

Platinum Anniversary Gala Cabaret and Party



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 facilities, 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.

Cabaret

Cabaret One - London Railways

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

Cabaret Two - Through the Ages

Letter from Charlotte to her Friend - Jane Austin	Kay Murray
Nina - Noel Coward	Mick Donovan
Shine Through my Dreams - Ivor Novello	Marion Cooke
The Tale of the Oyster - Cole Porter	Marion Cooke
Song of the Stage Hands - A P Herbert	The Backstage Team
Battle of Hastings - Stanley Holloway	Vikki Cook
Sexual Frustration - Dudley Moore and Peter Cook	Paul D'Orley and Steve Simler
There's Always Something There To Remind You - Burt Bacharach	Robin Lansman

Cabaret Three - And the Classics

The Stripper - David Rose	Dan Young
My Life Belongs to You - Ivor Novello	Randy Nichol
Home Time - Joyce Grenfel	Hannah Few
Best That You Can Do (Arthur's Theme) - Burt Bacharach	Robin Lansman
The Hymn - Joyce Grenfell	Vikki Cook
Stately as a Galleon - Joyce Grenfel	Kay Murray and Sheila Murphy
Something on a Tray - Noel Coward	Sheila Murphy
My Favourite Things, Big Spender	Kimberly Bradshaw, Sharan Hunjan and Imelda Maguire
Finale - Time Warp - Rocky Horror Show	All

	Mandragola	2006	The Karaoke Wedding
	Look Back in Anger		Cattle Class
	Santa in Space		Blue Remembered Hills
1993	The Provok'd Wife		Class
	Under Milk Wood		The Rover
	Romanoff & Juliet		Amy's View
1994	King Lear		Merchant of Venice
	The Importance of Being Earnest	2007	Abigail's Party
	What the Butler Saw		Facades
	Play it Again Sam		Class
1995	Lashings and Lashings of Lehrer		No Way Out (Huis Clos)
	Play On!		The Kitchen
	Wings	2008	The Suburban Spaceman
	Witness for the Prosecution		Bazaar & Rummage
	The Visit		Humble Boy
	The House of Bernada Alba		Set Menu
	Lend Me a Tenor		iff
	The Mad Woman of Chailot		Opposites Attract
1996	Snow White		The Three Musketeers
	A Night on the Tiles	2009	An Ideal Husband
	Twelfth Night		You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown
	Good		A Midsummer Night's Dream
	Design for Living		Remember Me
1997	One Hot Night in Brussels		Platinum Gala Cabaret
	California Suite		Happy Chuffing Christmas
1998	Bouncers and Shakers		
	Sailor Beware!		
1999	Aladdin		
	Our Town		
	Arcadia		
	Chekhov Shorts		
	On the Razzle		
2000	Our Diamond Years		
	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		
	Trelawny of the Wells		
2004	Female Transport		
	Les Fourberies de Scapin		
	Horror Double Bill: Dracula		
	Horror Double Bill: Frankenstein		
	The Respectable Prostitute		
	Kvetch		
	Journey's End		
2005	Eurostar Academy		
	Mojo		
	Mixed Doubles		
	Lysistrata		
	Extra Time		
	A Family Affair		
	Murder in the Cathedral		

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 his 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**

£2