

A Wimborne Drama Production

HAY FEVER

By Noël Coward

A sublime comedy of bad manners

Thu 18th, Fri 19th & Sat 20th October

Evening Performances 7:30pm (Tickets £10)

Saturday Matinee 2:30pm (Tickets £8)

TIVOLI THEATRE
WIMBORNE

01202 885566

www.TivoliWimborne.co.uk



www.WimborneDrama.co.uk

A Wimborne Drama Production

ENCHANTED APRIL



By Matthew Barber

From the novel by Elizabeth von Arnim

Thursday 1st - Saturday 3rd March 2012

TIVOLI THEATRE WIMBORNE

Programme sold



Suggested donation £1



WELCOME

ENCHANTED APRIL first came to my attention in 1995 on my honeymoon in Bangkok - not the most likeliest introduction. Suffering from jet lag after a 12 hour flight, my wife and I decided to switch on the cable TV in our hotel room to stay awake to get our body clock in tune with Thailand. We selected *Enchanted*

April ... it was pure serendipity - a delightful film watched in unexpected circumstances.

Ten years later my sister who lives in Canada just happened to mention seeing a play called *Enchanted April*. The play was an adaptation of the original book published in the 1920s. I immediately contacted the publishers in the UK. The play was not available until it had been performed by a professional company who acquired the rights in early 2005. What followed was an annual phone call to the publishers enquiring whether the play was available to amateur groups. And after five years, the amateur performance rights were finally granted (the professional group withdrew their rights, it never getting a run).

It's a delightful mixture of loss, redemption and emancipation. I owe a great debt of thanks to the cast who have embraced the play and made something that was inside my head for so long, come alive more than I could ever envisage. Credit must also go to the set designer, back stage crew, the technical input from Tivoli staff, and the publicity machine of Wimborne Drama, all of whom have made a considerable contribution in bringing this play to the stage.

I hope you enjoy this play as much as we have.

Paul Hewitt, Director

OUR FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS:

Twelfth Night

By William Shakespeare

In the grounds of Wimborne's historic Deans Court

Thu 28th June - Sat 30th June, 7.30pm
Sun 1st July, 5pm

Washed up on the shore of Illyria and fearing the worst when she can't find her brother Sebastian, Viola disguises herself as a man and enters the service of the love-sick duke, Orsino. The duke dispatches Viola to woo on his behalf the countess Olivia, mourning the loss of her own brother. But this plan inevitably creates a chaos of mistaken identities and confused desires. Join us in the beautiful gardens of Wimborne's historic Deans Court for Shakespeare's much-loved comedy of cross dressing, mistaken identities, unrequited love, trickery and drunken revelry.

Tickets £10 from
Wimborne Tourist Information Centre
01202 886116 or visit
www.WimborneDrama.co.uk

HAY FEVER

By Noël Coward

A sublime comedy of bad manners

Tivoli Theatre

Thursday 18th - Saturday 20th October

Evening performances at 7.30pm (Tickets £10)
Saturday matinee at 2.30pm (Tickets £8)

Judith Bliss, once a glittering star of the London stage, is now in early retirement, but is still enjoying life with more than a little high drama. To spice up her weekend, she invites a young admirer to join her in the country. However, her novelist husband David and her two spoilt children, Sorel and Simon, have had the same idea for themselves, and any hope for private flirtation disappears as the family's guests begin to arrive. Misjudged meetings, secret seductions and shocking revelations all run riot at the most outrageous of all house parties. Written in 1924 and inspired by a weekend visit that Coward made to the home of an American playwright and his eccentric actress wife, this is "one of the finest comedies in the English language" (*The Daily Telegraph*).

Box Office: 01202 885566

Or book online at www.TivoliWimborne.co.uk

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crew and have especially welcomed the Italian coaching (much needed!) kindly given by Verena Smith.”



VALMANTLE

Mrs Graves

This is Val's ninth stage appearance for Wimborne Drama since first joining in 1996. During her time with the group, she has

played some wonderful characters, the most recent being Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, our first open air production last summer. Other favourites have included Muriel Wicksteed in *Habeas Corpus* and Mother in *Voyage Round My Father*, as well as several roles with other local groups over the years, including Dotty in *Noises Off*. “There have also been many enjoyable hours spent behind the scenes, sourcing props etc., on one occasion, having to substitute a doubtful mix of liquids for beer when the apple juice ran out. I hope you will enjoy this current production as we have all enjoyed bringing it to life.”



SAM MOULTON

Frederick Arnott

Sam is appearing in his first production with Wimborne Drama, and his first

straight play for a long time too, having performed in many musicals over the years, from Gilbert and Sullivan to *Jesus Christ Superstar*. One of his favourite roles was Perchik in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Others have included Marco in *The Gondoliers*, Gerald in *Me and My Girl*, Mr Bumble in *Oliver!* and Billy Flynn in *Chicago*. As well as acting, Sam has sung with various choirs in the area and enjoys having a go at any musical instrument he can lay his hands on. His latest enthusiasm is the steelpans! When he is not acting he enjoys spending time with his two sons, visiting new places, cooking and walking. In his spare time he is a teacher.



TONY PARKINSON

Mellersh Wilton

Tony joined Wimborne Drama in 2009 and played Sherlock Holmes in *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and

also appeared in *The Unexpected Guest*. Previously he worked with various local theatre companies. One of his favourite roles was playing Father Mullarkey in Mary O'Malley's *Once a Catholic*. “In this production I'm a family solicitor who likes order in his house, *The Times* newspaper and drumming up new business. Once again a great cast to work with and some of my favourite lines are delivered to Costanza, the Italian maid.”

A FORGOTTEN FEMINIST FLOWERS AGAIN

THE ENCHANTED APRIL was published in 1922 and was a world-wide best-seller. It is cheerfully escapist and best imagined as a mixture of Noël Coward, E M Forster and Frances Hodgson Burnett.

Elizabeth Von Arnim was a member of the literary glitterati: her cousin was Katherine Mansfield; her children were tutored by E M Forster and Hugh Walpole; and she had a three-year affair with H G Wells.

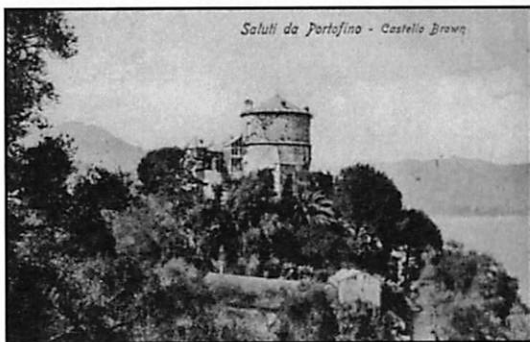
Born Mary Annette Beauchamp in Australia in 1866, the daughter of an English merchant, she moved to England as a toddler and in due course studied at the Royal College of Music where she won a prize for organ playing.

While sightseeing in Italy, she met Count von Arnim whom she married. He was a domineering husband. Adopting the pen-name of “Elizabeth”, her first novel, *Elizabeth and Her German Garden* (1898), was a loosely autobiographical account of her life on her husband's Pomeranian estate. It was unusual in the way that the sympathetic female narrator either happily disregarded or, more often than not, gently mocked her husband and family. The book was a wild success and by 1899 it had run through 21 editions.

After the count's death, she married Bertram Russell's older brother, becoming Countess Russell in 1916. They divorced in 1919 and she fled to a friend's villa in Italy to recover. Her stay at Castello Brown in Portofino on the Italian Riviera was the inspiration for *The Enchanted April*. In her book the castle was renamed San Salvatore and relocated to Mezzago, but the 1992



award-winning screen adaptation starring Miranda Richardson, Josie Lawrence and Joan Plowright was actually filmed at Castello Brown, pictured below.



Elizabeth Von Arnim published a total of 21 novels before her death aged 74 in 1941. If one theme could be found to link all her work it is that of plants and flowers. Where Virginia Woolf said every woman needed a room of her own, Von Arnim would have said every woman

needed a garden.

Despite huge success during her lifetime, her books had disappeared under the radar, but her work is now enjoying a small resurgence. On Radio 4's *Open Book* last year she was voted the most neglected female writer by its listeners, and she even got a fleeting reference on *Downton Abbey*, when Molesley, Matthew Crawley's valet, tried to woo Anna the saintly maid with a copy of *Elizabeth and Her German Garden*.

'TO THOSE WHO APPRECIATE WISTERIA'

THE WISTERIA at San Salvatore was a big attraction for the ladies in *Enchanted April*. A climbing plant from the pea family, wisteria originally grew on trees with the roots embedded in the forest floor.

The world's largest known wisteria vine is in Sierra Madre, California, measuring more than one acre in size and weighing 250 tons. Wisteria flowers are purple, violet, pink or white, but never yellow.

The flowers of some species are fragrant, most notably Chinese Wisteria. The seeds are produced in pods and are poisonous.



in charge of their own lives; and the sunny colourful world of Italy where they are free to be 'less restricted'. Anthony Wilding, while having survived the horrors of the Great War, is now ready to enjoy 'Beauty and Life' as his father did. He keeps the horrors of the war to himself and enjoys the company of women whose 'form' he has a talent for capturing in his studies as a portrait artist in London and Italy. He is a gentleman and bohemian whose world along with his guests is about to be thrown into the Modern age of the roaring twenties, Paradiso!"



BOO FELTHAM

Rose Arnott

Boo has been a member of Wimborne Drama since 2001. She has directed one play (*Steel Magnolias*), and performed in ten. Her favourite acting role was her very first one with the company, Rosa Dartle in *David Copperfield*. "Rosa was a nasty piece of work, which is always fun to play, but I did get a bit carried away during one scene, as I slapped my now husband Tony across the face and split his lip (oops!). I did also love being involved in *Stepping Out*, which gave me the chance along with the rest of the cast to learn to tap dance, although I'm not sure I could do it again - it was

extraordinarily hard work!! This time I get to play Rose Arnott. Rose is a bit of a frosty character, but during the play we see her thaw out a little with the help of Lotty and Mr Wilding, who manage to find the old Rose that had somehow got lost within."



JUDY GARRETT

Costanza

For Judy, amateur theatre – be it acting, stage management, committee

membership, front of house duty, publicity, play reading and the rest – has formed an integral part of her life over many years. She has very much enjoyed getting in to the psyche of the characters played, particularly Teresa in *Memory of Water*, Karen in *The Anniversary*, Megan in *84 Charing Cross Road* and Childie in *The Killing of Sister George*. Judy rejoined Wimborne Drama in 2011 and worked on the backstage team of our last two productions. "I am delighted to have been offered the opportunity to play Costanza on the Tivoli stage. Although initially unsure how I might develop the character, deliver the dialogue to reflect her warmth and occasional fiery temperament, I have become very attached to her! I have enjoyed rehearsals, the friendship from cast and

CAST NOTES



JAN BURSBY

Lotty Wilton

Jan has been a member of Wimborne Drama since she moved to the area in 2001 when she took the role of Aunt Betsey in *David Copperfield*. Jan's favourite roles to date with Wimborne Drama have been Sybil Birling in *An Inspector Calls* and Vera in the tap dancing extravaganza *Stepping Out*. In *Enchanted April* Jan portrays Lotty Wilton. "She's really not all that complicated; a housewife with an ever hopeful outlook who feels her life is not living up to expectations and is brave enough to take the plunge when the opportunity presents itself. I wonder if Italy will see a rise in tourism after this!"



KEELY CAMPBELL

Lady Caroline Bramble

This will be Keely's fourth production with Wimborne Drama, having joined the group in 2009 for *Witness for the Prosecution*. Her first speaking part came in *Steel Magnolias*

in October 2009. "I really enjoyed working on this production but it was a bit hectic delivering lines in an American southern drawl and hairdressing on stage at the same time!" Keely has been looking forward to *Enchanted April* for over a year but thought she would not be able to participate as when the director first mentioned the play, she was living and working in London. Luckily she came back just in time! "I would describe my character Lady Caroline Bramble as a 1920s version of Paris Hilton...as she appears to have everything but deep down she desires true friendship and love. The last few months have been super busy for me as I have been fitting in rehearsals around planning my wedding. I am getting married in April...so it will truly be an 'Enchanted April' for me this year!"



MARK ELLEN

Anthony Wilding

Enchanted April marks a return to the stage for Mark after an absence of four years during which time he has been involved with set building and design, with some audio design thrown in. "I am glad to be working with Paul Hewitt again along with a strong cast of fellow players. *Enchanted April* is in two halves: the grey rainy gloom of post-war London where our women are not

BRITAIN IN 1922

BY 1922 the short economic boom that followed the end of the First World War has gone into reverse, and the inter-war years become a time of deep economic depression and prolonged unemployment.

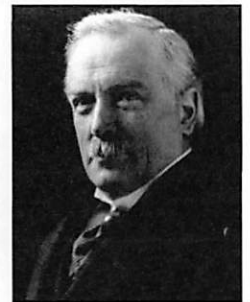


In 1922 unemployment reaches 2.5 million. The first hunger march takes place, from Glasgow to London, left.

The weather in London in February 1922 is dull, cold and rather wet, with above average rainfall.

In the news in Britain and around the world in 1922:

- The Irish Free State is established
- The BBC begins radio broadcasts
- In Egypt, archaeologist Howard Carter finds the entrance to King Tutankhamen's tomb
- Mussolini becomes leader of Italy
- David Lloyd George, right, embroiled in a scandal involving the selling of knighthoods and peerages, resigns as Prime Minister
- Carrie Morrison becomes the first woman solicitor to practise in England
- The Infanticide Act effectively abolishes the death penalty for a woman who deliberately kills her newborn child while the balance of her mind is disturbed as a result of giving birth
- The first Austin Seven rolls off the production line
- Insulin is discovered in Canada by Frederick Banting and Charles Best



ENCHANTED APRIL

Cast

Lotty Wilton	JAN BURSBY
Rose Arnott	BOO FELTHAM
Mellersh Wilton	TONY PARKINSON
Frederick Arnott	SAM MOULTON
Lady Caroline Bramble	KEELY CAMPBELL
Mrs Graves	VAL MANTLE
Anthony Wilding	MARK ELLEN
Costanza	JUDY GARRETT

The action takes place in London and Italy
between February and April 1922

There will be one interval of approximately 20 minutes

Produced by Wimborne Drama at the Tivoli Theatre, Wimborne
1st - 3rd March 2012

Creative Team

Director	PAUL HEWITT
Designer	JACKSON ELLEN
Stage Manager	PHYLLIS SPENCER
Assistant Stage Managers	CAROLINE PAPP MOIRA HAWEY
Continuity	JAN STEVENSON
Costumes	CAROLYN HEWITT
Hair & Make-up	CHARLEE HULBERT
Voice Coach	VERENA SMITH
Tivoli Production Manager	KYLE BEST

Production Acknowledgements

This production would not have been possible without the help of the following individuals and organisations:

Daisy Graphic	Forest FM	Carlo Marsango
Doubles	Gabude	Royal British Legion Wimborne
Eclectia Costumes	Hierarchy Costumes	Lita Thorne