

A Wimborne Drama Production

CASH ON DELIVERY

**A farce by
Michael Cooney**



3rd - 5th July 2014

**TIVOLI THEATRE
WIMBORNE**

Welcome

HELLO and welcome to our summer production. A slight break from the norm as we present a farcical comedy set in the present day, written by Michael Cooney, son of "the master of farce", Ray. Michael's work is very much reminiscent of his father's and I'm sure as you leave later you'll agree that the apple doesn't fall too far from the tree.

I'm delighted to be making my directorial debut for the group with this production. I joined Wimborne Drama in 2012 after watching the company's excellent version of Noël Coward's HAY FEVER, and having directed several plays for another amateur society, I am very grateful to the committee that they've allowed me to put this production on. Working with such a talented, attentive and enthusiastic cast has made rehearsals a pleasure, and I'm sure that their positive energy and hard work will lead to an amusing and enjoyable night out for you - or afternoon out for the matinee crowd! You'll be seeing some actors taking on their biggest parts with the group to date, one newcomer and several "older hands" back treading the boards after a break.

No production would be possible without the hard work of those that you don't see on the stage, but have put in many hours behind the scenes. I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to the backstage team for this show for making my job so painless. From those who gave up quite a few of their sunny Sunday mornings to help construct and paint the set, to those who searched high and low for suitable props for the show, your efforts are very much appreciated.

That's enough from me, I'll leave you in the hands of the cast. Enjoy the show!

John Sivewright - Director



John Sivewright

A chip off the old block

MICHAEL COONEY was born in London in 1967 but has been largely resident in California since he left school. The son of farce-writer Ray Cooney, he grew up in rehearsal rooms among famous actors. His father supported him while he was trying to make it as a photographer in Los Angeles for the four years he would have been at university, but when the time was up, his father suggested he come home and have a go at plays.



Michael Cooney

He wrote four plays in the mid 1990s, the most successful being CASH ON DELIVERY - a chip-off-the-old-block farce which had a run in the West End in 1996 directed by his father and starring Bradley Walsh, Brian Murphy and Frank Thornton.

"When I was writing CASH ON DELIVERY," Michael Cooney told the *Daily Telegraph* in 2005, "I would sit down with a cup of tea and talk to Ray about a dead end I'd got into. It was a whole new learning curve for me. In two hours of continuous action you can't just cut to the car chase. He would give me hints and thoughts."

In 2003 he collaborated with his father on TOM, DICK AND HARRY which starred the McGann brothers Mark, Joe and Stephen, and which had a run in the West End in 2005. But by now Michael Cooney's imagination had drifted towards writing thriller and horror, including two straight-to-video horror flicks about a homicidal snowman JACK FROST and JACK FROST 2, in which his father took a small role as an eccentric colonel whose neck is impaled on an icicle.

His big breakthrough came with IDENTITY (2003), starring John Cusack. "That's when I threw my heart into writing for the movies," he said.

In all he has written seven screenplays including MURDER IN MIND (adapted from his own stage play), THE 1 INSIDE and 6 SOULS. He has also written a novel and several children's books. He is currently working on a TV movie thriller called RUNNER.

The five rules of farce

(according to Ray Cooney)

farce, n. a broadly humorous play based on the exploitation of improbable situations; the genre of comedy represented by works of this kind; a ludicrous situation or action. [French orig. = stuffing, from Latin *farcire* to stuff, used metaph. of short comic interludes in serious plays]

1: PLOT

Not a "comedy" plot or a "funny" storyline, but something potentially tragic. Farce is more akin to tragedy than it is to comedy. The audience should understand what's at stake for the characters in the play.

2: CHARACTERS

The characters must be real and believable – it is the situations they find

themselves in that are slightly out of the ordinary. Ordinary people who are out of their depth in a predicament which is beyond their control and they are unable to contain. Tragedy again.

3: CAST

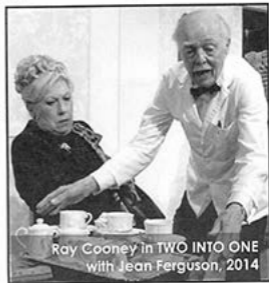
Actors need stamina, precision and dexterity. And they must have a generosity of spirit. Farce is teamwork. There is no standing behind beautiful monologues. It's mundane language. The characters aren't standing centre-stage, in a spotlight, intellectualising about their predicament. They're rushing about dealing with it.

4: TIME

The play should be in "real time" and the action continuous. The two hours spent in the theatre are two hours in the existence of the characters in the play.

5: INTELLIGENCE

Never underestimate the intelligence of the audience – they like to work for their laughter.



Ray Cooney in *TWO INTO ONE*
with Jean Ferguson, 2014

CASH ON DELIVERY

by Michael Cooney

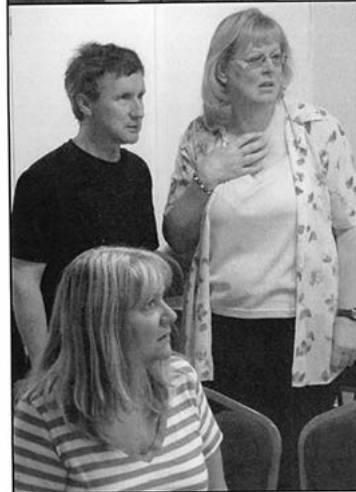
Cast in order of appearance

Linda Swan	JAN BURSBY
Eric Swan	ALAN DESTER
Norman Bassett	COLIN PILE
Mr Jenkins	SIMON JACKSON
Uncle George	DAVID PILE
Sally Chessington	AMY BEVAN
Dr Chapman	JUDY GARRETT
Mr Forbright	RUSS GUILLAUME
Ms Cowper	VAL MANTLE
Brenda Dixon	HEATHER SEATON

The play is set in the living room of 344 Chilton Road, just off the Mile End Road in East London. It is just after 9am on a windy October morning in the present day. The action is continuous

Running time approximately 2 hours 20 minutes
including a 20-minute interval

Cast in rehearsal



Top left to right: Russ Guillaume, Amy Bevan, Judy Garrett, Alan Dester

Bottom left to right: Colin Pile, Jan Bursby, Heather Seaton, David Pile, Simon Jackson, Val Mantle

Creative Team

Director	John Sivewright
Stage Manager	Tracey Nicholls
Set Design & Construction	Chris Durham Colin Pile
Assistant Stage Managers	Caroline Burr Moira Hawey
Costume Supervisor	Lizzie Peters
Make-up Design	Daisy Burr
Prompt	Jan Stevenson
Sound	Sam Moulton
Lighting	Kieran Henshaw-Ray
Tivoli Technical Manager	Kyle Best

Production Acknowledgements

- Plants loaned by Wimborne Garden Centre
- Hospital trolley loaned by All Saints Dramatic Society
- Properties loaned by Broadstone Players
- Stretcher loaned by KCA Players
- Washing machine loaned by Steve Oaten and Joe Prior

Also we acknowledge the help and support of:

- Daisy Graphic
- Forest FM
- Gullivers Bookshop
- Royal British Legion Wimborne
- Wimborne Tourist Information Centre

Produced by Wimborne Drama at the Tivoli Theatre 3rd-5th July 2014

Meet the cast

AMY BEVAN (Sally Chessington)

Year joined Wimborne Drama:

This is my first show with Wimborne Drama. **Occupation:** Music student. **Favourite**

comedy role: Alice in THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE at

The Regent Centre. **Comedy**

hero: Ricky Gervais. **Last time**

you laughed like a drain: Attempting to walk down Corfe Castle hill but spent the majority of it falling over every few seconds. **How do you relax?** A glass of rosé and a good film.

JAN BURSBY (Linda Swan)

Year joined Wimborne Drama:

2001. **Occupation:** Personal Assistant. **Favourite comedy role:**

Rita in EDUCATING RITA, Boundary Players, Farnham.

Comedy heroines: Maggie Smith and Judi Dench. **Last time**

you laughed like a drain: The speeches at my daughter's wedding in April! **How do you relax?** Getting away from it all - whether that's a simple drive in the country or a fully fledged holiday.

ALAN DESTER (Eric Swan)

Year joined Wimborne Drama:

2011. **Occupation:** Technical Solutions Specialist (pretend I know what I'm talking about).

Favourite comedy role: Walter Bryce in NATURAL CAUSES for

BLTC. **Comedy hero:** John Cleese - he is as mad as me. **Last**

time you laughed like a drain:

During rehearsals for this play.

How do you relax? Playing computer games.

JUDY GARRETT (Dr Chapman)

Year joined Wimborne Drama:

2000. **Occupation:** Semi retired; do some part time work as a

carer, also voluntary work in local reception class. **Favourite**

comedy role: Constanza, the Italian housekeeper in

ENCHANTED APRIL. **Comedy**

heroines: Julie Walters and Victoria Wood. **Last time you**

laughed like a drain: Watching my new Labrador performing a very comical, 'mad dog' dance all round our back garden - a daily event! **How do you relax?** Reading, playing piano (not really relaxing as I only started as a complete beginner last year!)

RUSS GUILLAUME (Mr Forbright)

Year joined Wimborne Drama:

1962. **Occupation:** Retired.

Favourite comedy role: Peter Winter in The WHITE SHEEP OF THE

FAMILY. **Comedy hero:** Woody Allen. **Last time you laughed like**

a drain: Watching a professional performance of NOISES OFF.

How do you relax? Growing vegetables and fruit.

SIMON JACKSON (Mr Jenkins)

Year joined Wimborne Drama:

1977. **Occupation:** Retired.

Favourite comedy role:

Carnoustie Bligh in SAILOR BEWARE. I have played him twice: firstly for Penistone Players, Yorkshire, 1965; then for St. Peter's Players, Bournemouth, 1985. **Comedy hero:** Norman Wisdom. **Last time you laughed like a drain:** Never, I am more of a titterer. **How do you relax?** Working in the garden.

VAL MANTLE (Ms Cowper)

Year joined Wimborne Drama: 1996. **Occupation:** Retired. Previously employed in reception/secretarial/accounting. **Favourite comedy role:** Dotty in NOISES OFF with Broadstone Players in 1998. **Comedy heroine:** My comedy heroine has been Julie Walters for many years. **Last time you laughed like a drain:** During rehearsals for THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST, with Wimborne Drama in 2010, when Mark Everitt (who was playing Ernest to my Lady Bracknell) and I had a fit of uncontrollable giggles and couldn't pull ourselves together for several minutes. Fortunately, we managed not to 'goose' during the performances! **How do you relax?** I like to relax in a nice warm bath and let all my cares and woes drift away! Aaaah!

COLIN PILE (Norman Bassett)

Year joined Wimborne Drama: 2001. **Occupation:** Computer Engineer. **Favourite comedy**

role: Melchior in ON THE RAZZLE. **Comedy hero:** Ronnie Barker. **Last time you laughed like a drain:** Can't remember, sorry. **How do you relax?** I like to play my flute.

DAVID PILE (Uncle George)

Year joined Wimborne Drama: 1999. **Occupation:** Retired ambulance officer. **Favourite comedy role:** Merriman the butler in THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST. **Comedy hero:** Ronnie Barker. **Last time you laughed like a drain:** At last rehearsal of CASH ON DELIVERY. **How do you relax?** Sit down and fall asleep, anytime, anywhere.

HEATHER SEATON (Brenda Dixon)

Year joined Wimborne Drama: 2012. **Occupation:** Freelance Floor Manager/Studio Director in TV. **Favourite comedy role:** Lady Pamela Tooth, a member of the Upper set (get it?) in SLEEPING BEAUTY for Theydon Bois Drama Society near Epping Forest, Essex. **Comedy hero:** Tim Vine. **Last time you laughed like a drain:** When I recently saw Bruce Forsyth in a Sunday night concert with the STRICTLY COME DANCING ORCHESTRA. He certainly knows how to work an audience and his observations about how audiences don't dress up to go to the theatre anymore were hilarious. **How do you relax?** Walking and playing with my little dog.

Wimborne Drama Productions

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A Wimborne Drama Production



A Man For All Seasons

by Robert Bolt

Thu 16th, Fri 17th
& Sat 18th Oct 2014

Evenings at 7.30pm - £10
Saturday matinee at 2.30pm - £8

TIVOLI THEATRE
WIMBORNE

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