



## DOROTHY L SAYER'S BUSMAN'S HONEYMOON



Wedding bells have finally rung for amateur sleuth Lord Peter Wimsey and novelist Harriet Vane!

But their quiet, country honeymoon becomes a series of misadventures with exploding chimneys and unwanted guests, including a body found murdered in their own home.

This inauspicious beginning begs the question: when life gets in the way, can love persevere.

**31ST MARCH TO 2ND APRIL  
7.30 PM DIGBY HALL, SHERBORNE**

### Cast

Lord Peter Wimsey: Rob Stephens  
Harriet Vane: Sylvia Lord  
Bunter: David Smith  
Mrs Ruddle: Gilly Savage  
P.C. Sellon: Kevin Yates  
Rev. Goodacre: Malcolm Cockburn  
Mr Puffett: Stuart McCreadie  
Supt. Kirk: Roger Chadbourne  
Mr McBride: Adam Rice

Rehearsals are well under way and it's all hands welcome in creating the set. If you can spare a couple of hours on a Saturday afternoon - from 2.30 pm - up at the Stables that would be very much appreciated. No experience required!

**BOOK NOW FOR THEATRE  
VISIT - LAST FEW DAYS!**



Thursday 7 April is the date for our annual theatre visit to Salisbury Playhouse. The play is Marivaux's *The Game of Love and Chance*.

This is French farce with a makeover and with a Sixties house party where nothing – and no-one – is to be taken at face value.

Needless to say, things get very complicated very quickly, and the servants fall in love just as their master and mistress do—but everybody thinks they're falling in love across the boundaries of social class—and what will that lead to?

David Smith has reserved 24 tickets in rows B&C centre. Cost: Matinee £14, Theatre Day morning talk £6. Train fare will depend on precise numbers and possible price increases but should not exceed £7 per person return. He will need full payment of £27 by 7th February at the very latest as theatre now need payment 8 weeks in advance. Refunds will be calculated and repaid on the day if the cost is below £27.

Timetable: Leave Sherborne Station at 9.36am arriving back in Sherborne at 6.34pm.

Anyone using own transport need pay only £20.

Get in touch with David Smith now on 01935 817439 or email: [drysmith@btinternet.com](mailto:drysmith@btinternet.com)

## Other APS social events in February and March

### 'Opera as Drama'

Adrian presents the second and third of his series of presentations using new video recordings to demonstrate the drama of modern opera performance. If you love theatre—and you wouldn't be reading this if you didn't—please come. Come even if—no, *especially* if—you think you don't like opera! **7.30 pm on Tuesday 15th February and Thursday 10th March at Nether Compton Village Hall.** If you need a lift do contact a Committee member.



## ANNUAL DINNER FRIDAY 13 MAY

Here's a date to put in your diaries right now. Our Annual Dinner will be held on the evening of Friday 13th May in the Arcadian ambiance of the Walled Garden Restaurant at Castle Gardens. And, for our after-dinner entertainment, we will have the pleasure of the inimitable Ruth Rice. More details shortly.



### HARDY PLAY AT EXCHANGE



AsOne Theatre presents 'She Opened the Door' at The Exchange, Sturminster Newton on Sat 26 Feb at 7.30pm. It takes a fresh look at the women around Thomas Hardy at the height of his celebrity with the author's first wife Emma at its heart. It is early autumn in the Hardy's garden at Max Gate. Hardy's possessive mother comes to visit and The Other Woman arrives on the new fangled bicycle. Add a feisty (ruined) Maid, some skeletons and a ghost or two to Emma's already tangled nerves and you have a powder keg ready to blow! Call 01258 475137 [www.stur-exchange.co.uk](http://www.stur-exchange.co.uk)

### NIGHTWATCH AT THE SWAN

This ingeniously devised psychological thriller centres on heiress Elaine Wheeler who, plagued by unsettling memories of a tragic event from her past, sees from her window the dead body of a man in the building opposite. The police are called, but find nothing but an empty chair. Elaine's sceptical and long suffering husband John, Elaine's old friend Blanche, the inquisitive and eccentric man who lives next door and the nosy maid Helga - all contribute to the deepening suspense and mystery until the true terror of the play is revealed in its riveting and chilling climax.

It's on at The Swan, Yeovil from Monday 14th to Saturday 19th March. See 'Dates for your Diary' page 4 for further details.



The 5th season of The Met: Live in HD will feature many of the most popular operas.

Sat 12 Feb: Adams: Nixon in China

Sat 26 Feb: Gluck's Iphigenie en Tauride

Sat 19 March: Donizetti's Lucia di Lammermoor

For performance details and video sample go to:

[www.metoperafamily.org/metopera/broadcast/hd\\_events\\_next.aspx](http://www.metoperafamily.org/metopera/broadcast/hd_events_next.aspx)

For Yeovil show times and advance bookings go to:

[www.cineworld.co.uk/cinemas/71](http://www.cineworld.co.uk/cinemas/71)



Thurs 3 Feb at 6.45 pm: Donmar Warehouse production with Derek Jacobi as King Lear. **Run sold out at Theatre Royal, Bath.**



Thurs 17 March at 6.45 pm. Danny Boyle (Slumdog) directs.

### NODA SUMMER SCHOOL 2011

This year the NODA Summer School will take place at the University of Warwick from 30 July to 8 August

For full details of the many courses available go to [www.noda.org.uk](http://www.noda.org.uk) If you book before 28 February you will receive a Summer School T-shirt!

All course fees are £540.00 (including full board, accommodation and tuition), except the RSC 2-day Open Stages (£175) and Musical Directors (£610) courses.

### AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT



On at Nether Compton Village Hall Thurs 17th Feb at 7.30 pm. is 'Jurassic Journey'. From the Artsreach 2011 programme, it is a multimedia presentation, with stunning photography, video and sound recordings. It also features specially commissioned music, poetry and some engaging characters created by local artist/sculptor Lal Hitchcock.

Commentary, audio-visual sequences, soundscapes and humour create an entertaining evening on what happens when four artists take a close look at a coast near you. Call Joe Puszet on 01935 413220 to book (Tickets £7.50) and more info.

## A Brief History of Theatre - in several parts: 6

**Roman revivals and intermezzi:  
16th century AD**

In the spirit of the Renaissance, Roman plays are performed on festive occasions at the courts of Italian princes. Perhaps they prove a little heavy going for some of the guests. It becomes the custom to have rather more lavish musical entertainments (*intermezzi*, or intermediate pieces) between the acts, with spectacular stage effects, beautiful costumes and much singing and dancing.

The first *intermezzi* to be preserved in detail for posterity (because they are the first to be published as etchings) are performed to celebrate a wedding at the Medici court in Florence in 1589.

The scenes are now close to



those which will become familiar to opera audiences over the next two centuries - they include a heaven made up of clouds (in which the characters can sit and sing), a delightful garden, a rocky cave guarded by a dragon, and a sea scene with mermaids, dolphins and a ship. This combination of music and spectacle is now so popular with courtly audiences that it leads to a new development in Florence 1597.

**Commedia dell'arte: 16th - 18th  
century AD**

Italy in the 16th century, home to the first stirrings of opera, also launches Europe's most vigorous tradition of popular theatre. The phrase *commedia dell'arte* (comedy of the trade) merely implies professional actors. There



is a record of such a company performing in Italy as early as 1545.

Normally this is street theatre, though a company will use indoor premises if available. The traditional *commedia dell'arte* troupe arrives in a town, sets up a temporary stage and begins performing to the passers-by. Since it is essential to attract attention, slapstick plays a large part in the routine. So does improvisation, adapting the comic sketch to suit the audience's responses.

Though each company performs its own material, certain characters become widely established - and the use of masks makes them immediately recognizable. Pantalone is a pompous old man, good for playing tricks on. The tricks are liable to be perpetrated by comic servants, of whom Arlecchino (proud possessor of a costume of bright patches) and Pulcinella become the best known.



A Spanish soldier, Il Capitano, provides plenty of comedy in bragging about his bravery and then proving an arrant coward at the first hint of danger. He is known as Scaramouche in France, where the *commedia dell'arte* becomes an almost permanent attraction in Paris as the Comédie Italienne.

The Italian comedians are popular throughout Europe. Frequently they feature in fairs as an attraction to entice the public, who are then coaxed into buying fake medical potions - a trade which gives the name *ciarlatini* (clowns) its other meaning as charlatans.

Each country builds its own popular traditions on the Italian example. In England Pulcinella evolves into Punch, the beak-nosed wife-beater of the seaside puppet shows. And the young lovers of the Italian comedy have a longer life in Britain than anywhere else. They survive well into the 19th century as the Harlequin and Columbine of the traditional English panto mime.



### FAMOUS NAMES OF THE STAGE

Sir Derek George Jacobi, CBE (born 22 October 1938) has enjoyed a highly successful stage career, appearing in such stage productions as *Hamlet*, *Uncle Vanya*, and *Oedipus the King*. He received a Tony Award for his performance in *Much Ado About Nothing*. He has also played notable



historical figures such as Edward II, Octavius Caesar, Richard III of England, and Cyrano de Bergerac. In addition to being a founder member of the Royal National Theatre and winning several prestigious theatre awards, he has also enjoyed a successful television career, appearing in *I, Claudius*, for which he won a BAFTA; the titular role in the acclaimed medieval drama series *Brother Cadfael*, and





Stanley Baldwin in *The Gathering Storm*. Though principally a stage actor, Jacobi has appeared in a number of films, such as *Henry V* (1989), *Dead Again* (1991), *Gladiator* (2000), *Gosford Park* (2001), *The Golden Compass* (2007) and the forthcoming *Hippie Hippie Shake*. Like Laurence Olivier, he holds two knighthoods, Danish and British.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### FEBRUARY 2011

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Wed 2 to Sat 5  | <b>Goldilocks and the Three Bears</b><br>Pantomime      | Electric Palace, Bridport<br>7.30 pm Mats Thurs/Sat 2.30           |
|  Thurs 3 | <b>King Lear</b><br>Donmar Warehouse                    | Cineworld, Yeovil<br>6.45 pm                                       |
| Wed 9 to Thurs 10   | <b>Hamlet</b><br>Icarus Theatre Collective              | Octagon Yeovil<br>7.30 pm  |
|  Sat 12  | <b>Nixon in China</b><br>Opera by John Adams            | Cineworld, Yeovil<br>6 pm  |
|  Tues 15 | <b>Opera as Drama : 2</b><br>Presented by Adrian Thorpe | <b><u>Nether Compton Village Hall</u></b><br><b><u>7.30 pm</u></b> |
| Wed 23 to Sat 26  | <b>Orphans Galore</b><br>Play by Bill Wilkinson         | Studio Theatre, Salisbury<br>Time to be confirmed                  |
| Sat 26  | <b>She opened the door</b><br>Play about Thomas Hardy   | The Exchange, Sturminster Newton<br>7.30 pm                        |
|  Mon 28  | <b>Iphigenie en Taurade</b><br>Gluck                    | Cineworld, Yeovil<br>6 pm  |

### MARCH 2011

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
|  Thurs 10                  | <b>Opera as Drama : 3</b><br>Presented by Adrian Thorpe   | <b><u>Nether Compton Village Hall</u></b><br><b><u>7.30 pm</u></b> |
| Tues 15 to Sat 19   | <b>The Good Doctor</b><br>Adapted Chekhov by Neil Simon   | Tacchi-Morris, Taunton<br>7.30 pm Mat Sat 2.30 pm                  |
| Mon 14 to Sat 19  | <b>NightWatch</b><br>Psychological thriller               | The Swan, Yeovil<br>Time TBC, probably 7.45 pm                     |
|  Thurs 17                | <b>Frankenstein</b><br>Directed by Danny Boyle            | Cineworld, Yeovil<br>6.45 pm                                       |
|  Sat 19                  | <b>Lucia di Lammermoor</b><br>Donizetti                   | Cineworld, Yeovil<br>5 pm  |
| Tues 22   | <b>Lady Chatterley's Lover</b><br>Hull Truck Theatre      | Merlin Theatre, Frome<br>7.45 pm                                   |
| Mon 28  | <b>The Caucasian Chalk Circle</b><br>Bertolt Brecht       | Octagon, Yeovil<br>7.30 pm   |
| Wed 30 to Sat 2 April   | <b>Les Liaisons Dangereuses</b><br>By Christopher Hampton | Shaftesbury Arts Centre<br>7.30 pm: 1 Apr 8 pm                     |
|  Thurs 31 to Sat 2 April | <b>Busman's Honeymoon</b><br><b>An APS production</b>     | Digby Hall, Sherborne<br>7.30 pm                                   |

**Shaftesbury Arts Centre:** Box Office 7478 564321 -10..30-12.30 (not Sun) [www.shaftesburyartscentre.org.uk](http://www.shaftesburyartscentre.org.uk)

**Tacchi-Morris:** Box Office 01823 414141 [www.tacchi-morris.com](http://www.tacchi-morris.com)

**Merlin Theatre:** Box Office 01373 465949 [www.merlintheatre.co.uk](http://www.merlintheatre.co.uk)

**The Exchange, Sturminster Newton:** Call 01258 475137 [www.stur-exchange.co.uk](http://www.stur-exchange.co.uk)

**Electric Palace, Bridport:** Call 01308 420045 [www.electricpalace.org.uk](http://www.electricpalace.org.uk)


**Studio Theatre, Salisbury:** Call 07789 858126 [www.studiotheatre.org.uk](http://www.studiotheatre.org.uk)

**Cineworld, Yeovil:** Call 0871 200 2000. Google Cineworld, Yeovil then select advance booking.

**Swan Theatre:** Tourist Information Centre 01935 845946. [www.swan-theatre.co.uk](http://www.swan-theatre.co.uk)

**The Octagon, Yeovil:** Call Box Office 01935 283884 or [www.octagon-theatre.co.uk](http://www.octagon-theatre.co.uk)

**NB: As Diary Dates are compiled in advance, do check with the venue for any programme changes.**

 If you would like any local performances advertised in the **Dates for your Diary** section please send any details to me at: [jim.reville@btinternet.com](mailto:jim.reville@btinternet.com) or give me a ring on (01935) 814626. If I'm not there leave your message and I will ring you back.  
**February Copy DEADLINE: Friday 28 January**

### Last Word...

We do not go (to the theatre) like our ancestors, to escape from the pressure of reality, so much as to confirm our experience of it. **Charles Lamb**