



www.mondayplayers.com

Abigail's Party

by Mike Leigh



This amateur production of
Abigail's Party is presented
by special arrangement with
SAMUEL FRENCH LTD

MAY
19-21 2022

7.30pm
The Village Hall, Escrick

The
Parsonage
Hotel & Spa

Christmas Party Nights 2022

MENU

Salad of Melon
Pomegranate Seeds

Roast Local Turkey
Traditional Trimmings & Roasted Vegetables

Vegetarian Option
Mushroom & Squash Vegetarian Wellington
Roast Potatoes, Roasted vegetables, Vegetable Jus

Mince Pie Cheesecake
Brandy Butter Anglaise

Event only **£41 per person**

3
DEC

80s Theme Evening

9
DEC

Elvis Tribute Evening

16
DEC

**Soul & Motown
Evening**

17
DEC

90s Theme Evening

or make a night
of it for only
£100.00 per person

Black Tie Dinner

MENU

Duck, Cranberry & Orange Terrine
Port & Raspberry Dressing

Roasted Butternut Squash Soup
Bread Roll

Fillet of Yorkshire Beef
Pomme Anna, Maple Carrot, Wild Mushroom,
Confit Garlic, Spinach, Merlot Jus

Sharing Assiette of Desserts
Warm Chocolate Brownie, Eton Mess
& Vanilla Cheesecake

Yorkshire Cheese & Crackers
Coffee & Truffles

Saturday

10th December 2022

**£105 per person
event only**

**£155 per person
overnight stay with
afternoon tea on arrival**

Payments:

£10 per person or £50 per room deposit required
to confirm. Final balance 4 weeks prior.

Chair's Message

Welcome to our production of Abigail's Party, by Mike Leigh.

It always amazes me how the same text can be interpreted in many, many ways. Take Shakespeare – 'traditional' productions can be just as entertaining as modern-day ones, or stylised costumes can give a nod to different eras and genres. And then again, some productions just don't work and disappear as quickly as they arrived!

So, it is with Abigail's Party – what seems a fairly dry text (which reminds me a lot of studying Pinter at A level) comes alive when presented 'in character'. To be fair, anyone presenting this show on any sort of stage was going to have to take their audience into consideration, as live theatre is very different from a TV drama (and let's face it, stage productions filmed for TV in the theatre are all very interesting, and sometimes very good, but always a little odd).

Put aside any memories you may have of the TV original, and enjoy our stage version, with its 70s throwback, attitudes from a different era, and the original Essex Girls, Bev and Ang.

Helen and our cast and crew have worked their magic, and are looking forward to sharing the show with you.

Has it dated? Do its messages still apply? You can make your own mind up about that.

Enjoy the show. (And by the way, what are your kids getting up to tonight...?)



Ken

Director's Note

Looking back, I was vaguely aware of Mike Leigh's play *Abigail's Party* when it burst on the scene in 1977 but its cult status largely passed me by until I first saw it some seven years ago. I'd been following a cohort of York DramaSoc students and went to see their production at The Drama Barn which blew me away with its mix of energy and humour. The effect was partly about the strong nostalgia I felt for the period I grew up in. But mainly for the Cast's appreciation of Leigh's wicked penmanship and the strength of the characters shining down the years. I just knew I wanted to be involved in a production one way or another. It's actually what first drew me to the Monday Players who had mentioned reading the play on their website. Now here I am directing an intimate 'in the round' interpretation with the bestest bunch of people. Happy Days!

At fourteen in 1977, I was about the right age for an invite to the eponymous *Abigail's* shenanigans but sadly way too uncool to have got one. Nor were my formative years spent in such suburban surroundings. Yet the themes and opinions in the play very much resonate with my own experience. 'My Street' was a place where people were striving to get on and better themselves in a decade of strikes and deprivations, at odds with their disdain of those who thought they were better than they were and forgot their roots. Cars were not yet forming barricades the length of the street and neighbours and extended families alike passed through the revolving doors of each other's homes. Children could happily play in the street and Jubilee celebrations united. My Mum and Dad would glam up to go out to dinner dances and freely offer hospitality at home. A well-stocked drinks cabinet with party food of the time: prawn vol-au-vents, black forest gâteau and always the 'hedgehog': a foiled spud spiked with cheese, pineapple and silverskin onions. Tupperware parties, Pippa Dee parties, lots of adult conversation for small ears to wig in on.

For me *Abigail's Party* is a smorgasbord for a tribe I know and love dearly in all their artlessness and glory. As Leigh himself says "Abigail's Party goes beyond being a comedy: it is a tragicomedy. For me personally, it is very much a play about 'us' not 'them'... These are people that we recognise and understand. The play is both a lamentation and a celebration of how we are."

Enjoy your evening!

Helen
X



Thanks

We would like to thank the following persons / organisations for their contributions to this production:

- Glyn Fussell and Rob Graham for the loan of some truly fabulous items
- David Lane for sharing his invaluable knowledge of set design
- The Parsonage Hotel, Escrick Park Estate, Stone Connection, Eliments and Derwent Danceworks for kindly advertising in the production programme – your continued support is appreciated

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 Dance School – Kate Wolmersley



PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL IS NOT PERMITTED DURING THE PERFORMANCE.



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



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION.

The Cast

Beverly

laurence

Angela

Tony

Susan

Nicki Clay

Mike Waters

linda Baillie

Trevor Britain

Jill Pearson

The action takes place in Laurence and Beverly's house

Act I Early evening in spring

Act II Later that evening

There will be an interval of 15 minutes between Act I and Act II when choc ices and bottled water will be available to purchase.

The raffle will be drawn during the interval.

The play will finish at approximately 10pm

Please note that there will be no late admission after the commencement of the play following the intervals

The Crew

DIRECTOR

Helen Lawley

PROMPT

Pamela Yates

STAGE MANAGER

Astrid Croasdale

PROPS

Gary Bateson

LIGHTING & SOUND

Ken Davison

Pat Davison

PROGRAMME

& POSTER DESIGN

Graeme Parker

TRANSPORT

Nick Leaf

SET DESIGN

& CONSTRUCTION

Bob Wells

Andrew Faulkes

PHOTOGRAPHY

Nancy Waters

HAIR / WIGS

Alan Rome

Marion Goodrick

HALL BOOKINGS

Pamela Yates

TICKET SALES

Pat Davison

Bob Wells

FRONT OF HOUSE

Andrew Faulkes, Nigel Fisher
and Geoff Stockill

with

Julia Birkett, Anita Shipley
Barrie Shipley, Nancy Waters
and Bob Wells

MP Online

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 MP Officers and details of 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...

FACEBOOK & TWITTER

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Past Productions

1993		2007	
Dec	Season's Greetings	May	Outside Edge
1995		Nov	Caramba's Revenge
May	The Happiest Days Of Your Life	2008	
1996		Apr	Comic Potential
Feb	When We Are Married	Nov	Angels In Love
Nov	Fish Out Of Water	2009	
1997		May	Cabaret 2009
May	Breath Of Spring	Nov	Natural Causes
Nov	Bedroom Farce	2010	
1998		May	Pygmalion
May	Suddenly At Home	Nov	Taking Steps
Nov	Flying Feathers	2011	
1999		May	Habeas Corpus
May	Cabaret Evening	Nov	Role Play
Nov	Stepping Out	2012	
2000		May	Diamond Jubilee Cabaret
Apr	The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society Murder Mystery	Nov	Key For Two
Jun	Millennium Cabaret	2013	
Nov	Celebration	May	Ladies' Day
2001		Nov	Season's Greetings
May	Last Tango In Whitby	2014	
Nov	Fringe Benefits	May	Salt Of The Earth
2002		Nov	Relative Values
Jun	Separate Tables / Dress Rehearsal	2015	
2003		May	The Odd Couple
Jan	Red Riding Hood	Nov	Absurd Person Singular
May	Joking Apart	2016	
Nov	Blithe Spirit	May	A Respectable Funeral / Last Tango in Escrick
2004		Nov	The Importance of Being Earnest
Mar	Sand Castles	2017	
Jun	Cabaret 2004	May	See How They Run
Nov	Daisy Pulls It Off	Nov	Theft
2005		2018	
May	'Allo 'Allo	May	How The Vote Was Won
Nov	Lord Arthur Savile's Crime	Nov	Par For The Course
2006		2019	
May	Witness For The Prosecution	May	The Ladykillers
Nov	Party Piece	Nov	Hobson's Choice
2007		2021	
May	Outside Edge	Nov	Thermal Underwear / Lockdown in Little Grimley
Nov	Caramba's Revenge		

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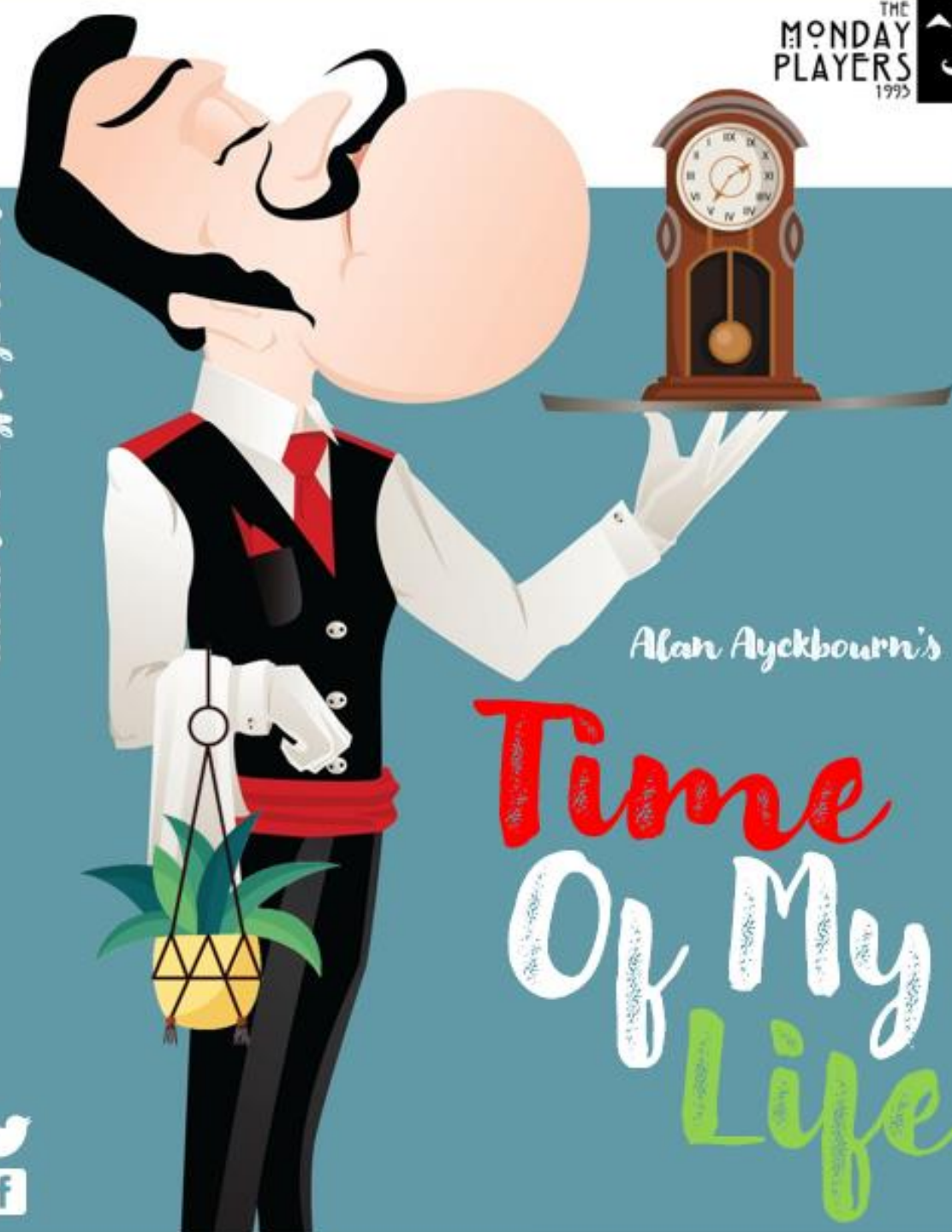
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THE MONDAY PLAYERS 1995

Alan Ayckbourn's

Time
Of My
Life

The Village Hall
Eserick at 7.30pm

OCTOBER
27-29 2022

This amateur production of Time Of My Life is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH LTD

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