

HOW

WIMBORNE DRAMA
presents

Alan Ayckbourn's

THE OTHER HALF

Directed by Graham Hawkins

LOVES



13th - 15th
May 2010

Tivoli Theatre
Wimborne

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WIMBORNE DRAMA PRESENTS

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A PLAY BY MICHAEL FRAYN
DIRECTED BY PAUL DODMAN



TIVOLI THEATRE, WIMBORNE, 01202 885566
21st-23rd October 2010

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WIMBORNE DRAMA

10 - 12 February 2011



When Scotland Yard
knocks on your door
asking if they can use
your house to spy on a
ring of suspected traitors,
you know who your
friends are ...

... don't you?

Based on a true story

Written by Hugh Whitmore
Directed by Phyllis Spencer

WIMBORNE DRAMA

Hello and welcome to the Tivoli Theatre for this performance of Sir Alan Ayckbourn's *How the Other Half Loves*.

Those of a nervous disposition should be aware that this is my directorial debut but this ought not to detract from an enjoyable experience.

The story explores the interaction between three couples connected by the workplace of the three men. Frank and Fiona Foster, the manager and his wife; Bob and Teresa Phillips who have recently become parents for the first time and William and Mary Featherstone. The latter couple are unwittingly drawn into a series of subterfuges when Fiona and Bob try to cover up their affair by informing their respective spouses that the Featherstones are the ones having marital problems.

There is a single set representing two separate but overlapping living rooms – the Fosters' and the Phillips'. Action is shown simultaneously and the actors move around in their own respective areas independent of the other couple.

The second scene is perhaps the most famous scene from this play. It concerns dinner parties held on successive nights but shown as taking place simultaneously. I hope that's clear.

Now the 'thank you's':

Quentin Tarantino once said "And I'm a really good actors' director. Part of that is just staying out of the way and offering guidance when it's needed – and having a lot of trust."

I am indebted to my wonderful, brave cast for coping with the mantle of trust I placed on them with such good humour and the way they came to grips with the challenges this play has set them. It has been a pleasure working with you.

My grateful thanks go to Carol Bruton as my prompt and right hand woman; Colin Pile (assisted by David Pile) as Stage Manager, Tracey Nicholls (props) and Phyllis Spencer, together they helped me bring to fruition this production, gave me support when I most needed it and told me things that I didn't know I didn't know.

Thanks to Jackson and Mark Ellen for creating the stage set.

And finally my thanks to you, the audience. Your continued support of Wimborne Drama is greatly appreciated. We consider ourselves as part of the Wimborne community and without your continued support productions like this would be difficult to put on especially in the current difficult economic conditions.

Hope you enjoy the play.

Graham Hawkins



CAST NOTES...



I joined Wimborne Drama in 2008 and appeared in two other productions prior to this one. *Witness for the Prosecution* and *Hound of the Baskervilles*. Fiona in *How The Other Half Loves* is my biggest and most challenging, and enjoyable role to date.

I think my husband got a bit concerned, when I started to talk to myself while walking round the house. Eventually I came clean and explained I was trying to learn my lines.

I enjoyed tackling the role of Fiona Foster. She has it all, but is still not satisfied with her lot. To add some spice to her busy but dreary existence she embarks on

an affair. When her poor, befuddled husband starts to ask questions on her whereabouts, especially when she forgets it's their wedding anniversary, Fiona manages to wriggle out of it. She is the sort of woman who doesn't suffer fools gladly, looks down her nose at everybody and shows very little affection towards her husband. No comparison whatsoever to me!!

My favourite line from the show is Frank calling out to Fiona, "Crisis! We don't appear to have any bathroom stationery!" Loo roll to the rest of us!

It has been very difficult not to giggle during rehearsals, which have been great fun, as the play is full of very funny moments and I know we will hear lots of laughter from the audience as we carry them along on this brilliantly written and directed masterpiece. "Cheers"!

I've rather enjoyed the last few weeks of rehearsing *How the Other Half Loves*. Slobbing around the house in my bathrobe, my nose buried in a newspaper, not bothering to cook – and able to claim that it's all in the name of research! Teresa's an interesting character. She cares an awful lot about what's wrong with the world (hence all the newspaper clippings and letters), but can't seem to overcome her apathy towards her domestic situation. She and Bob obviously love each other but he doesn't appear to have any idea of how to help her and she certainly doesn't know where to start. I'd like to think that her future will see her coming to grips with domesticity, getting Bob in line and training as a journalist. More likely though she'll still be in that dressing-gown agonizing over how to help people until Bob finally decides enough is enough and trades her in for a younger model (preferably one who cooks). At least he'd get a smile when he comes in from work! It's what I like best about Ayckbourn's plays – the characters feel so real that it's easy to imagine them carrying on with their lives outside the pages, making as many mistakes and having as much trouble as the rest of us. I only hope they're having just as much fun!

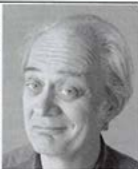


Does anyone remember Samuel Pepys in *And So To Bed*? That was my first part with Wimborne Drama, who calmly offered me the chance to play a very funny leading role simply on the strength of one audition, an open and welcoming policy that I am very glad to be able to say the group continues.

In tonight's play I am Frank, bumbling husband of Fiona, and classic example of middle management promoted well beyond any actual ability. Irritating though he may be, Frank's heart is in the right place. Despite his unerring instinct for hitting the nail squarely on the head with a screwdriver, Frank's first thought is invariably of others. He takes a positively paternal interest in the welfare of his workers, sparing himself nothing on their behalf, and with a dogged persistence utterly undeterred by the wholesale disasters his efforts bring about. If only they appreciated him! He's pretty persistent when it comes to fixing toothbrushes and kitchen timers too.

Behind every good man there's a good woman of course, and Frank knows that whatever else might try him, his Fiona is one hundred percent, no nonsense, never let you down, rock solid, through and through absolutely and utterly dependable ... isn't she? Will Frank ever catch on to the high jinks around him? Perhaps it's better not to ... perhaps...

The line spoken by my character that I like best comes at the very end of the play when Alan Ayckbourn sees to it that, Frankly speaking, he has the last word!



I moved to Poole from the Isle of Wight late in 2005. I have been a member of Wimborne Drama Group since 2007. I mentioned to my partner one evening that I would love to join a drama group as it was something I'd wanted to do for a number of years but never got round to doing anything about. She worked with someone who was a member of Wimborne Drama Group who told her that there were auditions for a play later that week and that I would be welcome to come along. I attended those auditions just to see what it was all about and I got involved right there and then and I haven't looked back since.

I'm very pleased and proud to be playing the part of Bob Phillips in *How The Other Half Loves* as this is the biggest part I've had to date and I have found it both rewarding and challenging during rehearsals. It's been good fun rehearsing for this play and I'm looking forward to the performances.

Quite a few of our family and friends will be coming along to see the play and my partner will be there to support me at every performance, she has also been a great help with rehearsing at home... Thanks Jane

I hope you enjoy watching the play as much as we've enjoyed rehearsing it. One of my favourite bits in the play is when William Featherstone opens our front door and lets Teresa (my wife) into our own home and then says 'We rang the bell. But thought you must have all died'.



Wimborne Drama **WIMBORNE DRAMA**

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How The Other Half



Frank Foster
Jeremy Austin



Mary Featherstone
Keely Campbell



Bob Phillips
Steve Symonds



Fiona Foster
Caroline Butcher



Teresa Phillips
Penny Pearson



William Featherstone
Peter Brown

By
Sir Alan Ayckbourn

Act 1 Scene 1 – Early Thursday Morning
Act 1 Scene 2 – Thursday and Friday Evening

LOVES

Directed by
Graham Hawkins

Act 2 Scene 1 - Saturday Morning
Act 2 Scene 2 – Sunday Morning

MORE CAST NOTES...



My first role with the group was in 2001 in *The Madness of George III*. I played Fred, Duke of York. At the time I was attending college. Studying National Diploma in drama.

Why am I in this play?

The idea of this play seemed funny to me. And some of the humour is very much a play on words. With being offered a part and the humour it was too good an opportunity to miss. Although some of the movement has been a bit of a nightmare.

My favourite line in the play is a piece of dialogue with Frank.

William says, "U-bend?"

Frank replies, "Do I?"

Most amusing incident in rehearsals? That would be all the swivelling. Worrying if I had worn away my trousers!

People attending? My fiancée and my friend Martin will be in the audience at some point. And also my parents. Hello if you're reading this. Hopefully more will come along as well. I'd better find out how much the bribes are!

My first production as part of Wimborne Drama was *Steel Magnolias* last year when I played Anelle. It was a great experience and I enjoyed every minute.

In this production I play Mary Featherstone, a nervous woman who gets caught up in a love scandal with her husband William's co-workers and their wives. At first I didn't think I would be able to take part in the production due to my university commitments, but I could not resist the opportunity to get involved and I am glad I couldn't as it has been great, although I do have my final university exam on Monday...so wish me luck!

I really enjoyed rehearsals with everyone, especially rehearsing the scenes on the telephone as they are very funny.

My favourite lines from the play are when William remarks, 'I - er - took the liberty of easing the pin on your ball-cock,' and Frank replies, 'Well, as long as you enjoyed yourself.'

I really hope everyone watching enjoys the play as much as I have enjoyed taking part, which is loads!



How The Other Half **LOVES** *backstage*

First Assistant / Prompt	Caroline Bruton
Stage Manager	Colin Pile
ASMs	John Bruton, William Gaspar Tracey Nicholls, Verena Smith, Phyllis Spencer
Set Design	Jackson & Mark Ellen
Sound design	Colin Pile
Poster design	Penny Pearson
Transport	Steve Symonds
Tivoli Production Manager	Phil Wood

Thanks to:

- ♦ The Tivoli Theatre production team for lighting and technical assistance
- ♦ Doubles Food and Drink
- ♦ Sturtons & Tappers of Wimborne
- ♦ Members of Wimborne Drama for help with set construction, properties, programmes, costumes etc.

WHAT'S ON YOUR MENU?

As our photo shows, from time to time we all feel the need to ladle it out a bit. And when the urge comes over you there's nowhere better for it than in the company of watchful companions, hanging on your every word. Because if you do find yourself in the soup, it's good to know there are friends at the table who know how to look after themselves and mop things up.

At Wimborne Drama, we know the value of a varied diet. For each of the three productions we put on each year there is a wide range of interesting activities. Up on stage are the actors, but out of sight there are (in no particular order) advertisers, designers, prompters, property masters and their mistresses, sound-light- and effects- people, stage managers, assistant stage managers, photographers, woodworkers, electricians, play readers, people boiling eggs and making toast, and... well.... people getting up to all sorts of business. Somewhere there is even a director. Wimborne Drama gives a warm welcome to anyone who would like to become a new member, and prides itself on the opportunities it can offer to willing new-comers.

But if you're not at the stage of treading the boards, perhaps you would find becoming one of our Patrons to be just your ticket? Well actually you get not only a free ticket but also a free programme for each production, an invitation for drinks and nibbles with the cast and crew after Friday night performances, advance notification of plays, a priority booking service, a quarterly newsletter, and invitations to our other events throughout the year. It's a banquet!

WIMBORNE DRAMA PATRONS (H SIGNIFIES HONORARY)

June Allison	Maureen Dickson	Tom Melia
Frances Alton	Dorothy Dodman	Sheila Morrell
Lynda Bellingham (H)	George Dodman	Peter Neal
Beverley Blehs	Bob Feltham	Tina Nicholls
Lottie Brown	Pamela Feltham	Anthony Oliver
Edward Childe	Harry Foster	Christine Oliver
Robin Cook (H)	Roy Hudd (H)	Anthony Pawley
Elizabeth Corbin	Valerie Jolliffe	Linda Pawley
Joyce Curry	Roy Joseph (H)	Patricia Pile
Margaret Denslow	Diann March	Pamela Wood
John Dickson	Michael Medwin (H)	Audrey Wright

President of Wimborne Drama: Councillor Anthony Oliver MBE

A STANDING INVITATION

There's a place for you at our table. Wimborne Drama's membership minder, Tracey Nicholls, likes to keep things on the boil for enquiries on 01202 889768, or via e-mail address:

secretary@wimbornedrama.co.uk

Alternatively just drop in to one of our regular moveable feasts at our meetings on the last Thursday of each month. You can also find out more by reading the bill of fare at our website:

www.wimbornedrama.co.uk



**AND A BIG HAND FOR OUR
SUPPORTING PLAYERS...**



BRIAN DRYDEN
of Wimborne



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