



# ST. MARTIN'S PLAYERS



*present*

*a farcical comedy by Raymond Hopkins,*

*directed and produced by Dave Barnett and Lisa Scutt*

# Love Begins at Fifty

*at the*

*Huxtable Hall, St Martin's Church,*

*Erith Road, Bexleyheath*

*Friday 28 September 2018, 7.30pm*

*Saturday 29 September 2018, 2.30pm, 7.30pm*

## PROGRAMME

## 50p

This amateur production is presented by special arrangement with Pinsley Plays

# WELCOME TO THE SHOW!



Welcome to the St Martin's Players' 83<sup>rd</sup> production – 'Love Begins At Fifty'. We hope that you are ready to laugh out loud and get your head around the events that unfold in our latest farce. This is a type of play we really enjoy, with plenty of action, both obvious and subtle, funny lines and an ever-thickening plot. It's no wonder we spend so much time laughing at the rehearsals, but very soon the lines come together and much time can be spent perfecting the looks and actions that further add to the humour.

Sadly, while our group's membership appears to be growing, fewer people are willing to come forward to direct plays. In a moment of madness, Lisa agreed to take the plunge and direct her first play: while unsure at first, she knew that with Dave as her sidekick, and experienced members of the group on hand, she would be well supported in her new endeavour. She has gained confidence in rehearsal techniques, positioning everyone on stage and working with the cast to ensure they are all happy in their roles, while leaving the 'Mrs Bossy' approach at home for dealing with her four sons. New directors will have different approaches, and all will bring something new to help the group to grow and develop; please do let us know if you fancy directing a play – we are always looking for new members, and they do not have to be in front of the curtains.

Our cast features a range of old and new members: you will no doubt recognise some of our longer-serving performers, while there are some newer faces you will soon get to know. On this occasion, Rachel and Sue are performing in their first play on our stage, having both made their debuts in our last pantomime, and we look forward to seeing them again very soon. As always, we express our deepest gratitude to the hidden, unsung heroes behind the scenes – while the technical aspects are always expertly taken care of, we also welcome Lucie and Harry to backstage roles they are trying for the first time.

Now on with the show – thank you all for your ongoing support, and we look forward to seeing you at future productions.

# THE PLAY

“Anita and Clive Debanks have been married for 28 years and have led an uneventful life. But all that is about to change. Although in a loveless marriage, Clive has never been unfaithful. However, as preparations for his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party are underway, Clive feels that life is passing him by and has a yearning for a final fling. To this end, he chooses three prospective partners from the ‘Lonely Hearts’ column in the local newspaper. By a strange twist of fate, the same paper is offering a Caribbean cruise as the first prize in a competition to find the perfect married couple. Anita enters the competition, but keeps it a secret from Clive. A photographer arrives to take the pictures of the happy couple, the night that Anita is away, but Clive is busy entertaining one of his new dates...”

**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 action takes place in the living room of Clive and Anita Debanks’ home. The play is set in the late 1990s, following the events over a number of days leading up to Clive’s 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party.

# 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.*

*Raymond Hopkins, the writer of this play (and others), always donates his royalty fees from productions to the Multiple Sclerosis Society, due to his daughter being affected by the condition. Over the last twenty years, he has raised tens of thousands of pounds for the charity, in the hope that one day, a cure will be found. With one of our own members involved in this production recently diagnosed with MS, it seemed appropriate that our raffle also supported this charity.*

*Multiple sclerosis is a neurological condition that results from problems with the immune system – rather than attacking the infection, the nerves are attacked instead.*

*The MS Society is involved in supporting those who are affected by MS, as well as funding research to try to find a cure.*





# THE CAST



## *RICHARD PERCIVAL as Clive Debanks*

First appearing as the barman in 'Pride And Joy', Richard is one of our most active members, with many acting and directing roles over the last two decades; he is also the group's Chairman. You will notice that he has a new look in this production – normally, the beard is removed when he plays the panto dame, but this time it is at the request of the ladies who have to kiss him!

## *HAZEL BERGMAN as Anita Debanks*

Hazel first joined us in 2001, appearing in 14 productions throughout the next decade and directing a play and a pantomime. Although living a number of miles away and travelling around for work, the draw of St Martin's players was so strong, she re-joined us to take part in our last panto chorus, and played the landlady in our last production – she has also stepped up to direct our production in May 2019.



## *PAUL BERGMAN as Jack Reynolds*

Like Hazel, Paul had been involved in the group for a number of years, including playing the dame in his first pantomime, and numerous comic roles. After joining us again for 'Free And Easy', he now appears as Clive's partner-in-crime. Paul is a connoisseur of bright yellow clothing and loud shirts, so we hope you have brought your sunglasses and are ready to see him in action today!



## *VAL COATES as Clare Murphy*

Val has now been with us for ten years and has portrayed 17 characters and directed one play. She has appeared as dignified ladies and scatty old women, and is the only lady in the group to have played a pantomime dame – on two occasions. Val's last appearance was as the vicar's wife in 'I'll Get My Man' – but will she get her man this time?



### *VICTORIA JAMIESON as Tracy Barton*

Vicky first appeared in the child chorus of 'Treasure Island', and appeared as 'Mrs Skunk' in her first main production. Since then, she has played many serving maids, and is equally at home in comedies and serious roles. Next May, Vicki will undergo a new adventure, as she becomes a first-time Director, guided by Hazel's experience.



### *RACHEL SHIPPAM as Annabel Wickson*

Rachel made her debut in our last pantomime, *Rapunzel*, appearing as Prince George, quickly showing us that she was a competent performer. This is the first time she has appeared in one of our plays, appearing as the first of three ladies invited to dinner by Clive.



### *SUE CHARMAN as Mavis Leggett*

Like Rachel, Sue first appeared in our last pantomime, and is now making her debut in a play. Her previous character, 'Fairy Nuff' made the audience chuckle with her deadpan lines, but this time she plays an eccentric, overbearing character, as Clive's second date.



### *RAE CALNAN as Emily Roberts*

Rae is the longest-serving member of the group appearing in this production. She has played various roles, from chorus members, princesses and animals in more than twenty pantomimes, to glamorous wives and dates in farce and comedy plays. Rae has directed three productions, and is always keen to support the group when not on stage, including applying vast quantities of make-up to the faces of the cast.



### *STEVE MORLEY as Henry Clarke*

Steve first appeared in 'The Roses Of Eyam' in 1996, has since appeared in 35 productions and has directed three times. When not appearing, he enjoys stage managing and making unusual props, especially in 'Alice In Wonderland', with a Mad Tea Party that could be set up in seconds to white roses that could change to red. This time, he has created the group's first animatronic character – Suzie the Goldfish!





# THE CREW

*Prompt* LUCIE BACHE  
*Stage Crew* HARRY OWEN  
*Properties* LINDSEY CLAYTON  
*Wardrobe & Costumes* MONICA CANE  
*Make-Up* RAE CALNAN  
*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* DAVE BARNETT  
STEVE MORLEY



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or find us on Facebook

**[www.stmartinsplayers.co.uk](http://www.stmartinsplayers.co.uk)**

**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 SMALL PRINT...** Please note that smoking is not permitted anywhere in the building. As a courtesy to those on stage and in the audience, please turn off your mobile 'phone and refrain from using flash photography. Fire exits are located at either side of the stage and at the rear of the hall; in the unlikely event of an emergency, please leave the hall by the nearest safe exit and assemble in the car park. Thank you.

# OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

## "A PIRATE PAWTO"

TITLE TO BE CONFIRMED



Directed and Produced by  
Dave and Wendy Barnett

25-26 January 2019

1-2 February 2019

Readings and auditions will take place on Friday 5 October and  
Friday 12 October at 8:00pm in the Small Hall

## OTHER NEWS

### St Martin's Church QUIZ NIGHT

**Saturday 6 October**

Huxtable Hall, St Martin's Church, Erith Road

**Doors open 6:30pm  
for a 7:00pm start**

**£5 per person**

**Max. 8 players per table**

Bring your own drinks and nibbles

**To book, call 01322 553657**

### IN DESPARATE NEED...

The 4<sup>th</sup> Barnehurst Scout Group meets in the hall next door, providing activities and adventure to help young people in our local community to develop skills for life.

Sadly, our Monday night Scout Troop is now without Leaders, due to health reasons and university commitments, and will not be able to continue with the current temporary arrangements for much longer. **Please help us to keep the Troop open – please don't assume that someone else will do it!** We are ready to provide the support you need, so no need to be shy in coming forward. If you, or anyone you know, is able to help us, please contact [seeoneecubs@hotmail.com](mailto:seeoneecubs@hotmail.com), or call 07950 650401. Your assistance will be most gratefully received – thank you!

# 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  
Free And Easy**