

This amateur production of A BUNCH OF AMATEURS is presented
by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH LTD



A BUNCH OF AMATEURS

Ian Hislop & Nick Newman's hilarious comedy



The Village Hall, Escrick
16-18 May 2024 – 7.30pm
www.mondayplayers.com

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80's

SAT
21ST
DEC

90's

MENU

Roasted Tomato Soup
served in a mug with a mini loaf

Roast Turkey
Roast Root Vegetables & Traditional Trimmings

Vegetarian / Vegan Option
Vegetable Wellington & Trimmings

Mince Pie Cheesecake
Brandy Butter Anglaise

EVENT ONLY

£47
PER PERSON

ENTERTAINMENT
3 COURSE MEAL

STAY THE NIGHT

£115
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EVENT
BED & BREAKFAST

OVERNIGHT STAY BASED ON A MINIMUM
OF 2 PEOPLE SHARING A ROOM

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

An amateur dramatics group putting on a play about an amateur dramatics group putting on a production of King Lear... what's so complicated about that! Well, just about everything.

Oftentimes, directors have had previous experience of a play before choosing to direct it; perhaps as an audience member, involvement with another group, or seeing on the TV or big screen. I had no prior knowledge of A Bunch of Amateurs; I was coming into this cold (although I seem to recall I had heard of the title, and I was familiar with writer Ian Hislop). I do now know that it is a very popular choice for fellow am-drammers, and I can see why... the writing is superb, it's a stonker of a play.

From the outset I knew I wanted to stage the play in a semi-immersive style, and to challenge myself by it being a different layout to the previous plays I had directed. I wanted the village hall to become the 'barn' and to use much of the space in and around the audience. Don't worry, you won't be grabbed out of your seats to perform... it's not that kind of immersive!

The complexity of this play spans all elements of this production. The sound and lighting are more technical than usual (and will be keeping the tech crew very busy). The stage crew have not only umpteen scene changes to make, but they are also required as voices off and bodies on stage, multi-tasking at its finest!

And my wonderful cast, you are amazing! Being oh so familiar with the shenanigans of an am-dram group, one might expect it has been a straightforward task bringing the characters to life - it hasn't – not that I am comparing any of The Monday Players cast with the much less desirable Stratford Players.

This play has required them to learn hundreds of lines, 17 different scenes, a copious number of entrances and exits, recite text from King Lear, and sing and dance (of sorts). To be performance ready we have had to max out and make use of every second in our rehearsals; add in the many hours at home planning, preparing, and learning, this has been no easy feat. A few weeks ago, we received the devastating news of the tragic loss of our friend and fellow member, Nick Leaf, and I thank my cast and crew for rallying and navigating their way through this deeply upsetting time to ensure the 'show must go on'. I'm certain Nick would have loved this production... likely wanting to be in it.

Dedication, commitment, good humour, kindness, and friendship – I couldn't be prouder or have wished for more.

I hope you enjoy this production as much as we have.

Thank you for your continued support and patronage, without you, there is no show!

Nicki



NICK NEWMAN

Nick Newman is an award-winning cartoonist and writer. He has worked for Private Eye since 1981 and has been pocket cartoonist for The Sunday Times since 1989. His cartoons have appeared in many other publications including The Guardian, Punch and The Spectator. He was The Cartoon Art Trust's Pocket/Gag Cartoonist of the Year in 1997, 1998, 2005 and 2016. He won the Sports Journalists' Association's Cartoonist of the Year award in 2005, 2007 and 2009. In 2013 he edited the humour bestseller Private Eye: A Cartoon History.

His scriptwriting career with Ian Hislop began with Spitting Image, and continued with Dawn French's Murder Most Horrid and The Harry Enfield Show – with the creation of Tim Nice-But-Dim. They also wrote the BBC1 film Gobble and the sitcom My Dad's the Prime Minister. In 2008 their film A Bunch of Amateurs starring Burt Reynolds was chosen for the Royal Film Performance, before being adapted for the stage at the Watermill Theatre. In 2014 their film The Wipers Times won the Broadcast Press Guild Award for best single drama, and was nominated for a BAFTA, before its stage adaptation and sell-out tour.

Radio credits include many series of Dave Podmore for Radio 4 with Christopher Douglas and Andrew Nickolds, along with Mastering the Universe, starring Dawn French. With Ian Hislop, he also wrote Radio 4's Gush, Greed All About It, What Went Wrong With the Olympics?, The News at Bedtime and Trial by Laughter.

IAN HISLOP

Ian Hislop is a writer and broadcaster and has been editor of Private Eye since 1986. He has been a columnist for The Listener and The Sunday Telegraph, and TV critic for The Spectator. As a scriptwriter with Nick Newman, his work includes five years on Spitting Image, Harry Enfield and Chums, and My Dad's the Prime Minister, as well as the film and play A Bunch of Amateurs. He has written and presented many documentaries for TV and radio including: Radio 4's The Real Patron Saints, A Brief History of Tax, Are We Being As Offensive As We Might Be, Lord Kitchener's Image, The Six Faces of Henry VIII and I've Never Seen Star Wars. He also presented TV's Great Railway Journeys – East to West, Scouting for Boys, Not Forgotten, Ian Hislop Goes Off The Rails, Ian Hislop's Changing of the Bard, Age of the Do-Gooders, When Bankers Were Good, Stiff Upper Lip: An Emotional History of Britain, Ian Hislop's Olden Days and Victorian Benefits: Workers and Shirkers.

He has appeared frequently on Question Time and since 1990 has been team captain on BBC's Have I Got News For You – which has won many awards including the BAFTA for Best Comedy 2016. Most recently he and Nick Newman wrote the critically acclaimed 2016 Radio 4 comedy drama Trial By Laughter. In 2016 their play The Wipers Times was premiered and had a successful run at The Watermill Theatre, before a sell-out tour and transfer to the West End.

THANKS

Escrick & Deighton Village Hall users

Sam Bolsher (Hot Tap Dance School)

Sally Clarke & her team (Pre-School)

Kate Wolmersley (Derwent Danceworks)

Wright's Mobility

Joseph Rowntree Theatre

York Theatre Royal

Riccallish Allsorts

Shiptonthorpe Community Players

Cliff Baillie | Richard Waud | John Parker | Peter Reed

Nancy Waters | Tom Massey | Peter Warner

Anita & Barrie Shipley

PATRONS

Welcome to our new patrons of The Monday Players

Sandra Horne | Frank Lefley | Dawn Price | Raymond Price

If you are interested in becoming a patron of the society, please contact Nicki at chair@mondayplayers.com for further details.

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TEN YEARS AGO...

TITLE: Salt Of The Earth

PLAYWRIGHT: John Godber

PERFORMANCES: 15th-17th May 2014

DIRECTOR: Jill Pearson

CAST

May – Nicki Clay

Annie – Linda Baillie

Harry – David Lane

Roy – Samuel Valentine

Paul / Mr Poole – Phil Pickering

Kay / Cherry – Lucy Dawes

Tosh – Ed Kisby

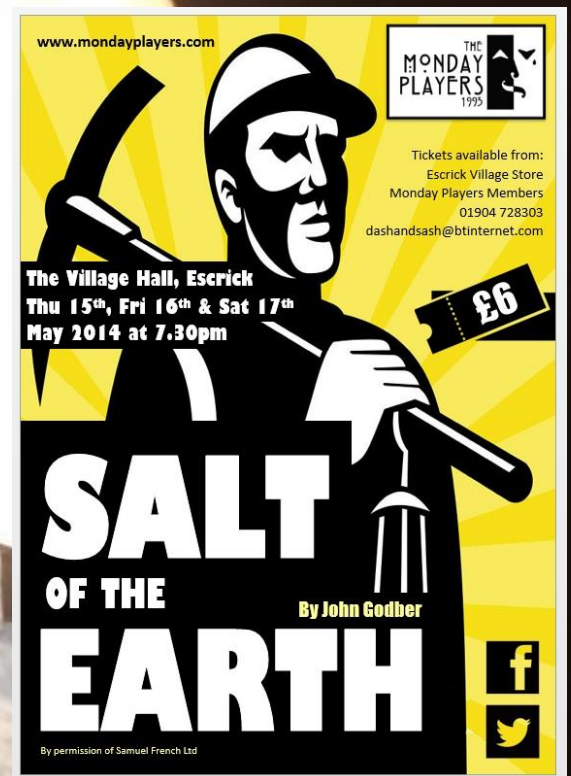
Mrs Potter – Norma Nicholson

Mrs Gillespie – Lisa Valentine

SYNOPSIS

A richly humorous, affectionate and touching portrait of life in the West Yorkshire coalfields. Spanning three generations, from 1947 to the present, this compelling saga vividly captures the dreams, ambitions, joys, fears, heartaches and disappointments of the Parker sisters, Annie and May, whose hopes centre on May's son, Paul, and his academic success.

Salt of the Earth is a 1988 play about the English towns of Upton and South Kirby in Yorkshire from 1947-1988. It covers two sisters both married to coal miners. Annie marries Roy who is bent on leaving mining for a better job. May marries Harry, a confirmed lifetime miner. May and Harry communicate by arguing and bickering. Harry does nothing except work in the mines; May is a compulsive house cleaner and chronic complainer. Roy and Annie have no children.





CAST

Dorothy Nettle

Helen Lawley

Nigel Dewbury

Nigel Fisher

Mary Plunkett

Linda Baillie

Denis Dobbins

Geoff Stockill

Jefferson Steel

Trevor Brittain

Lauren Bell

Julia Millington

Jessica Steel

Alice Hoskins

The action takes place over a couple of weeks in a barn and a B&B in Stratford, and at Heathrow Airport

ACT ONE

S1. Daytime | S2. A few weeks later | S3. The same day

S4. The next morning | S5. The same morning

S6. The next day | S7. The next morning | S8. The same morning

ACT TWO

S1. Daytime | S2. Later that day | S3. Later that evening

S4. The next day | S5. A couple days later | S6. The next day

S7. The same evening | S8. The next morning

S9. A week or so later, evening | S10. The same evening

S11. A couple of days later

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between Act I and Act II when the bar will re-open.

Raffle tickets will be available from members before the start of the play. 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.

CREW

DIRECTOR & PRODUCER – Nicki Clay

STAGE DESIGN – Nicki Clay

STAGE MANAGEMENT – Jill Pearson with Rhodri Jones

PROMPT – Carol Drinkwater

REHEARSAL PHOTOGRAPHER – Nancy Waters

LIGHTING – Peter Reed with Nicki Clay and Geoff Stockill

SOUND – Nicki Clay with Geoff Stockill

HAIR & WIGS – Alan Rome

TICKET OFFICER – Helen Lawley

COSTUMES – The Monday Players, York Theatre Royal and
Shiptonthorpe Community Players

PROPS & FURNITURE – The Monday Players, Shiptonthorpe
Community Players, Joseph Rowntree Theatre, Wrights Mobility,
Riccallish Allsorts and Cliff Baillie

PUBLICITY & PROGRAMME – Graeme Parker

SET CONSTRUCTION & BUILD – Bob Wells and Andrew Faulkes with
The Monday Players

FRONT OF HOUSE – Gary Bateson with Andrew Faulkes, John Parker
and Alan Rome

BAR SERVICE – Anita Shipley and Barrie Shipley

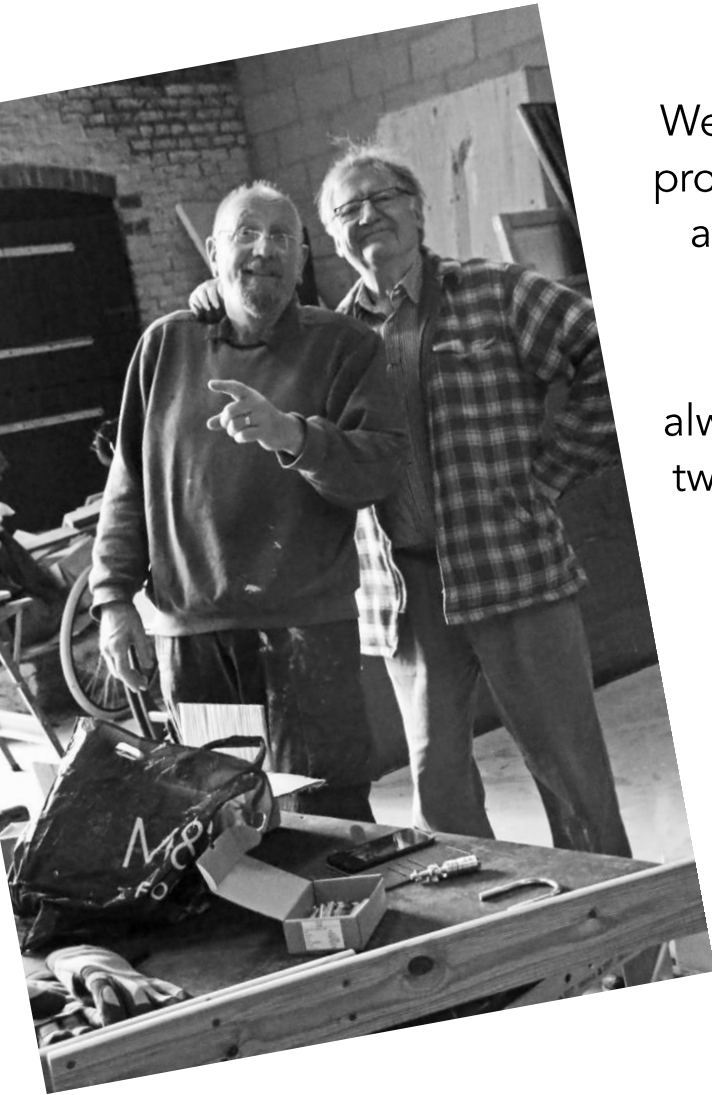
REHEARSAL REFRESHMENTS – Pamela Yates with The Monday
Players



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



JOIN THE MPP



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

We are now in our fourth decade 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 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.



MP ONLINE

WWW.MONDAYPLAYERS.COM

LATEST NEWS

All the latest news from the society including announcements, upcoming events and society socials, new members, website updates and much more...

PAST PRODUCTIONS

All the shows we have produced since The Mondays Players was founded in 1993, which reflect our interests, ambitions and challenges over the years...

PHOTO AND VIDEO GALLERIES

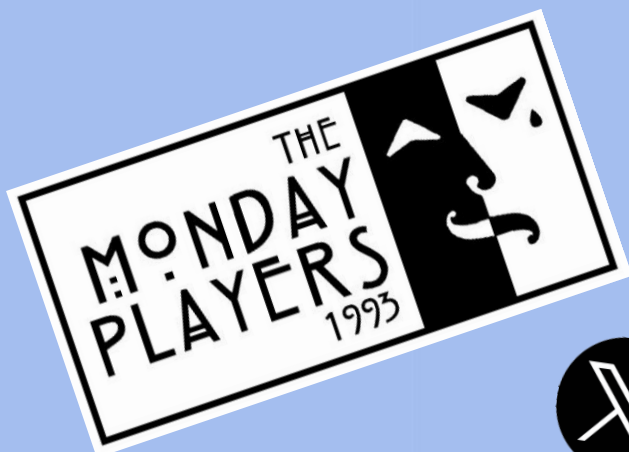
Photos/videos from all the plays, pantomimes, cabarets and rehearsals down the years...

ABOUT US

History of the society, contact details for and information on how to join our group...

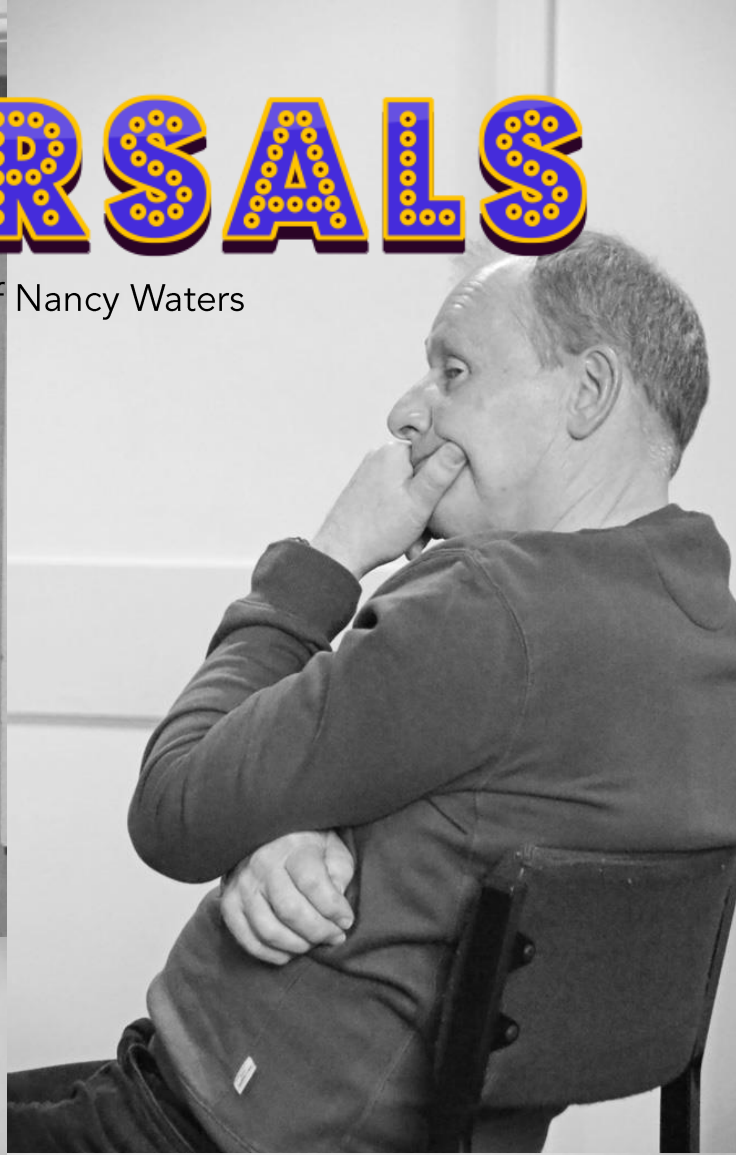
PAST & PRESENT MEMBERS

Onstage and offstage history of all the members, past and present, plus those non-member helpers who have contributed to our productions...



REHEARSALS

All photos courtesy of Nancy Waters





NICK LEAF

Remembering our friend and fellow member

We would like to dedicate this production of A Bunch of Amateurs in tribute to our friend.

Nick began performing at a young age within the farming community, based in and around Escrick. Being a natural showman he had a gift for comedy, and public speaking.

He appeared onstage in seven productions with The Monday Players and took over from Frank Atkinson as our scenery shifter - holding up the A19 traffic with his pick-up and horsebox – and his reversing manoeuvres were quite spectacular!

He might best be remembered for his splendid portrayal of Gruber in 'Allo 'Allo, and his seven-page monologue in Absurd Person Singular – which is still remembered with awe!

As you take your final bow, Nick, we applaud you with love and fond memories.



2019 - May - The Ladykillers - Louis Harvey
2018 - May - How The Vote Was Won - Cast Member
2017 - May - See How They Run - The Rev Lionel Toop
2016 - May - A Respectable Funeral - Charlie
2015 - Nov - Absurd Person Singular - Geoffrey Jackson
2014 - Nov - Relative Values - Nigel, Lord Marshwood
2005 - May - 'Allo 'Allo - Lieutenant Gruber



PAST PRODUCTIONS

| | | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| Dec 1993 | Season's Greetings | Nov 2008 | Angels In Love |
| May 1995 | The Happiest Days Of Your Life | May 2009 | Cabaret |
| Feb 1996 | When We Are Married | Nov 2009 | Natural Causes |
| Nov 1996 | Fish Out Of Water | May 2010 | Pygmalion |
| May 1997 | Breath Of Spring | Nov 2010 | Taking Steps |
| Nov 1997 | Bedroom Farce | May 2011 | Habeas Corpus |
| May 1998 | Suddenly At Home | Nov 2011 | Role Play |
| Nov 1998 | Flying Feathers | May 2012 | Diamond Jubilee Cabaret |
| May 1999 | Cabaret Evening | Nov 2012 | Key For Two |
| Nov 1999 | Stepping Out | May 2013 | Ladies' Day |
| Apr 2000 | TFAHETGDSMM | Nov 2013 | Season's Greetings |
| Jun 2000 | Millennium Cabaret | May 2014 | Salt Of The Earth |
| Nov 2000 | Celebration | Nov 2014 | Relative Values |
| May 2001 | Last Tango In Whitby | May 2015 | The Odd Couple |
| Nov 2001 | Fringe Benefits | Nov 2015 | Absurd Person Singular |
| Jun 2002 | Comedy Double Bill | May 2016 | Comedy Double Bill |
| Jan 2003 | Red Riding Hood | Nov 2016 | The Importance of Being Earnest |
| May 2003 | Joking Apart | May 2017 | See How They Run |
| Nov 2003 | Blithe Spirit | Nov 2017 | Theft |
| Mar 2004 | Sand Castles | May 2018 | How The Vote Was Won |
| Jun 2004 | Cabaret | Nov 2018 | Par For The Course |
| Nov 2004 | Daisy Pulls It Off | May 2019 | The Ladykillers |
| May 2005 | 'Allo 'Allo | Nov 2019 | Hobson's Choice |
| Nov 2005 | Lord Arthur Savile's Crime | Nov 2021 | Comedy Double Bill |
| May 2006 | Witness For The Prosecution | May 2022 | Abigail's Party |
| Nov 2006 | Party Piece | Nov 2022 | Absent Friends |
| May 2007 | Outside Edge | May 2023 | Rumours |
| Nov 2007 | Caramba's Revenge | Nov 2023 | Comedy Triple Bill |
| Apr 2008 | Comic Potential | May 2024 | A Bunch of Amateurs |