Platinum Anniversary Gala Cabaret and Party

Network Theatre Company

1939 - 2009 70 years of drama

Message from the Chairman

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, and a very warm welcome to our very special Platinum Gala evening. And how justifiably proud the Network Theatre Company is to be celebrating its 70th birthday this year.

From its early beginnings in 1939 as the Deepdene Players, through changes of name - the Southern Railway Dramatic Society, the Network Players, and now the Network Theatre Company - and changes of venue - Deepdene (Dorking), Mepham Street (the former Waterloo 'milk arch') and now Lower Road, Waterloo - we can pride ourselves as being one of the still surviving and thriving Inner London amateur dramatic societies.

Indeed, over the years we have grown in strength and accomplishments, as you will see from the list of well over 200 productions. I hope you will recognise many of them, and I hope they bring back some happy and fond memories. I hope too that tonight will give you the opportunity to meet up with old friends and share production reminiscences!

Where would we be now if, over the years, we had not had such talented, dedicated and loyal members to make this opportunity for celebration possible?

My grateful thanks go to all of you for your part in keeping our love of amateur theatre alive 'under the arches'.

So, as our Masters of Ceremonies guide you through the evening of eating, drinking and entertainment in celebration of our 70 years, I hope you will very much enjoy yourselves.

Go on, eat, drink and be merry, and let us all raise a glass to the success and future of the Network Theatre Company.

Kay Murray, Chairman

October 2009

History of Network Theatre

Little did that group of railway employees, relocated to Deepdene House near Dorking at the outset of war in 1939, imagine that their successors would be playing to audiences some 70 years later. The Deepdene Players, as they were known, performed their shows at the local hospitals and homes before returning to London at the end of the war, and forming the Southern Railway Dramatic Society.

The members transformed underground arches at Waterloo that had originally been stables (milk from the country arrived by train and was transported by horse power across the capital). But we had all we needed: a dressing room, costume and props cupboards, lighting and sound box and a small stage.

This was the home of the SRDS until 1992. With the building of the new Waterloo International Terminal, the Society's premises were moved to our present home in Lower Road. Numerous visits were made to various arches underneath Waterloo Station before we finally decided upon our new venue and new name: Network Players and then Network Theatre Company.

And what of the productions? Some of you will remember taking our shows on tour round the south of England. Our theatre was small and intimate (the audience sat on chairs and sofas not being used in the current production). We performed our larger shows at the Scala Theatre (now no more) and the Shell Theatre on the South Bank.

We took part in the annual British Railways Staff Association Inter-Regional Drama Festivals and brought the winning trophy back to the Southern on several occasions. We entered the Civil Service Drama Festivals and came home with awards. We boosted our income with jumble sales at Raynes Park.

The move to our current premises, with much improved facilites, has meant that a huge variety of shows has been possible, from one-act plays to musicals, pantomimes to Shakespeare, full-length productions to shows rehearsed and performed in a weekend.

We've upheld the tradition of amateur theatre and kept going for 70 years through dedication, teamwork and friendship. We will all have our particular memories: some distant, some more recent. But we also have a future to look forward to our history in the making.

Platinum Gala Team

Production Team

Producer Artistic Director Technical Director Lighting Designer Technical Team Musical Director Box Office Manager Front of House Manager Catering Managers Gala Décor Creators Exhibition Coordinators Gala Cast	Keith Wait Kimberly Bradshaw David Harvey Dan Young Deborah Dowdall and Ron Cook John Collis Nigel Oatway Hannah Few Kay Murray and Sharan Hunjan Randy Nichol, Sheila Murphy and Barry Clarke Kay Murray, Vikki Cook, Ron Cook and Nigel Oatway
Artistes	Kimberly Bradshaw Barry Clarke Marian Cooke Vikki Cook Michael Donovan Paul D'Orley Hannah Few Sharan Hunjan Robin Lansman Imelda Maguire Sheila Murphy Kay Murray Randy Nichol Steve Simler
Accompanist	John Collis
Masters of Ceremonies	Kimberly Bradshaw, Keith Wait and Nigel Williams

Cabaret

Cabaret One - London Railways

London Pride - Noel Coward Guilt - John Betjemen Upon Westminster Bridge - William Wordsworth A Limerick - Frank Richards A Chip in the Sugar - Alan Bennett A Bit of a Chat - Dudley Moore and Peter Cook Eurydice - Sue Hubbard After Lunch - Wendy Cope Waterloo Street - Charles Wiles The Night Mail - W H Auden Do You Know the Way to San Jose - Burt Bacharach Mick Donovan Keith Wait Keith Wait Barrry Clark Paul D'Orley and Steve Simler Barry Clark Barry Clark Barry Clark Barry Clark Barry Clark and Keith Wait Robin Lansman

Cabaret Two - Through the Ages

Letter from Charlotte to her Friend - Jane Austin Nina - Noel Coward Shine Through my Dreams - Ivor Novello The Tale of the Oyster - Cole Porter Song of the Stage Hands - A P Herbert Battle of Hastings - Stanley Holloway Sexual Frustration - Dudley Moore and Peter Cook There's Always Something There To Remind You -Burt Bacharach

Kay Murray Mick Donovan Marion Cooke Marion Cooke The Backstage Team Vikki Cook Paul D'Orley and Steve Simler Robin Lansman

Cabaret Three - And the Classics

The Stripper - David Rose
My Life Belongs to You - Ivor Novello
Home Time - Joyce Grenfel
Best That You Can Do (Arthur's Theme) - Burt
Bacharach
The Hymn - Joyce Grenfell
Stately as a Galleon - Joyce Grenfel
Something on a Tray - Noel Coward
My Favourite Things, Big Spender

Finale - Time Warp - Rocky Horror Show

Dan Young Randy Nichol Hannah Few Robin Lansman

Vikki Cook Kay Murray and Sheila Murphy Sheila Murphy Kimberly Bradshaw, Sharan Hunjan and Imelda Maguire All

Our past shows

1939	A Damsel in Distress		The Rose Without a Thorn
1940	Baa-Baa Black Sheep	1973	Two one-act plays: Dragons in the
1941	Heigh Ho!	1775	Caves/Message for Madame
1942	Blithe Spirit		Not Now Darling
1943	Leave It to Psmith	1974	Wanted One Body
1944	Lord Richard in the Pantry		On Monday Next
	Quiet Wedding	1975	Suddenly at Home
	This Happy Breed		The Tricolor Suite
	The Barretts of Wimpole Street		Uproar in the House
1947	Ten Little Niggers	1976	Brush with a Body
	Dear Octopus		Move over Mrs Markham
1948	The Whole Town's Talking	1977	Three one-act plays
	When We Are Married		How the Other Half Loves
1949	Full House	1978	An Inspector Calls
1050	The Middle Watch	1070	Black Comedy/White Liars
1950	The Barton Mystery	1979	Night Watch
1051	A Damsel in Distress		Living Together
1951	Little Lambs Eat Ivy	1980	Three one-act plays: A Spring
1952	A Murder Has Been Arranged		Selection The Rape of the Belt
1902	Call it a Day Rebecca	1981	The Anniversary
1953	The Happiest Days of Your Life	1701	Bedroom Farce
1755	Pride and Prejudice	1982	Barefoot in the Park
1954	Queen Elizabeth Slept Here	1702	Transcending, Skirmishes
1754	The Holly and the lvy		Gaslight
1955	Love's a Luxury	1983	Ghosts
.,	One-act play	1700	The Ruffian on the Stair
	Without the Prince		The Ruffian on the Stair
1956	Hay Fever	1984	Little Murders
	Dear Octopus		Outside Edge
1957	Pink String and Sealing Wax	1985	Billy Liar
	One-act play		Doctor Faustus
	Haul for the Shore		Season's Greetings
1958	Lace on her Petticoat	1986	No Great 'C' Major
	The Devil Was Sick		One Season's Kings and Nothing
1959	The Reluctant Debutante		Personal
	As Long as They're Happy		La Ronde
1960	When We Are Married	1987	La Ronde
	This Happy Breed		Absent Friends
1961	A Month of Sundays		La Ronde
10/0	Rookery Nook		The Amnesty Show: 2 one-act
1962	The Secret Tent		Pinters
10/2	The Shop at Sly Comer	1000	Winter Warmers
1963	The Amorous Prawn	1988	Blithe Spirit
10/4	Three one-act plays		Straight Up
1964	Sailor Beware My Three Angels		Intimate Strangers Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?
1965	Good Night Mrs Puffin		Beastie and the Beaut
1705	Dear Charles	1989	The Reluctant Debutante
	A Triple Bill: The Happy Journey,	1707	Nothing Personal
1966	The Monkey's Paw and This Happy		50th Anniversary Revue
.,	band (Wedding Scene)		Nothing Personal
	The Middle Watch		The London Cuckolds
	The Importance of Being Earnest	4000	The Real Inspector Hound and
1967	Three one-act plays	1990	Passion
	Appointment with Death		Business Conversation
1968	Three one-act plays		I am a Camera
	Present Laughter	1991	Better Late
1969	Doctor in the House		Better Late and Passion
	White Sheep of the Family		New Arch Gala Night & Grand
1970	No Time for Love		Opening/Better Late
	They Came to a City		In Praise of Love
1971	Arsenic and Old Lace		A Midsummer Night's Dream
	Not in the Book		Treats
1972	The Bespoke Overcoat		The Mysteries: The Nativity
	Doctor at Sea	1992	Hay Fever

	Mandragola
	Look Back in Anger
1993	Santa in Space The Provok'd Wife
1995	Under Milk Wood
	Romanoff & Juliet
1994	King Lear
	The Importance of Being Earnest
	What the Butler Saw
	Play it Again Sam Lashings and Lashings of Lehrer
1995	Play On!
	Wings
	Witness for the Prosecution
	The Visit The House of Bernada Alba
	Lend Me a Tenor
	The Mad Woman of Chaillot
1996	Snow White
	A Night on the Tiles
	Twelfth Night Good
	Design for Living
1997	One Hot Night in Brussels
	California Suite
1998	Bouncers and Shakers
1999	Sailor Beware! Aladdin
1777	Our Town
	Arcadia
	Chekhov Shorts
	On the Razzle Our Diamond Years
2000	Two Planks and a Passion
	Much Ado about Nothing
	Nude with Violin
2001	Toy Story
	Pygmalion Lust
	Boeing Boeing
	Deep Blue Sea
	Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are
	Dead
	Habeas Corpus The Tempest
2002	Summer Holiday - The pantomime
	Vacances d'Ete
	Billy Liar
	As You Like It Psychological Barrier
	The Accrington Pals
	Rumours
2003	Murder on the Eurostar Express
	Le Crime de l'Eurostar Express
	Stags & Hens Monsieur de Pourcegnac
	Wildest Dreams
	The National Health
	Revenger's Tragedy
2004	Trelawny of the Wells Female Transport
2004	Les Fourberies de Scapin
	Horror Double Bill: Dracula
	Horror Double Bill: Frankenstein
	The Respectable Prostitute Kvetch
	Journey's End
2005	Eurostar Academy
	Мојо
	Mixed Doubles
	Lysistrata Extra Time
	A Family Affair
	Murder in the Cathedral

2006	The Karaoke Wedding
	Cattle Class
	Blue Remembered Hills Class
	The Rover
	Amy's View
	Merchant of Venice
2007	
2007	Abigail's Party Facades
	Class
	No Way Out (Huis Clos) The Kitchen
2008	
2006	The Suburban Spaceman
	Bazaar & Rummage
	Humble Boy Set Menu
	iff
	Opposites Attract The Three Musketeers
2009	An Ideal Husband
2009	
	You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown
	A Midsummer Night's Dream Remember Me
	Platinum Gala Cabaret
	Happy Chuffing Christmas

The David Murray Award

David Murray, who died last year, had been a member of the Southern Railway Dramatic Society and then Network Theatre Company for over 50 years.

His parents belonged to the Company, and as a boy David would come along to their rehearsals. He wasn't as interested in the acting side of things as he was the technical aspects, and by sitting with the 'teccies' and watching them, he learnt all about the sound and lighting for our shows. He also helped backstage and was often Stage Manager for our productions.

David was a member of the Committee, then became Secretary, Vice Chairman, and Chairman. His knowledge of all aspects of our theatre, his gentle but strong leadership, the fact that each person was special to him, and his smile, were the mainstay of Network Theatre Company, and we miss him both as our Chairman and our friend.

David was very proud of all that Network Theatre Company stood for, and it is therefore very fitting that we should commemorate his life in a lasting way. The David Murray Award' is going to do this, as it will be presented annually to the person who, in the view of the membership, has given outstanding commitment to Network Theatre Company over the past year.

I am sure you will agree this award is going to a very special person tonight.

17 October 2009 Souvenir Programme