


Wimborne Drama presents

PACK OF LIES

A hand is shown pulling a vibrant red curtain to the left, revealing a window. Through the window, a two-story house with a gabled roof and a porch is visible. The interior wall to the right of the window is covered in floral wallpaper with a pattern of small flowers and black scrollwork. A large, red, distressed stamp with the words 'PACK OF LIES' in a bold, sans-serif font is superimposed over the upper right portion of the image.

10th - 12th February 2011



Oscar Wilde's
THE
IMPORTANCE
OF BEING *Ernest*

Open Air production in the grounds of Wimborne's historic
Deans Court

Thursday 30th June - Saturday 2nd July

7.30 pm start; grounds open 6.30pm for picnics and hog roast

Tickets from the Tourist Information Centre (01202) 886116

£10, or £20 to include hog roast and drinks

WIMBORNE DRAMA

It has been a great pleasure to direct my first play with Wimborne Drama. It has been fascinating to bring the play to life. Doing so is very much a team effort, as you will see later in the programme.

My thanks must go first of all to my cast. I have been privileged to have a strong cast who have built their characters with ease, and will bring the Jackson family to life for you and show you the impact of outside events on their lives.



Much credit must go to Tracey Nicholls, on her debut as Stage Manager; it is no mean task to co-ordinate the technical side of the show and bring everything together.

There are too many in the team to mention them all, but each has played a part in creating what you will see this evening; and my thanks go to each of them.

I hope that you will have an enjoyable evening.

Phyllis Spencer



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Colin Pile

On the surface the play appears to be all about spies and spying but it is more about a family trying to cope with a situation beyond their control.

My role as Bob is one of an ordinary man torn between his loyalty to the country and his family. By agreeing

to help the authorities he creates family tensions and puts his loved ones in danger.

The fact that it is based on real people makes the play more thought provoking. Could you question the friendship of a neighbour on the request of a stranger?

Elinor Fitchett

I play the character of Julie.

This is my first role with Wimborne Drama and my first performance at the Tivoli Theatre. I have enjoyed participating in this play and getting to know the other actors, they have been very welcoming and kind to me.

My favourite scene in the play is the breakfast scene where you first meet Julie. My favourite line in the play is also in this scene, "I'll have an apple," so watch out for it.

I also go to a weekly drama group called Stagewise and perform in The Gang Show with the Guides. I have done a lot of shows, mainly musicals, but this is my first acting role. I have performed at the Regents Centre in Christchurch, the Pier Theatre and the Pavilion Theatre in Bournemouth, and the Lighthouse in Poole.

I have enjoyed working with all the cast and crew and have learned a great deal from Phyllis. I hope I will be able to perform another play with them soon.



Penny Pearson

On my first reading of *Pack of Lies*, I couldn't really see the relevance to our world today what with the cold war being long over and our idea of spies being shaped by the likes of James Bond. However, the more I looked

into it, the more I became aware of its relevance. Loyalty, friendship and betrayal are, of course, timeless themes but even the political landscape is much the same if we simply swap the cold war for the so-called 'war on terror'. I feel so desperately sorry for Barbara with her torn loyalties and her inability to reconcile what's required of her with what she believes deep down is the right thing. There's a line of hers in the play: "People don't stop being people just because they've done something wrong. They still have feelings." It's her compassion that's her downfall...



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Chrissie Neal

Playing a real person, even if a slightly fictionalised version of that person, is always an exciting and rewarding challenge. Thanks to the wonders of the world wide web, there is plenty of research material out there about the Portland Spy Ring and those involved, including Helen Kroger.



This helps to give the character some flesh and bones – you learn about her background, the people she associated with, and it helps you understand why Helen Kroger was the person she was. Of course, and without giving too much away, Helen Kroger was herself “acting” – performing the part of the loud, colourful, dizzy (but affectionate) neighbour for the audience of the Jacksons, while behaving quite differently when “at work” passing on military secrets to the Russians. Now that takes some nerve.

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Graham Hawkins

It is interesting that spying is once again in the news. What is the motivation for people to enter this profession? Looking at my character, Peter Kroger, a clue can be found in his final soliloquy. Peter is incensed by the devastating effect the collapse of the American Dream

during the Great Depression had on so many people. There was widespread suffering. He is angry ‘that such noble ideals have been betrayed...’ He seeks solutions in the works of Marx and Lenin and concludes that Communism would be fairer than a system that is driven by the vagaries of market forces. So he worked with the USSR to see the demise of Capitalism.

An interesting piece of trivia from my research is that it would appear that Karl Marx would only drink herbal fruit teas as he had sympathy for the notion that proper tea was theft!

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Richard Neal

Stewart is the only entirely fictional character in the play. He describes himself somewhat euphemistically as a "civil servant"; in fact he works for MI5. Before starting *Pack of Lies*, Hugh Whitmore wrote to the man in charge of MI5's day-to-day handling of the Kroger case asking for an informal interview. "The gentleman replied most courteously," said Whitmore, "but regretted that he was unable to meet me. His former masters had imposed a total embargo on interviews of any sort." I like to think that my Mr Stewart is courteous, but "very good at my job" which often means being economical with the facts, as befitting the world in which he moves. It has been a fascinating few weeks, rehearsing this play about events that happened 50 years ago, while at the same time reading in the news about the vast network of Russian spies apparently at work in this country today. Plus ça change...



Steph Katz

This is my first role with Wimborne Drama and I am very excited to be appearing at the wonderful Tivoli Theatre! I am playing Thelma, one of Mr Stewart's "girls" who come to observe the Krogers. I must confess that I did not know very much about the Portland Spy Ring, or for that matter Clark Gable and Richard Burton (Thelma's favourite movie stars, in case you were wondering), until beginning rehearsals for the play – they weren't on the syllabus at QE School! So it has been a real history lesson.



Louise Tegerdine

I only moved to Wimborne last summer and have really enjoyed getting to know members of Wimborne Drama through this production. As well as playing the role of agent Sally, I will be busy backstage helping with props under the stage management of Tracey Nicholls. I love the community feel of the Tivoli and have enjoyed getting to know the theatre from behind the scenes. I look forward to getting involved with other Wimborne Drama productions in future.



Poole and Parkstone Productions
present

BEDROOM FARCE

by Alan Ayckbourn

3rd, 4th & 5th March, 7.30pm

The Barrington Theatre, Ferndown.
information & tickets tel. 894858



**Tracey Nicholls
Company
Stage Manager**

The last time I stage managed a Wimborne Drama production was back in 2002 when we performed *An Inspector Calls*. I confess that I was really more of a Props Mistress and the late, much loved resident stage manager of

the Tivoli, Ashley Thorne, really did all the hard work during the performances. It is with pride and not a little trepidation that I will be sitting in the same chair as Ashley when you watch *Pack of Lies*.

The experience of being stage manager has certainly been interesting, formative and enjoyable. Such a lot of hard work goes on behind the scenes to create the magic which is theatre – it has certainly given me a greater insight into the depth of detail and preparation that is needed to bring a play to life. I would like to say a huge “Thank You” to my ASMs Louise and Lizzie who have been a joy to work with and have put in 100% with such good humour and dedication – you would never know that they hadn’t done this before (well, you wouldn’t have if I hadn’t just told you!)

The cast have also been wonderful to work with – both old friends and new faces have been really supportive and my only regret is that I won’t get to see them as you will! I would also like to thank Phil Wood, the Tivoli Stage Manager, and the Tivoli team who have been incredibly helpful and patient with this “rookie”. Lastly, I would like to thank our super director, Phyllis. She has invested a lot of time and energy in helping me get to grips with the SM role and it has been a pleasure working with her.

I hope that you will enjoy your time in the home of Jackson family as they go through the most extraordinary situation in the most ordinary of settings – but perhaps, during the interval, you might spare a thought for me and the backstage team making sure that your disbelief remains in a state of suspension!



CAST

BOB JACKSON	COLIN PILE
BARBARA JACKSON	PENNY PEARSON
JULIE JACKSON	ELINOR FITCHETT
HELEN KROGER	CHRISSIE NEAL
PETER KROGER	GRAHAM HAWKINS
MR STEWART	RICHARD NEAL
THELMA	STEPH KATZ
SALLY	LOUISE TEGERDINE

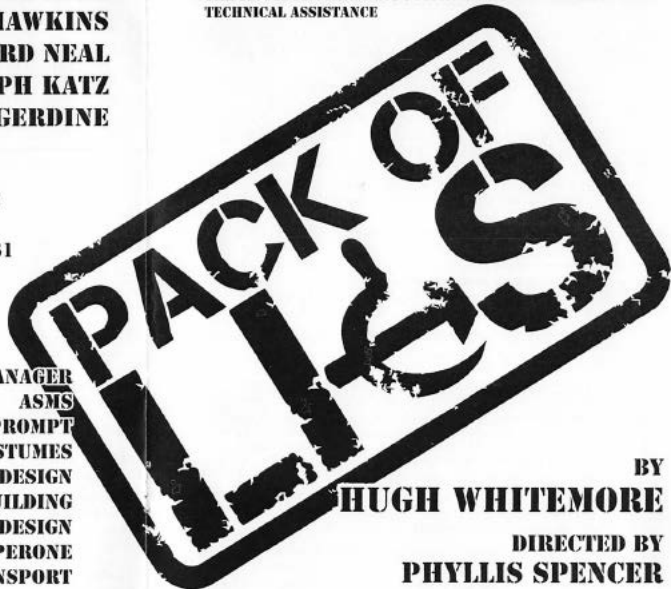
THE ACTION TAKES PLACE IN THE
JACKSON'S HOUSE BETWEEN
NOVEMBER 1960 AND JANUARY 1961

CREW

TRACEY NICHOLLS	STAGE MANAGER
LIZZIE PETERS, LOUISE TEGERDINE	ASMS
PHIL SPENCER	PROMPT
CAROLYN HEWITT	COSTUMES
COLIN PILE	SET DESIGN
COLIN PILE, MARK ELLEN	SET BUILDING
GARY HAYTON	SOUND DESIGN
VERENA SMITH	CHAPERONE
STEVE SYMONDS	TRANSPORT

THANKS TO:

- **KRYSTYNA EVANS AND TONY THORNTON FOR LOAN OF ARTIST'S MATERIALS AND PAINTINGS**
- **POOLE & PARKSTONE PRODUCTIONS FOR THE LOAN OF FURNITURE**
- **DOUBLES FOOD AND DRINK FOR TRANSPORT**
- **MEMBERS OF WIMBORNE DRAMA FOR HELP WITH SET CONSTRUCTION, PROPRIETES, PROGRAMMES, COSTUMES ETC.**
- **THE TIVOLI THEATRE PRODUCTION TEAM FOR LIGHTING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**



BY
HUGH WHITEMORE

DIRECTED BY
PHYLLIS SPENCER

DIRECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

As I was preparing the play I felt that the Cold War was well in the past, and issues of spying were no longer relevant. However, events have proved me wrong; a few months ago the deportation of a suspected Russian spy was headline news. It seems that there are just as many spies in Britain now as there were at the height of the Cold War. Although we are no longer a major military power we still have information that other countries want badly enough to resort to deceit. The spies in this play were stealing secret information about the guidance and defence systems on our submarines; that is still the case today!

However, I have always felt that the play was relevant today. Russian spies are not frequently in the news, but terrorists certainly are. And they live in ordinary neighbourhoods just as the Cold War spies did.

And so the same questions remain. Is everyone as ordinary as they look? Could your neighbours be deceiving you? How would you feel if it was suggested that your friends were not what they seemed? Clearly they have deceived you. But if you knew that MI5 was close to arresting them and you did not warn them, would you be guilty of betraying them? There are two sides to every coin, and clearly they have not been telling you the whole truth. But does that make it acceptable for you to help MI5 collect evidence against them and arrest them? What effect would such a dilemma have on your family?

Pack of Lies tells the story of what happened to one family in such a situation.

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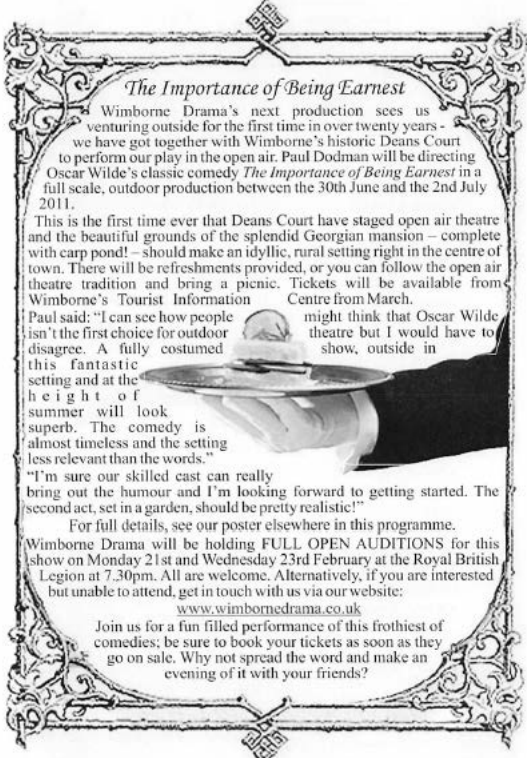
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The Importance of Being Earnest

Wimborne Drama's next production sees us venturing outside for the first time in over twenty years - we have got together with Wimborne's historic Deans Court to perform our play in the open air. Paul Dodman will be directing Oscar Wilde's classic comedy *The Importance of Being Earnest* in a full scale, outdoor production between the 30th June and the 2nd July 2011.

This is the first time ever that Deans Court have staged open air theatre and the beautiful grounds of the splendid Georgian mansion - complete with carp pond! - should make an idyllic, rural setting right in the centre of town. There will be refreshments provided, or you can follow the open air theatre tradition and bring a picnic. Tickets will be available from Wimborne's Tourist Information Centre from March.

Paul said: "I can see how people might think that Oscar Wilde isn't the first choice for outdoor theatre but I would have to disagree. A fully costumed show, outside in

this fantastic setting and at the height of summer will look superb. The comedy is almost timeless and the setting less relevant than the words."

"I'm sure our skilled cast can really bring out the humour and I'm looking forward to getting started. The second act, set in a garden, should be pretty realistic!"

For full details, see our poster elsewhere in this programme.

Wimborne Drama will be holding **FULL OPEN AUDITIONS** for this show on Monday 21st and Wednesday 23rd February at the Royal British Legion at 7.30pm. All are welcome. Alternatively, if you are interested but unable to attend, get in touch with us via our website:

www.wimbornedrama.co.uk

Join us for a fun filled performance of this frothiest of comedies; be sure to book your tickets as soon as they go on sale. Why not spread the word and make an evening of it with your friends?

Wimborne Drama Patrons

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Edward Childe
Robin Cook (H)
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Linda Pawley
Patricia Pile
Pamela Wood
H signifies honorary

President of Wimborne Drama
Councillor Anthony Oliver MBE

Join Our Pack

It's no deception that Wimborne Drama gives a warm welcome to anyone who would like to become a new member. We take pride in the opportunities we like to offer willing new-comers. Actors, advertisers, designers, prompters, property masters, sound- light- and effects- people, stage managers, assistant stage managers, photographers, woodworkers, electricians, play readers, directors... people get up to all sorts of business in our club.

Our regular meetings are on the last Wednesday of each month, where people interested in finding out about what's going on are always welcome. You can also learn of our latest doings by reading about us at our website:

www.wimbornedrama.co.uk

Wimborne Drama also enjoys the loyal and enthusiastic support of our patrons, entitled by their special membership to advance notification of plays, a priority booking service, a quarterly newsletter, refreshments (at our Friday night performances), and invitations to our other events throughout the year.

Tracey Nicholls, keeps an open welcome for enquiries on **01202 889768**, or via e-mail address:

secretary@wimbornedrama.co.uk

OPEN AUDITIONS!

Wimborne Drama will be holding
FULL OPEN AUDITIONS for

The Importance of Being Earnest

on Monday 21st and Wednesday 23rd February at the Royal British Legion at 7.30pm. All are welcome. Alternatively, if you are interested but unable to attend, get in touch with us via our website:

www.wimbornedrama.co.uk

The Upper Crust

In our next play, Oscar Wilde's trivial comedy for serious people *The Importance of Being Earnest*, careful appreciation is given to the provision and consumption of a simple delicacy indispensable to the satisfactory pursuit of graceful living, the perfect cucumber sandwich. At the capable hands of Lane the butler, the restorative and restful qualities of this deceptively uncomplicated comestible are dependably dispensed at that most civilised of gatherings, teatime.

Sadly Oscar Wilde has left no detailed guidelines as to the actual preparation of the desirable delicacy itself, but here Wimborne Drama, ever solicitous of its loyal audience, humbly offers the fruits of its own researches into the subject.

Lane's recipe for the cucumber sandwich

Ingredients

- * 1 long, firm, young English cucumber (if necessary, purchase for ready money)
- * salt
- * fine ground white pepper
- * 1 loaf white or brown bread,
- * softened butter

Method

- * Slice the cucumber very thinly. Salt the slices lightly and place in colander for at least 15 minutes to drain. Press to release water; pat dry with fine linen towels.
- * Spread one side of each slice of bread with the creamed butter. Avoid getting butter on your cuffs.
- * Lay a double layer of cucumber slices onto half the bread slices.
- * Season the cucumber with pepper.
- * Place a slice of bread over the top of the cucumber and press down lightly.
- * Repeat for each sandwich.
- * Trim the crusts off each sandwich, and cut them into either 3 rectangles, 4 triangles, 4 squares or 4 octagonals (squares with the corners trimmed off).
- * Arrange neatly on a serving plate. Decorate discretely with some sprigs of mint and thinly sliced cucumber.
- * Serve immediately and impeccably.

Thanks to Tom

Wimborne Drama is pleased to feature for *The Importance of Being Earnest* the splendid graphic designed by Tom Lewis.

A Year 13 student at Sturminster Newton High School, Tom is dealing with A levels at the moment, and wants to go on to study Graphics and Design at university – the technical end of Art. Tom is adding to his portfolio with website photos and press release work for the school.

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Broadstone Players are performing *Out of Focus*, a comedy by Peter Gordon, from 15th to 19th February in the War Memorial Hall, Tudor Road, Broadstone at 7.45pm. This "comic romp of a play" promises a funny and entertaining evening. Come and meet a wonderful mix of colourful characters and brighten up another of the dull and dismal winter evenings.

Tickets are available from Broadstone News on the Broadway, Broadstone and on the door. They are £7.50 and there is a special offer of 'two for a tenner' on 15th and 16th. There will be a licenced bar from Wednesday to Saturday, with tea and coffee every evening

www.broadstoneplayers.org.uk

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