actress nomination for her portrayal of Rachel in Alan Ayckbourn’s *Seasons Greetings* and to date has written 10 plays, all of which have been performed.

Running order of the evening

Act 1

Scene 1: A summer morning.

Scene 2: An hour later.

Act 2

Scene 1: Early next morning.

Scene 2: The next morning.

Scene 3: The end of the season.

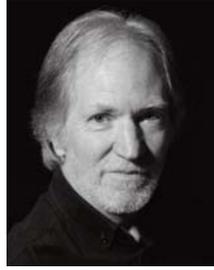
Cast of characters



Mark Bostock



Heather Young



Jim Edmonds



Maria Harding



Jane Uren



Pam Edmonds



Clyde Young



Sarah Huntley



Emily Bostock



Kate Rolfe



Lizzi Hutcheson



Elizabeth Williams



John Gunn



Rosamund Russell



Ian Charlesworth



Ann Walker

Cast in order of appearance

William Patterson	Mark Bostock	Mrs Penfold	Kate Rolfe
Margaret Patterson	Heather Young	Mrs Newman	Lizzie Hutcheson
Stan Billet	Jim Edmonds	Ida	Elizabeth Williams
Bernice Billet	Maria Harding	Beachcomber	John Gunn
Mother	Jane Uren	Dog Walker	Rosamund Russell
Pauline	Pam Edmonds	Mr Kite	Ian Charlesworth
Doug	Clyde Young	Mrs Kite	Ann Walker
Debs (Doug's niece)	Sarah Huntley	Child 1	Keira Spratt
Becky (Doug's niece)	Emily Bostock	Child 2	Amelia Amirthaponkalan

The production team

Director	Helen Halliday
Producer	Anita Gunn
Stage Manager	Clive Ure
Backstage crew	Graham Stoner, Jonnie Bates
Props	Jane Leney
Sound	Jonathan Austin, (JC Austin, PA Systems)
Lighting	Andrew Nairne
Set design	John Gunn
Set/arena construction	John Gunn & team
Prompts	Chris Cogdell
Wardrobe	Sue Wilson
Raffle	Nanette Burton
Photography	Mark Bostock

The Angie Trew award

Members, acknowledge your favourite actor by voting for the annual Angie Trew Award.

Each year at the AGM in October, the Angie Trew Award for “The Most Deserving Actor” is presented to the person who has given an outstanding performance in the preceding 12 months. It doesn't have to be a leading role, but something that has most impressed, amused or entertained you. So while watching this production please make a note of anyone you would like to nominate when the time comes to vote. We will remind you in the newsletter.

This year's joint winners are Rosie Page and Clementine Wells.

Forthcoming events

The Village Players are currently planning the next event for their 25th Anniversary year of 2017. There will be a cafe theatre production in November 2017. Details will be posted on the Village Players website shortly.

Our thanks

The Village Players wish to thank everyone who has generously assisted with this production with especial thanks to:

The County Group for their sponsorship and help in the preparation of the programme and the other publicity materials.

Cade Street Nursery for the provision of the netting for the arena fencing.

Mark Bostock for taking the cast photographs.



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The history of the (not so humble) beach hut

Chris Sullivan, July 2013

"Beach huts epitomise escapism," asserts photographer Iain Mckell. "I grew up by the seaside in Weymouth in Dorset and have always been fascinated by all this great British seaside stuff: wind breakers, Kiss Me Quick Hats, Punch and Judy shows, fish and chips, Amusement Arcades, but it is the beach hut that really fascinates me. They are a cultural extension of suburbia."

Indeed the common or garden beach hut is a great British prerequisite. Formerly known as bathing machines they once stood on wheels and were first adopted by Mad King George III who used said monstrosity in 1801 but were popularised by Queen Victoria who installed one at Osborne House in 1840. Initially designed to protect the modesty of the female bathers who changed within their construct, the 'Bathing Machine' was a basic wooden box that was pushed down to the seas edge by moustachioed chaps from which the prospective lady bathers would emerge.

By the time the First World War erupted the British seaside spirit was in full bloom as motorised transport took thousands of families en masse to bathe in the restorative waters of the not so clean seas. Once dull fishing ports like Blackpool, Brighton and Bournemouth were reinvented as bustling entertainment centres crammed full of melting ice cream and screaming infants who crowded their shores.

And so bloomed the beach hut, a much-desired item that the covetous middle classes rented or owned so to protect their little piece of England in which they might hang up their corsets and collars. Families would travel to the seaside and plot up in said box using it as a base of operations and home for the families deck chairs, buckets, spades and Bunsen burners on which they made the all important tea. If the old adage "An English man's home is his castle," rings true then his beach huts is his country retreat.

In the thirties the beach hut became fashionable as George V spent a day in said construct with Queen Mary near Beachy Head. Since then, beach huts have been owned by the likes of actors such as Laurence Olivier, John Mills and Kenneth Williams and even Princess Diana's parents Lord and Lady Spencer, while errant artist Tracy Emin even sold hers to the Saatchi gallery for £100,000. "It had stood in Whitstable in Kent for 25 years before I had it," said the artist regarding the chip board and corrugated hut she entitled, 'The last Thing I Said To You Is Don't Leave Me Here.' "It travelled to America and back again. It had life like a tent, it had real spirit." Unfortunately for art lovers Emin's hut was lost in the great fire that consumed the Saatchi art collection in 2004 but curiously it was not the most expensive hut ever sold.

Although such constructions do appear in other more exotic locations the almost too cute for words candy coloured beach hut is a quintessentially English phenomenon. Once the domain of aged grand parents the ethic now attracts otherwise sane individuals who think nothing of parking themselves outside, what is ostensibly a wooden shed with no water or electricity, cooking off a Calor Gas stove and drinking warm beer for what might be days on end. In the UK today there are, without the slightest touch of irony, beach hut websites, beach hut associations, beach hut newsletters and even an artist, Mike Kingston, who specialises in oil paintings of beach huts.

In rehearsals



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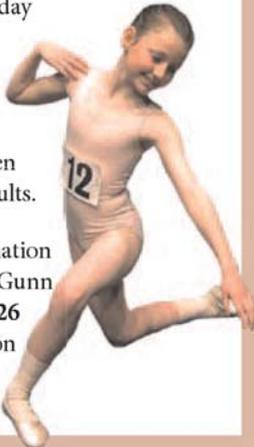
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The Village Players

The group owes its existence to Angie Trew for it was thanks to her vision that the first pantomime was produced at The Dunn Village Hall in 1992. Having "recruited" Anita Gunn and Jimi Jervis Read to the team, the enthusiasm and creative skills of these three ladies ensured that the pantomime was a great success and this led to the formation of The Village Pantomime Players later that year.

Under the leadership of Angie, and then Anita, the group went on to produce a variety of plays, comedies (in a Café Theatre style) and musicals. In 2003 the name was changed to The Village Players to reflect the group's commitment to providing the village with a wide variety of entertainment. Sadly, Angie lost her courageous battle against cancer in September 2009 but her legacy lives on.

Join us:

Onstage or backstage, plays, pantomimes, musicals, theatre suppers.

Contact:

Anita Gunn 01435 873226 or
Clyde Young 01435 830059

Or visit our website at:

villageplayersrushlakegreen.co.uk

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You can now follow The Village Players Rushlake Green on Facebook. Like our page and keep up-to-date with all our news, audition dates, ticket sales and sneaky looks behind the scenes at rehearsal and back-stage.

Past productions

February 1992	The Sleeping Beauty
May 1992	Ways and Means
December 1992	Fishy Business / Hidden Meanings
May 1993	The Boyfriend
February 1994	Cinderella
November 1994	The Patient & Rats
June 1995	Variety Show
January 1996	Boeing Boeing
February 1997	Beauty and the Beast
November 1997	Relatively Speaking
March 1999	Holiday Snap
February 2000	Mother Goose
November 2000	Seasons Greetings
October 2001	Fiddler on the Roof
May 2002	Out of Order
February 2003	Jack and the Beanstalk
November 2003	Home is Where Your Clothes Are
June 2004	Theatre in the Round
November 2004	South Pacific
May 2005	Blithe Spirit
February 2006	Dick Whittington and his Cat
November 2006	Don't Dress For Dinner
May 2007	When We Are Married
July 2007	A 15th Anniversary Review
November 2007	The Ghost Train
May 2008	My Fair Lady
November 2008	Not Now Darling
May 2009	Hay Fever
Nov 2009	It Runs in the Family
Dec 2009	A Celebration of Christmas (in aid of The Eve Appeal in memory of Angie Trew)
June 2010	A Midsummer Night's Dream (Shakespeare-on-the Green)
November 2010	Deadly Nightcap
May 2011	Oklahoma!
November 2011	See How They Run
February 2012	An Enchanted Journey (Poetry and Music Evening)
May 2012	Lord Arthur Savile's Crime
November 2012	20th Anniversary Review
June 2013	The Merry Wives of Windsor (Shakespeare-on-the-Green)
November 2013	Make Way for Lucia
May 2014	Carousel
November 2014	There Goes The Bride
May 2015	Fatal Encounter
November 2015	Victorian Christmas Evening
February 2016	Cinderella
August 2016	Radio Play
November 2016	Glorious!