

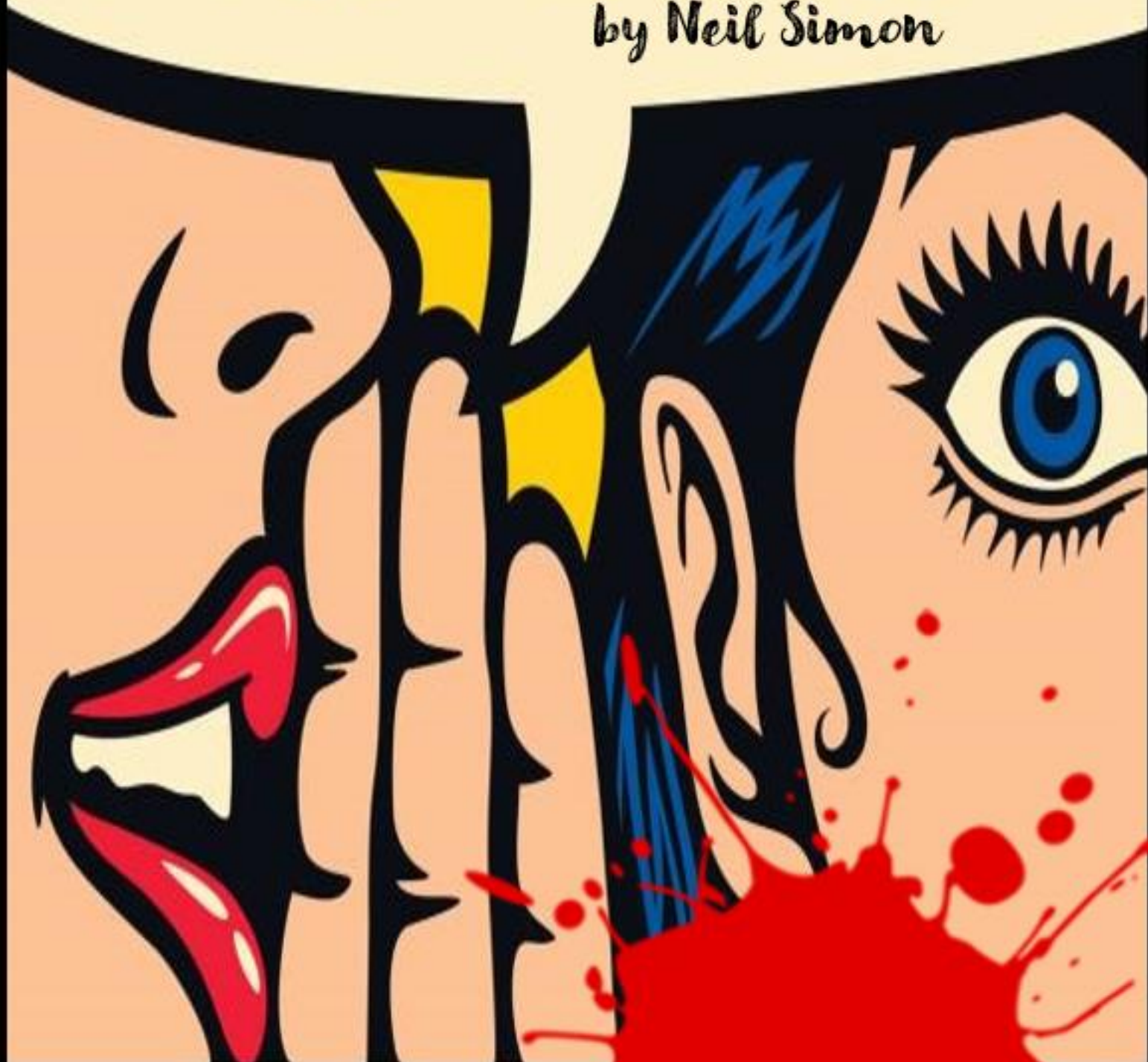
This amateur production of RUMOURS is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH LTD

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RUMOURS

by Neil Simon



The Village Hall, Escrick

18-20 MAY 2023

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Chair's Message

Welcome to our spring 2023 production, Rumours by Neil Simon.

Rumours has been on the cards for a number of years; a director was in place, and the set design had begun. For various reasons, mainly availability, it was parked... until now. You might remember our previous Neil Simon offering back in May 2015, the highly successful sell-out play, The Odd Couple (female version). Rumours has taken a Herculean effort from the group to get to production week. With the play having such a large cast, a technical set to design and build, a lighting & sound skills gap and fewer members than pre-Covid, we have drafted in help from previous members and other willing volunteers. On behalf of the group, I wish to extend a heartfelt thanks to Anita & Barrie (bar), John (raffle) and the Joseph Rowntree Theatre technical duo Peter & Tom (who have stepped in to help rig up the sound & lighting, offer guidance, and support us going forward). An extra special thanks goes to David Lane, a familiar face around these parts, having been our Chair for 17 years and a founder member of the group. Although David is no longer a member, he has spent hundreds of hours (no exaggeration) following through on his original plans to design and construct the set, with his able minions in tow (special shout out to Bob). So lovely to have you and your 'precision engineering brain cells' around these past few months.

A play doesn't happen because of one person, it's a massive team effort, but at the fore is the director. Well done and thank you Jan – I know it's been a bumpier ride than usual, but it will all be worth it! Sit back and relax... if you can.

This past year has been challenging but not unique to The Monday Players. The landscape for Am Dram groups and the professional arts has changed since the pandemic. Many societies/theatres are not yet back to pre-Covid audience numbers, memberships have diminished and increased running costs are having an impact. So, you may notice an increase in the price of a choc ice (they have been at the same price since we introduced them over 20 years ago) and we will now be running a bar at every production (so please sup plenty), yet you will still get a cracking evening of entertainment for only £10 (with a free programme to boot).

The society is fortunate that we can make some adjustments to help bridge the gap until we are back performing to full houses, but what will really help The Monday Players are new members! If you, or anyone you know, has a leaning towards AmDram - either on or off-stage - why not give The Monday Players a try!

The Monday Players is 30 this year! The very first play was Season's Greetings in December 1993. To celebrate this milestone, we are planning to stage one of our more informal cabaret-style evenings of one-act comedies! There will be plenty of opportunities for both on and off-stage roles. It would be a perfect time for anyone interested to get involved. No experience is needed, just enthusiasm... you will be made most welcome.

We will be holding some play reading evenings throughout June, which is a fabulously informal way to meet the group, and rehearsals for the Autumn production will begin late August. We meet for rehearsals on Sunday & Monday evenings in the village hall. If you fancy having a go operating lights/sound, acting, set building, producing, directing, making a cuppa, or just being an enthusiastic all-rounder, please get in touch for more information: chair@mondayplayers.com

I would like to offer a very warm welcome to our newer members, who have joined us this last year: Carol Drinkwater, Doreen Marsh, Rebecca Hoskins, Alice Hoskins, and Nigel Fisher.

Thank you to our wonderful audience for your continued support and patronage. We hope you enjoy our latest offering.

Now, get to the bar!

Nicki



Director's Note

Rumours was planned a while ago but Covid and lockdown had other plans! Now here it is for you to enjoy your evening with Monday Players.

Neil Simon is a particular favourite playwright of mine having directed Plaza Suite, The Odd Couple and Last of the Red Hot Lovers over the years.

It is such a pleasure to work with this talented, hard-working cast, stage manager and assistant director Helen, and the wonderful, supportive back-stage crew and set builders.

You can have a good script, a cast of experienced, committed actors but without the designer and set builders, the stage manager, crew and front of house to support you then you don't stand a chance of staging a worthy performance.

My sincere thanks to all those teams involved in Rumours. You are an amazing group of people.

Also a big thank you to the audience. Your attendance and support make the hard work that goes into each Monday Players production so worthwhile.

Thanks

Jan Kirk

Thanks

We would like to thank the following individuals / groups for their kind co-operation regarding use of the village hall during the production week:

- Preschool – Sally Clarke and her team
- Hot Tap Dance School – Sam Bolsher
- Derwent Danceworks – Kate Wolmersley

Join the MP

WHY NOT JOIN THE MONDAY PLAYERS...

We hope that you enjoy this Monday Players production of Rumours. It is always nice to see so many familiar faces in the audience and some new ones too.

We are now in our 30th year and are always looking for new members. We put on two productions of various styles every year.

Would you like to join our eclectic team?

Whether you want to act, help out Front of House or Backstage you would be given a warm welcome and discover a new and enjoyable hobby.

You will need to be 18 years old or over.

Please contact chair@mondayplayers.com with a few details and we will be in touch.

www.mondayplayers.com

@MondayPlayers



Cast



Chris Bevans

Ken Bevans

Claire Cummings

Len Cummings

Ernest Cusack

Cookie Cusack

Cassie Cooper

Glen Cooper

PC Collins

PC Carter



Linda Baillie

Trevor Britain

Julia Birkett

Mike Waters

Nigel Fisher

Jill Pearson

Nicki Clay

Andrew Faulkes

Bob Wells

Doreen Marsh

Act I Early Evening

Act II Later that evening

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between Act I and Act II when the bar will re-open. The raffle will be drawn during the interval. Please note that there will be no late admission after the commencement of the play following the interval.

The play will finish at approximately 10pm.



PLEASE NOTE THAT PHOTOGRAPHY AND/OR
FILMING OF THE PERFORMANCE IS NOT PERMITTED.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS PRODUCTION INCLUDES
LOUD NOISES (GUNSHOTS AND POLICE WHISTLES)



Crew



DIRECTOR

Jan Kirk



STAGE MANAGER

Helen Lawley

STAGE CREW

Carol Drinkwater
Alice Hoskins

LIGHTING

Peter Reed
(Special thanks to Joseph Rowntree
Theatre for lighting assistance)

SOUND

Alice Hoskins
Geoff Stockill

TRANSPORT

Nick Leaf

PHOTOGRAPHY

Nancy Waters

HAIR

Alan Rome



TICKET SALES

Helen Lawley

COSTUME HIRE

York Theatre Royal

PROMPT

Carol Drinkwater

PROPS

Alice Hoskins

PROGRAMME & POSTER DESIGN

Graeme Parker

SET DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

David Lane with
Bob Wells & The Monday Players

HALL BOOKINGS

Nicki Clay

FRONT OF HOUSE

Gary Bateson with
Becky Hoskins, John Parker
Alan Rome, Barrie Shipley
Anita Shipley and Nancy Waters

BAR SERVICE

Gary Bateson with
Anita Shipley & Barrie Shipley

REHEARSAL REFRESHMENTS

Pamela Yates
& The Monday Players

Ten Years Ago...

PLAYWRIGHT: Amanda Whittington

PERFORMANCE DATES:

16th-18th May 2013

DIRECTOR: Barbara Miller

CAST:

Pearl, a fish packer - Alma Belbin

Jan, a fish packer - Pat Davison

Shelley, a fish packer - Nicki Clay

Linda, a fish packer - Linda Baillie

Joe, their supervisor - Brian Rowland

Fred, a ticket tout - David Belbin

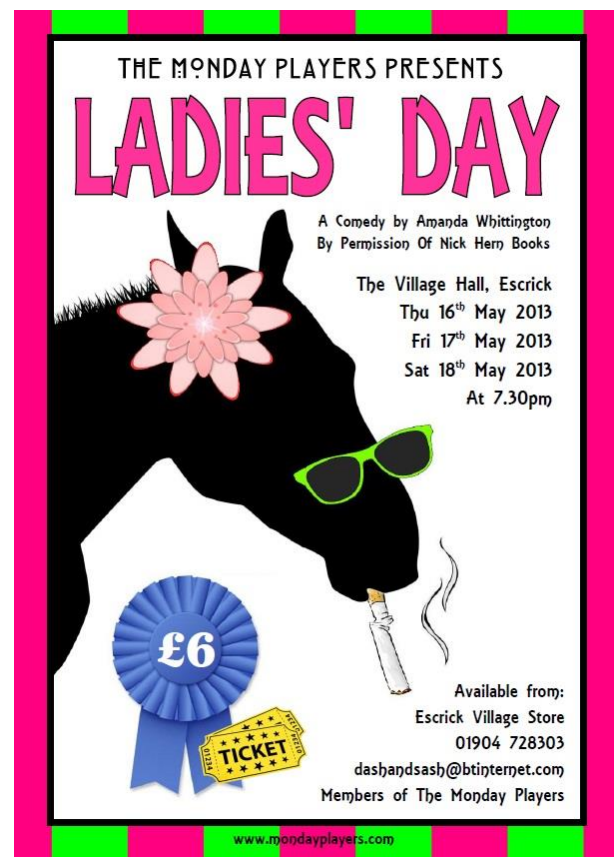
Commentator - Phil Pickering

Jim McCormack, a tv pundit - David Lane

Patrick, an Irish jockey - Phil Pickering

Kevin, a gambler - Phil Pickering

Barry, a bookie - Ken Davison



Work, love and life are one hard slog for the fish-filleting foursome Pearl, Jan, Shelley and Linda. Their luck changes when Linda finds tickets to Ladies' Day at Royal Ascot in York. Out go the hairnets and overalls as the girls do themselves up and head for the races. As the day unfolds, the champagne flows, secrets spill out and their horses keep winning. By the last race, the girls are on course for a life-changing win.



Past Productions

1993

Dec Season's Greetings

1995

May The Happiest Days Of Your Life

1996

Feb When We Are Married

Nov Fish Out Of Water

1997

May Breath Of Spring

Nov Bedroom Farce

1998

May Suddenly At Home

Nov Flying Feathers

1999

May Cabaret Evening

Nov Stepping Out

2000

Apr The Farndale Avenue Housing
Estate Townswomen's Guild
Dramatic Society Murder Mystery

Jun Millennium Cabaret

Nov Celebration

2001

May Last Tango In Whitby

Nov Fringe Benefits

2002

Jun Separate Tables / Dress Rehearsal

2003

Jan Red Riding Hood

May Joking Apart

Nov Blithe Spirit

2004

Mar Sand Castles

Jun Cabaret 2004

Nov Daisy Pulls It Off

2005

May 'Allo 'Allo

Nov Lord Arthur Savile's Crime

2006

May Witness For The Prosecution

Nov Party Piece

2007

May Outside Edge

Nov Caramba's Revenge

2007

May Outside Edge

Nov Caramba's Revenge

2008

Apr Comic Potential

Nov Angels In Love

2009

May Cabaret 2009

Nov Natural Causes

2010

May Pygmalion

Nov Taking Steps

2011

May Habeas Corpus

Nov Role Play

2012

May Diamond Jubilee Cabaret

Nov Key For Two

2013

May Ladies' Day

Nov Season's Greetings

2014

May Salt Of The Earth

Nov Relative Values

2015

May The Odd Couple

Nov Absurd Person Singular

2016

May A Respectable Funeral /
Last Tango in Escrick

Nov The Importance of Being Earnest

2017

May See How They Run

Nov Theft

2018

May How The Vote Was Won

Nov Par For The Course

2019

May The Ladykillers

Nov Hobson's Choice

2021

Nov Thermal Underwear /
Lockdown in Little Grimley

2022

May Abigail's Party

Nov Absent Friends

Behind the Scenes

Photos by Nancy Waters





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Dog Tired wishes The Monday Players a very successful production of RUMOURS

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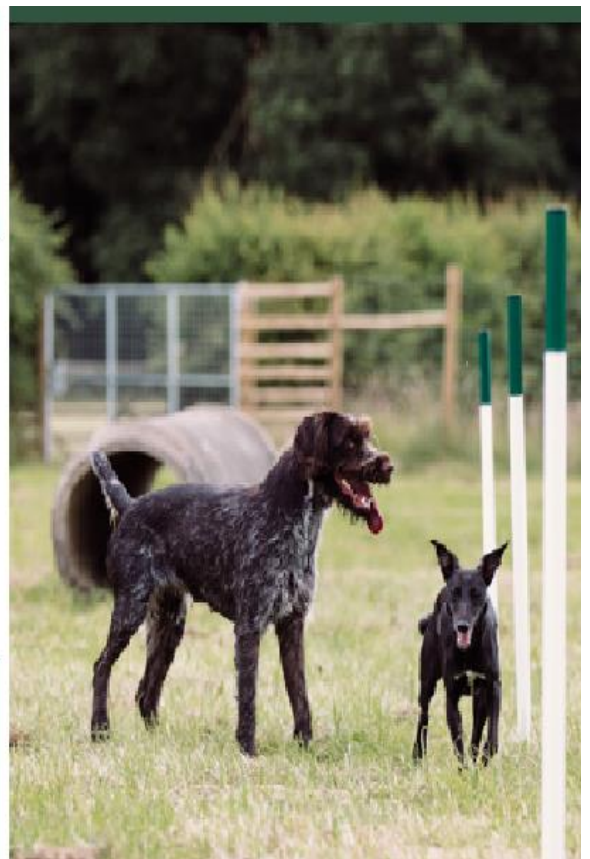
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30
YEARS
ANNIVERSARY

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CABARET & COMEDY

evening



The Village Hall, Escrick
02-04 November 2023