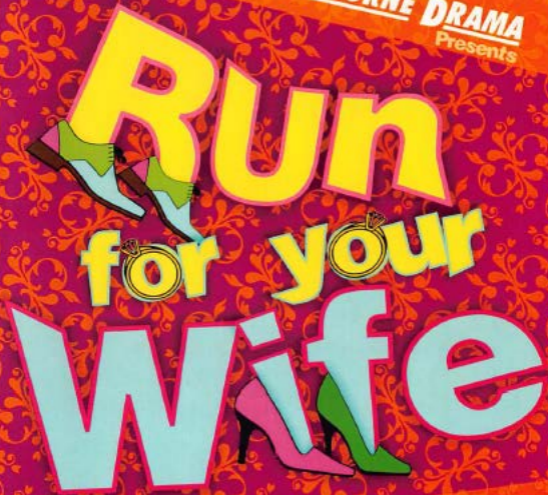


WIMBORNE DRAMA
Presents

Run for your Wife

The title 'Run for your Wife' is rendered in a playful, bubbly font. The word 'Run' is in yellow with a pink outline. 'for your' is in yellow with a pink outline, with two diamond rings integrated into the letters 'o' and 'y'. 'Wife' is in light blue with a pink outline. The background is a vibrant orange and red floral pattern. The entire title is set against a dark red background with a repeating floral motif.

A Farce by Ray Cooney
Directed by Barry Baynton

Witness
for the
Prosecution



By **Agatha Christie**

Wimborne Drama's next production

Thursday 4th June to Saturday 6th June

Saturday Matinee



Directed by

**David
Pile**

Wimborne Drama *Run For Your Wife* by Ray Cooney.

Two wives, one taxi, no chance!

Ray Cooney's best farce is the story of happy but exhausted London cabbie John Smith, who's busy schedule juggles two households separated by a short taxi ride. Things go wrong when, knocked silly after stopping to intervene in a mugging, he can't maintain his careful timetable. Soon he has to satisfy the suspicions of not only a wife, but also a policeman at each of his two addresses. With the "help" of his layabout friend Stanley, can he keep all his secrets safe? Not a hope!

Wimborne Drama's veteran performer Barry Baynton confessed his affection for the play. "We've done it before," he said, "but the piece is so good we couldn't resist this chance at a revival." Barry generously gave up his favourite role to take over the duties of directing this new production. "I love Pussy Porterhouse, the policeman who'd rather be an agony aunt," he admitted. "I'm hoping no one will fall ill, but if they do I am ready to step in at the last minute!"

There's little chance of that, the cast have had too much fun getting to grips with Cooney's gallery of irate wives, wandering transvestites, precious dress designer, unfrocked nun and mummiesetshire farmer. From a time long before P.C., the play rejoices in colourful characterisations which have been gleefully embraced by the cast of Wimborne Drama regulars. Andy Cragg plays John Smith, and Rob Cording is his feeble sidekick Stanley. Bringing an extra dimension to the idea of a happily married couple, Caroline Papp and Penny Pearson display frustration and glamour in equal measures as his two wives Mary and Barbara, while, with more than a passing interest in off the shoulder numbers, Graham Hawkins is Bobby, the dress-designer neighbour from upstairs. Simon Jackson brings his trade-mark sly humour to the part of Sergeant Porterhouse, and he has been guarding his tea very carefully, just in case Barry tries to slip a little something into it and take over his part. Jeremy Austin continues upholding the law as Sergeant Troughton.

Split-second timing and high-speed entrances, double talk and double takes are all present as expected in any classic farce, but in *Run For Your Wife* Ray Cooney's inventiveness goes a step further. The ingenious staging of the play calls for both residences to be in view simultaneously. Literally half the settee is in Wimbledon and the other half in Streatham. An actor sitting at one end of the sofa might well find that to speak to someone at the other end, he has to use the phone!

We hope this famous comedy will bring an excellent evening's enjoyment to all our audience, and that you have come to see us with all your friends, all your relatives, and as many of your wives as you can catch.

Cast Notes...



Caroline Papp: My character Mary is your regular homely sort who is quite happy with her commonplace husband and ordinary life....well she believes it is all normal but is in for a huge shock! Mary provides a cosy, relaxing and loving home for John who gives her a sense of purpose while she fusses over him, lavishing cuddles and basically does pretty much everything for him. Mary definitely needs to get in touch with her feminist side and stop being such a doormat. My favourite line would be; *A nun? Is that what you've been saying about me? Just because I like my sex normal?* My most annoying and monotonous line; *Oh John!*

Penny Pearson: This isn't the first time I've played Barbara in *Run For Your Wife* and I'm not sure if I'm more surprised that she hasn't learnt her lesson or that I haven't! It's very interesting to see how a different cast approaches the same play and, I'm pleased to report, it's just as much fun as it was the first time around. I still had to learn the lines again, unfortunately, since it's been so long since I did it previously. If we could just keep doing the same play over and over again it would be much easier for us actors...!



Andy Cragg: Playing John Smith in *Run For Your Wife* is the most challenging role I've ever had! As well as the mountain of lines to learn (including my favourite - *I'm right randy*, and my least favourite - one where John explains about mixed up hospital records ... I still don't know what it means), there's the added challenge of making farcical situations appear almost normal. John Smith is a great character to play because of the constant changes of direction and plot - which he so desperately stirs up. I feel honoured to be in this great play with such a talented Wimborne Drama cast, I do hope you enjoy it!

Jeremy Austin: Nothing gets past Det Sgt Troughton! Well nothing large and slow, anyway. Like Penny, my pursuit of the wives is a re-run. I played Troughton when I first joined Wimborne Drama, with Barry Baynton as my opposite number, Porterhouse. Barry has now moved on into management as Director of this production, while I retain a pedestrian preoccupation with leg work, and a terribly suspicious mind. My reward for all this vigilance is that I get the last word!



Rob Cording: Stanley Gardner has been a great role for me to play as he is an extremely comical part, and has so many classic lines. This being the first time I have ever done a farce, it is great to have been given the opportunity to learn many new skills such as playing up to the audience, comic timing and playing it straight (the comedy that is). Whether I pull these skills off successfully or not is for you to decide tonight. *Run For Your Wife* has been a great pleasure to be involved with and being directed by Barry Baynton again has been a joy!



Simon Jackson: *I'm just being the good fairy.* says dear old Det Sgt Porterhouse, and this just about sums up his character, quite the contrast to his opposite number the hard-nosed Det Sgt Troughton from the Wimbledon force. As a police detective, Porterhouse is completely clueless and probably would have been better employed as a marriage guidance counselor. *I know how important a happy marriage is.* he says, and he ought to know having lasted 30 years together with his 'Gruesome'. *It's just a joke* he says, confessing that she calls him 'Pussy'.



Graham Hawkins: Bobby has given me an opportunity to expand my repertoire, if not my credibility, in a way that only playing a 'flamboyant dress designer' can allow. Many actors take roles outside their norm to test their abilities, such as Michael Ball as Edna Turnblad in *Hairspray*, and Sir Ian McKellen as Widow Twankey. There's also Christopher Biggins.

I have approached Bobby carefully and with affection; he has been a pleasure to get to know and I hope this comes out in my performance, a homage to all the 'Bobby's' that have appeared in all those stage productions. Also, I hope that you will be able to spot the double entendres that I have been working on. Yet below the surface there is the real me. I can really hear myself saying Bobby's line, *Yes! To hell with the diet.*



David Brown: Last time I stage-managed at the Tivoli was with our production of *The Talented Mr Ripley*, where I spent time crawling around in dusty and dark wings looking for visual cues in the black-outs. Naturally, when Barry asked me to SM for *Run For Your Wife*, I jumped at the opportunity! And even better, I even make an appearance as the Reporter. Not so easy as you may think – my fear of taking a prompt with just 5 lines is increased tenfold. Imagine the embarrassment of forgetting one of those – well it just couldn't happen – could it?



WIMBORNE DRAMA

Presents
**Run For
Your Wife**

THE CAST

Mary Smith	Caroline Papp
Barbara Smith	Penny Pearson
John Smith	Andy Cragg
Det. Sgt. Troughton	Jeremy Austin
Stanley Gardner	Rob Cording
Newspaper Reporter	David Brown
Det. Sgt. Porterhouse	Simon Jackson
Bobby Franklin	Graham Hawkins

The action of the play takes place in John Smith's flats in Wimbledon and Streatham *simultaneously*.

WIMBORNE DRAMA

BACKSTAGE

DIRECTOR	Barry Baynton
STAGE MANAGER	David Brown
ASMs	Caroline Butcher Paul Hewitt Chrissie & Richard Neal Steve Symonds
PHOTOGRAPHY	Tony Feltham
POSTER DESIGN	Kevin Wilkins

Thanks to:

- The Tivoli Theatre production team for lighting and technical assistance
- Members of Wimborne Drama for help with set construction, properties, programmes etc.

Director's Notes

Ray Cooney is without doubt one of the most prolific writers of farce. With *Funny Money*, *It Runs in the Family*, *Out of Order* and *Caught in the Net*, his successes maintained coach parties into London's West End. It was, however, *Run For Your Wife* that was to create history. By far Cooney's greatest achievement it became London's longest running comedy, keeping three theatres busy over a nine-year period.

Cooney's plot matches his writing, for *Run For Your Wife* is without doubt bonkers and, well... pure farce. He is a master of creating so many situations within the main plot that you wonder just how much more could be created.

So, hello and welcome to Wimborne Drama's latest production. We first presented *Run For Your Wife* during 1996, when one Jeremy Austin played Sgt. Troughton, so no change there! Yours truly undertook Sgt. Porterhouse, and it is repeated elsewhere how much I love this chap and shall miss him this time round.

Now though, I am promoted to Director. I am very grateful to the hard working and dedicated cast, and I must mention Caroline Papp who is undertaking her first major role. As always the cast also work to promote the production, develop the set and undertake duties that few members wish to do. So for this and indeed to a small band of helpers, thanks so much.

Joe Brooks directed our first production with the printed comment, *If there is a moral message in the play it is probably 'If you commit bigamy, keep your wives apart!'* I am very happy to repeat the sentiment.

With *Caught in the Net*, Ray Cooney moves our hero John Smith on some seventeen years, and you can't imagine what Stanley has been up to... Luckily though you can find out during May, for as I write I am about to direct Broadstone Players in this sequel. Enjoy yourselves and thanks for coming.

Barry Baynton

If you were to ask Barry Baynton how long he has been associated with Wimborne Drama, he probably couldn't tell you. An enthusiastic player and inventive director, his long list of productions with Wimborne Drama at the Tivoli goes back at least as far as 1994, and reads like the catalogue of a script library. His credits as director with Wimborne Drama include *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime*, *Habeas Corpus*, *Ten Times Table*, *The Lion in Winter*, *Loot*, *Relatively Speaking*, and this present production of *Run For Your Wife*.

Not an enthusiast for the box set, Barry's directorial style is known for its trademark minimalism, though his familiarly plain approach belies Barry's energy and endeavour in venturing at plays only rarely attempted. *Forty Years On*, with its disjoint narrative and enormous cast of public school-boys, was a particular example.

Barry's involvement in over twenty productions on the Tivoli stage since the theatre opened in 1994 is clear record of his devotion to amateur theatre.

Join Us...



Wimborne Drama stages three productions each year. We always welcome new members, with or without previous experience. As well as those with a liking for acting or directing, people with a keen interest in the less glamorous, but equally valuable, backstage roles (set construction, properties, make-up etc) are very warmly welcomed into our group.

We meet on the last Thursday of the month to discuss forthcoming productions, events and other business matters. Rehearsals are usually on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Membership costs £30 per year or £15 for juniors (under 16).

On the other hand, if you prefer to be front of house enjoying a good night out, you might like to become a Patron. For a minimum donation of only £30 per year, patrons of Wimborne Drama enjoy a number of privileges including:

- A free ticket to each Wimborne Drama production
- Notification of plays and priority booking service
- A quarterly newsletter to keep you up-to-date with Wimborne Drama news
- A free theatre programme for each production
- An invitation to join the cast and crew for drinks and nibbles after Friday night performances
- Invitations to other events throughout the year

If you would like further information, please ring our Community Manager Boo on 01202 885659, e-mail: communitymanager@wimboredrama.co.uk, or visit our website at: www.wimboredrama.co.uk

About Us...

Wimborne Drama was formed in November 1928 by a group of enthusiasts, led by an English teacher at the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Leonard 'Motty' Mottram. With the original purpose of being a social club for theatre goers, the group called themselves 'The Wimborne Dramatic Society'. In 1932 the bold step of actually staging a production was taken, with an ambitious first project, *Ambrose Applejohn's Adventure*, which had a cast of over forty people. The few remaining photographs show that it was a rather stylish affair.

After the war, the group merged with Wimborne Operatic Society, a short lived relationship due to the high-cost of staging operatic productions. A sad but amiable parting took place, from which Wimborne Drama Club emerged. Early plays were staged at the Women's Institute Hall, until it was demolished, and then at Church House. In 1970 the Allendale Centre opened, and the club at last had a permanent home where it remained for the next 24 years.

In 1994 came a major step forward when the Tivoli Theatre re-opened and Wimborne Drama was invited to become the resident amateur group. We haven't looked back since, and last summer celebrated our 80th anniversary with a fantastic evening of fun and frolics attended by many old and current supporters and members. True to our founders aims, Wimborne Drama holds many wider social activities, which makes another fantastic reason to join us and get in on the fun!

CHURCHILL PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS...

Hobson's Choice

A Lancashire Comedy by Harold Brighouse

Directed by Anthony Boncza

26 & 27 March at 7:30, 28 March at 2:30 and 7:30

29 March at 3:00

£8, concessions £6.50 Group bookings available

Tivoli Theatre, Wimborne

Box Office: 01202 885566

Wimborne Drama Patrons (H signifies honorary)

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Rod Allison
Frances Alton
Anne Angel
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Lynda Bellingham (H)
Beverley Blehs
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**12 - 16
May**

**War Memorial Hall
Tudor Road
Broadstone**

8.00pm

Admission: £6

2 for 1 on Tuesday

Tickets available from April 21 at Broadstone News, The Broadway, Broadstone
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