

**From
Tonight at 8.30**

ttc



TEDDINGTON THEATRE CLUB PRESENTS AN AMATEUR PRODUCTION
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH SAMUEL FRENCH LTD

Still Life & Red Peppers

By Noël Coward

Directed by Mandy Stenhouse

Sun 19 Nov – Sat 25 Nov 2017

£1.50



Hampton Hill Theatre

Looking for a reception venue?

The Coward Suite at Hampton Hill Theatre

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90 High Street
Hampton Hill
TW12 1NZ

www.hamptonhilltheatre.org.uk



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

For reasons of safety, glassware must NOT be taken into any part of the auditorium.

Latecomers will be admitted at the first convenient moment provided that no interruption or distraction to the performers might be caused.

All gangways, passageways and stairways must be kept free from obstruction. Persons are not permitted to sit or stand in any gangway.

The taking of photographs and the making of sound and/or visual recordings in the auditorium are not permitted.

An infra-red hearing assistance system is available in the auditorium but not in the Coward Room. Personal systems with a T-switch will require an additional unit available in the foyer. 'In ear' headsets are also available.

Wheelchair positions are available in both stalls and the balcony. The Box Office Manager will be happy to discuss your requirements.

TTC Ltd, as managers of the theatre, reserves the right to refuse admission and to make alterations to the programme and cast without notice.

Noël Coward

(16th December 1899 to 26th March 1973)

Noël Coward was born in Teddington. He started writing in his teens and published more than 50 plays and composed 100s of songs and over a dozen musical theatre works, screenplays, poetry, several volumes of short stories, a novel and a three-volume autobiography. Coward's stage, film, acting and directing career spanned six decades. During the war, he ran the British propaganda office in Paris and he also worked with the secret service. He was knighted in 1969.

In the 1920s and 30s, Coward wrote a succession of popular hits ranging from operetta - *Bitter Sweet* (1929) to *Cavalcade* (1931) which required large cast/sets/hydraulic staging to intimate comedies such as *Private Lives* (1930) and *Design for Living* (1932). Coward starred alongside Gertrude Lawrence. He said, following *Private Lives* he realised the public enjoyed seeing him and Lawrence on stage together. So, he wrote the 10 short plays as an acting, singing and dancing vehicle for Gertrude and himself.

These became the famous *Tonight @ 8.30*, first produced in 1935 in Manchester and then toured in London (1936), New York (1936-37) and Canada (1938).

The plays were performed in various combinations of three at each performance during the original run. They included...

We Were Dancing
Red Peppers
Fumed Oak
Family Album
Still Life

The Astonished Heart
Hands Across the Sea
Shadow Play
Ways and Means
Star Chamber

Tonight we perform two of these one act plays, totally contrasting, but subtly connected.

Still Life

The bittersweet tale of a clandestine affair, that became Coward's classic film, *Brief Encounter*, starring Trevor Howard and Celia Johnson in 1945 directed by David Lean (also featuring Stanley Holloway and Joyce Carey). Laura and Alec are two utterly English star-crossed lovers trapped in passionless marriages, yearning to break free.

Red Peppers

Stuck in a love-hate relationship, are song and dance duo George and Lily Pepper. On their way down the ladder of success, their vaudeville duos provide the musical counterpoint to their non-stop squabbling and petty feuds. Noël Coward wrote both the music and lyrics of this very funny piece.

Some of them are not chronologically correct (i.e. were written after these pieces were published). However I wanted to make this production a true celebration of Noël Coward, especially as we are so privileged to be the first to perform his plays in the studio theatre named in his honour.

Coward died in his home "Firefly Estate" in Jamaica of heart failure and was buried three days later, on the brow of Firefly Hill overlooking the Blue Mountains.

Mandy Stenhouse



"But I believe that, since my life began, the most I've had is just a talent to amuse, heigh ho, if love were all"

CAST

Still Life

Laura	Tracy Frankson
Alec	Charlie Golding
Myrtle	Samantha McGill
Beryl	Rachel Burnham
Mildred	Hana Jennings
Stanley	Alex Farley
Dolly	Diane Slater
Albert	Andy Smith
Bill	Gwithian Evans
Johnny	Josh Clarke

Red Deppers

George Depper	Steve Taylor
Lily Depper	Lottie Walker
Bert Bentley	Andy Hewitt
Mr Edwards	Edz Barrett
Mable Grace	Helen Smith
Alf Higginbottom	Alex Farley

CREW

Director	Mandy Stenhouse
Producer/Artistic Link	Linda Sirker
Set	Fiona Auty
Stage Manager & Props	Vicky Horder
Lighting	Tom Shore
Sound	John Pyle
Choreography	Mandy Stenhouse
Wardrobe	Norma Beresford
Assistant Wardrobe	Lesley Alexander Vanessa Cole
Show Photographer	Joe Stockwell
ASM	Jacqui Withall
The Orchestra	Carole Smith or James Hall
BAT Link	Mike Elgey
Location Shoots	Jojo Leppink Tom Shore
Hair and Make Up	Heather Stockwell

STILL LIFE

SERVICE TTC

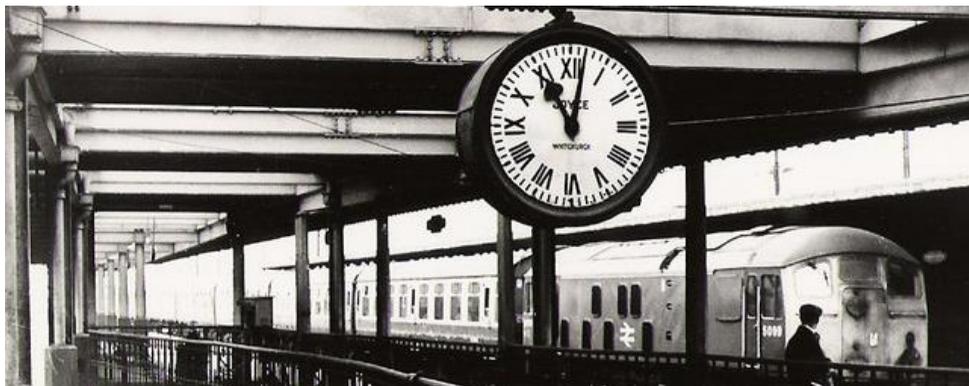
MORECAMBE – CARNFORTH

EXTENDED SERVICE

19 NOV – 25 NOV

DEPARTURES – COWARD PLATFORM

Day	Date	14:30	16:00	18:30	19:45
SUN	19 NOV	---	ON TIME	ON TIME	---
MON	20 NOV	---	---	---	ON TIME
TUES	21 NOV	---	---	---	ON TIME
WED	22 NOV	---	---	---	ON TIME
THURS	23 NOV	---	---	---	ON TIME
FRI	24 NOV	---	---	---	---
SAT	25 NOV	ON TIME	---	---	ON TIME



Cast Biographies



**Tracy
Frankson**

Tracy joined TTC in 1998 to play Trixie Martin in *Daisy Pulls It Off* at the Vera Fletcher Hall. Over the years she has also enjoyed performing with RSS, Q2, St. Mary's Drama Group and OHADS. Her favourite roles have been wheelchair-bound Girl in *Just Afloat*, written by our very own talented Ken Mason, pollen-struck Dorothy in *Stepping Out*, lovelorn Catherine Sloper in *The Heiress*, and the exuberant "OAP" Celia in *Love Me Slender*. Most recently for TTC she had great fun as northern librarian Beryl in *From Here to the Library*.

Charles makes his third appearance for TTC following *Muswell Hill* and *The Pillowman*. He has appeared in numerous productions across London and at the Edinburgh Fringe including *Clybourne Park* with Putney Arts, *The School for Scandal* with Urgent Breath, *Julius Caesar* with Southside Theatre and *The Libertine* with KDC. He writes for his own theatre company, producing a new work in 2018 at Hampton Hill Theatre. When not daydreaming of an Olivier Award, Charles is a surveyor.



**Charlie
Golding**



**Samantha
McGill**

Samantha is from London, and has quite recently joined TTC. She is really looking forward to playing another strong female character. She was last seen on the TTC stage as the Wicked Stepmother in last year's award-winning pantomime *Cinderella*. *Still Life* is Samantha's first play with TTC and she is enjoying every minute of playing the character Myrtle Bagot. The railway refreshment manageress, Myrtle, is a great example of Noël Coward's clever and humorous writing.

Rachel has thoroughly enjoyed her first year performing with TTC, appearing in *The Cat's Meow* and most recently *French Twist*. Between these productions, she performed with Richmond Shakespeare Society, playing Masha in *The Seagull* and Jane Seymour in *The Regina Monologues*, as well continuing to take production photographs for both societies. Previously, she has worked backstage and onstage for a number of productions while at Royal Holloway University and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.



**Rachel
Burnham**



**Hana
Jennings**

Hana has loved and studied performing arts from a young age, joining a stage school from the age of four. She recently finished college and left with an Extended Diploma in Acting. She has performed on the Donmar Warehouse stage and has enjoyed playing roles such as Mother Courage, one of the Witches from *Macbeth* and Mrs Whitaker. Her last role was in her end of year production where she played five characters in *The Laramie Project*. She is a fan of Noël Coward and is very much looking forward to playing Mildred tonight.

This is Alex's second production with TTC after playing the role of Luke Parsons in the Swan Award winning *Jerusalem*. He has also most recently been seen playing Master Slender in YAT's production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* which performed at the Edinburgh Fringe this summer. He has enjoyed working on both *Still Life* and *Red Peppers* and with this incredibly talented company and hopes that you enjoy both his performances.



Alex Farley



Diane Slater

Diane started amateur dramatics in 2007, enjoying playing several roles in Gilbert and Sullivan shows with Knaphill and St. John's Operatic Group. More recently Diane has sung and acted in Molesey Musical Theatre's productions, the last one being *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* in June. In the last ten years Diane has performed in Addlestone's Jazz concerts and played various roles in their shows and pantomimes. Diane's love of the film *Brief Encounter* and the work of Noël Coward, and knowing TTC's excellent reputation, made her decide to audition for *Still Life*. She is very excited to be playing the part of Dolly Messiter.

Andy has been involved in local drama for many years, and has recently specialised in roles based upon real people. He has enjoyed portraying such diverse personalities as Tony Hancock, Hangman Albert Pierrepoint and Nazi Gerhard Klopfer, although not at the same time! His last role in a Noël Coward play was as Frank Gibbons in *This Happy Breed*. Andy recently co-directed *Breadcrumbs* for TTC in the Coward Studio, and is thrilled to be given the opportunity to get his hands on Myrtle's wares this evening, if no-one is looking...



Andy Smith



**Gwithian
Evans**

Gwithian is excited to perform in this production as it is his debut in a TTC show. Gwithian has been a member of the Rose Young Company in Kingston and since the beginning of this year has been a member of YAT. Work at the Rose Theatre includes Edmund in *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* and First Narrator in *A Christmas Carol*. Other theatre credits include *Immortal* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at the Edinburgh Fringe and Khlestakov in YAT's *The Government Inspector*.

This is Josh's first TTC production having studied Film and Theatre Studies at University, where he was heavily involved in the drama society in both acting and directing roles. These included King Lear in *King Lear*, Mr Mushnik in *Little Shop of Horrors* and directing *Tartuffe* (Edinburgh Fringe). Since 2013 Josh has been an active member of YAT, most recently directing *The Government Inspector* and appearing as Dr Caius in their Edinburgh Fringe production of *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Josh is very much looking forward to getting more involved in TTC in the future.



Josh Clarke

Special Thanks...



- To attic. In Hampton Hill, for the loan of the café lights.

THE BAR IS OPEN AFTER THE SHOW

The foyer bar remains open after the show and is well used by cast, crew and members. We extend a very warm welcome to everyone who has been to see the performance - it is an ideal opportunity to meet the actors you have seen performing, find out more about our theatre and our club or simply relax over a drink.



Please
Turn off Your
Mobile Phones

PLEASE DON'T SPOIL THE PERFORMANCE

We respectfully request all members of the audience to make sure that mobile phones are switched off during the performance. Thank you.



THE
PALACE OF VARIETIES
THEATRE
HAMPTON

COMMENCING SUNDAY 19TH NOVEMBER

RED
PEPPERS

PERFORM OLD AND NEW FAVOURITES

**Mable
Grace**

**The Five Farthings
Betley Delavine**

Billy Bennett
The Great Fuego Fire
Eater Extraordinaire

**The
Miller Girls**

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
BERTRAM BENTLEY



George & Lily are the 3rd generation *Red Peppers*, following in the footsteps of George & Florrie and George & Kate (who before forming *Red Peppers* was a renowned circus act in her own right). Born in the proverbial trunk, George first trod the boards as a child, assisting the magicians and other speciality acts appearing on the same bill as his parents. He had a promising career as a stand-up comedian and singer and was performing at the prestigious Coliseum Theatre in London when he met Lily, a student of Miss Italia Conti and at that time a member of *The Moonlight Maids* dance troupe. Following their marriage George took the opportunity to revive the *Red Peppers*, dormant since George and Florrie Pepper retired to Southport to open a theatrical guest house in the 1920's. The *Red Peppers* have achieved fame (some would say notoriety) on both northern and southern variety circuits. For the last five years they have worked exclusively for Larry Goldcourt Theatres in the North West of England, apart from a brief residency at the Queen's Theatre, Poplar. They take up a new contract at Cromer Pier, supporting the new generation of *Moonlight Maids* (the "*Maidens*") following pantomime in Barnsley.



Miss Mabel Grace is best known for her stage work in a career that has covered appearances in plays by Shakespeare, Sheridan, Congreve, Wilde, and Shaw. Her West End debut was in a poorly received play but Miss Grace was praised: 'In the very small part of a maid Miss Grace made the success of the afternoon. She put more into her few moments than most of our approved 'stars' can suggest in leading parts.' A critic wrote of her role in a restoration comedy, 'The main pleasure of the evening was due to Miss Grace in a role in which she excelled'; Miss Grace's career began with Henry Irving's company and she is delighted to now be appearing for your pleasure in the new genre of variety.



Bertram Bentley was originally a trombonist who trained for two weeks at the Royal Manchester College of Music before venturing to London to seek his fortune. During his time "down south" Bert worked briefly as a trombonist with the Ambrose Orchestra, but was replaced by Ted Heath. After short stints in most of the orchestra pits of East London, originally running into George and Lily Pepper in the bar of the Queen's Theatre, Poplar, Bert returned to the north of England. He utilised the skills learned in London to reinvent himself as a conductor and musical director and now surrounds himself with like-minded musicians and is under contract to Larry Goldcourt Theatres.



Edward St John Edwards, a native of Accrington and lifelong supporter of Accrington Stanley FC, Mr Edward St John Edwards is a protégé of Larry Goldcourt, having started out as a stage door runner at the age of 12. He has worked his way up through the company, working in a variety of administrative and other backstage roles and is in the unique position of being the only employee to have worked for a short time in each of the Goldcourt Theatres. Mr Edwards left Goldcourt’s employ to join the management trainee scheme of the Moss Empires Group but soon realised that his particular talents would be best employed in more familiar surroundings. He has been manager of The Palace of Varieties Theatre Hampton for 22 years.



Alf Higginbottom is originally from South London. He began his theatrical apprenticeship at the Karsino, Taggs Island as part of Fred Karno’s Army. Following the theatre’s demise, Alf travelled north with the Silver Swordsmen, a knife throwing and sword swallowing act. Sadly, due to an unfortunate incident at the Derby Hippodrome the Swordsmen are no longer and Alf decided that his future lay backstage. He has been a call boy for Goldcourt Theatres for some three years and hopes to progress to the heady heights of Stage Doorkeeper of The Palace of Varieties within the decade.

Glossary of Terms...

Maries

Plain Sweet Biscuit

Lucifer

Match, used by striking on a rough surface

Fruit Salts

Eno’s, indigestion tablets/powder

Comic Cuts

British comic book magazine published between 1890 & 1953

Dog’s Daper

Weekly magazine published between 1919 and 1940, consisting of fictional romance across the class lines, also featuring photo stories of movie stars.

Eilly Bennet

(1887–1942) British comedian specialising in dramatic monologues, billed as “almost a gentleman”

Nestle Plain

Chocolate

AI Sauce

Steak sauce, condiment for meat and game dishes

Gold Flake

Tobacco

Rebla

Albert Rebla actor. 1880-1963
Movies include “Soldiers of the King”

Lily Morris

Born Lilles Mary Crosby (1882-1952) English Music Hall performer, best known for the songs *Don’t Have Anymore*, *Mrs. Moore* and *Why am I Always the Bridesmaid*

Woolworths

First store opened on 5th November 1909 in Church Street, Liverpool

Claudette Colbert

American film actress 1903-1996

Stop Me and Buy One

Sign painted on the side of an ice cream van

Players

Cigarettes

Banbury Cake

Spiced currant filled flat pastry similar to an Eccles cake but more oval in shape

Flanagan & Allen

Bud & Chesney, British comedy double act, popular around the time of the Second World War, with songs such as *Underneath the Arches* and *Run Rabbit, Run Rabbit with Nerve & Knox*

Jimmy & Teddy were all part of the original Crazy Gang, a group of British entertainers in the early 1930s



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Teddington Theatre Club acknowledges with grateful thanks the practical and financial support given by local residents, businesses and community groups.



Teddington Theatre Club is affiliated to the Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain and to Arts Richmond. This production is entered for the Arts Richmond Swan Awards for Drama and Musicals.

Coming Soon

at Hampton Hill Theatre

The Wind in the Willows

By Alan Bennett, adapted from the book by Kenneth Grahame
Join Mole, Ratty, Badger and Mr. Toad in this festive family show!

Sat 9 Dec 2017 – Sat 16 Dec 2017

Auditorium

A View from the Bridge

By Arthur Miller

A tragic masterpiece of love, family and betrayal

Sun 28 Jan 2018 – Sat 3 Feb 2018

Auditorium



For up-to-date information on TTC and the Theatre, and to book tickets online, please check our website: www.teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk

Postal bookings are accepted on publication of the booking form.

Telephone enquires open two weeks before each production.

Call: 0845 838 7529 (10am-8pm)

To enjoy good theatre locally, join TTC today. It is easy to join as an audience member, or as a full performing and technical member.

Teddington Theatre Club is a Club Theatre open to members and their guests. Each month, details of forthcoming productions are mailed to each member together with Theatre, our club magazine and newsletter.

All are encouraged to help with Front of House, Bar and Marketing activities of the Club and Theatre. To find out more please visit our website

www.teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk or call our Membership Secretary on 020 8287 2663 or complete one of the forms you can find in the Foyer.