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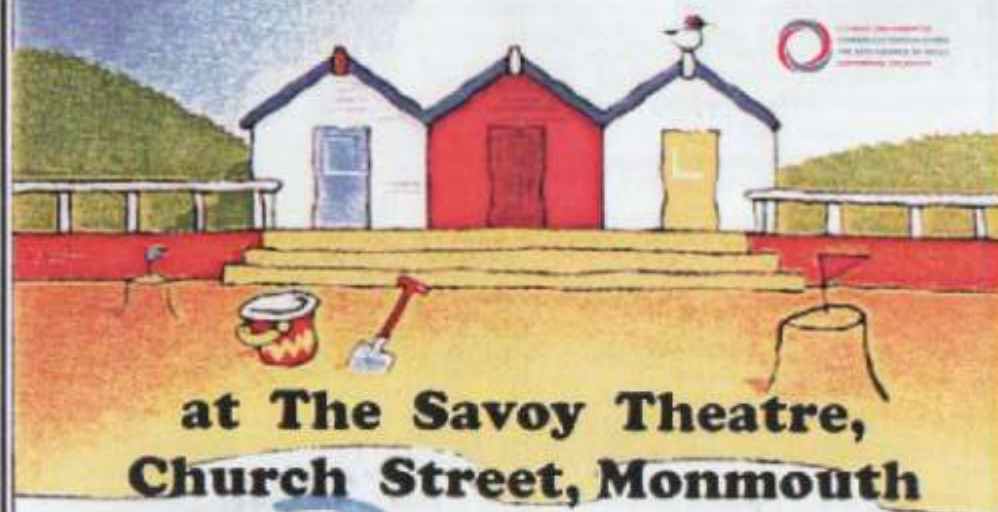
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Presents

Sand Castles

A comedy by
Bob Larbey

**Wed 10th, Thurs 11th
& Sat 13th June 2009**



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A message from Brian Pearce - OCT's Chairman

It is my pleasure to once again welcome you to another Off Centre production here at the Savoy Theatre for a thoroughly entertaining evening with Rob Larbey's Sand Castles. This particular production has been directed and produced by Jane Rogers who has had the experience of directing for, amongst others, Monmouth Music Theatre. We were delighted when she agreed to join us for this production of Sand Castles. Her skill and experience will be very evident in our presentation this evening.



Bob Larbey is a well known drama writer, having co-written many comedy series for television, including *The Good Life*, *Please Sir* and *Ever Decreasing Circles*. He has also written many radio and stage plays. *Sand Castles* is a gentle comedy with effective sequences portraying the varied activities that take place on a typical beach which all add to a rich mixture of interaction typical of a Bob Larbey situation comedy.

For Jane and the cast *Sand Castles* has been great fun in its production and rehearsals and we hope this will be evident adding to your enjoyment. Our thanks go to those who have provided the scenery, props, lighting and sound. Also thanks to those helping Front of House

Again thank you for your support. We would have little to celebrate without your enthusiasm and coming to see our productions. OCT is always looking for new members and whether that means you have an interest in treading the boards, working backstage, front of house, helping with design, construction, painting or sewing you would be welcome. If you wish to know more of the work and activities of Off Centre please do get in touch with the Chair or Secretary on 01600 716057 or 860401.

e.mail: brianpearce777@btinternet.com or paula_brady@btinternet.com

OCT hold club nights on the first Thursday of most months in our clubroom above Barclays Bank in Agincourt Square. On 2 July we will be welcoming the Everyman Theatre Company from Cardiff who will be performing *"Shades of Brown"* in our clubroom - all are welcome - you don't have to be a member.

OCT's October production will be a murder mystery - so if you are interested in getting involved - join now.

And so there's no more to be said but to sit back and enjoy the evening on the beach with *Sand Castles*. At least you don't need the weather for this beach

Brian Pearce

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production*

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Church Wardens & PCC of St Mary's Church, Monmouth.

Bob Larbey - the author



Bob Larbey was born in Clapham, South London in 1934 and went to school at the Henry Thornton Grammar School where he met his long time writing partner John Esmonde. Both of them shared an interest in football and humour and after leaving school they met up again after two years National Service. They both found their office jobs did nothing for them so they looked for a way out. Sharing the same sense of humour they decided on comedy writing and used all their spare time sending scripts here there and everywhere. For years all of it was turned down until finally one of their sketches was bought by the BBC for the long-running *Dick Emery Show*. More commissions for

Emery followed and eventually a steady stream of work came their way. They kept their jobs for the first year but eventually the strain of working during the day and writing comedy at night began to take its toll and they decided that one career was going to have to go. Encouraged by the positive feedback their writing was getting - in particular from people such as Marty Feldman and comedy writer/producer Barry Took, they ditched the day job. It wasn't easy, though, and in particular Larbey's wife was called on from time to time to take over as the family breadwinner when wages were not coming in regularly.

With John Esmonde he has written many comedy series for television, including *Please Sir*, *The Fenn Street Gang*, *Get Some In*, *The Good Life*, *The Other One*, *Feet First*, *Just Liz*, *Don't Rock the Boat*, *Now and Then*, *Ever Decreasing Circles* and *Double First*. In 1995 Bob and John decided to call their partnership quits - it was entirely amicable due to John's desire to spend more time in Spain.

His solo work for television includes *On the Up*, *My Good Friend* and *As Time Goes By*, but Bob is probably best known for the highly acclaimed series *A Fine Romance* starring Judi Dench and Michael Williams, for which he won both the Broadcasting Press Guild Award and the Pye Award for Best Comedy of 1982.

Bob's work for stage includes *Building Blocks* and *A Month of Sundays*, for which he won the London Evening Standard Award for Best Comedy of 1986.

Bob is married to Trisha and has a son called Matthew and a collection of cats and dogs.

His advice to would-be comedy writers is "always write what makes you laugh first. If you don't think it's funny, nobody else will!"

What went on in the 1970s?

Sand Castles is set in the **1970s**, the decade of Chopper bikes and the Queens Silver Jubilee - what else happened?



1970

Edward Heath prime minister
Votes at 18
Chopper bicycle on sale
First Jumbo jet lands at Heathrow
Apollo 13 close to disaster



1971

Decimal currency introduced
Campaign for real ale begins
Digital wrist watch goes on sale



1972

11 Israeli athletes killed at Munich Olympics
Tutankhamun exhibition opens
Power cuts imposed due to miners strike



1973

Britain joins the European Economic Community (the EU nowadays)
US withdraws from Vietnam
Wedding of Princes Anne and Mark Phillips
Dad's Army "Don't tell him Pike" episode
Arab/Israeli war causes oil shortage
Three day week (Dec - March '74)



1974

Harold Wilson prime minister
Nixon resigns over Watergate
Lord Lucan disappears

1975

Britain votes to stay in the EEC
Inflation reaches 25%
North Sea oil comes ashore
McDonalds opens its first outlet in Britain



1976

James Callaghan prime minister
Concorde carries first commercial passengers
Minister of drought appointed (hottest summer this century)
James Hunt world motor racing champion
JVS unveil VHS system & Sony launch Betamax
Two Ronnies "fork handles" routine



1977

Breakfast TV begins
Elvis Presley dies at 42
Virginia Wade wins Wimbledon
Queens Silver Jubilee
Films: Saturday Night Fever & Star Wars
Abigail's party on TV - 16 million people tune in to watch



1978

1st test tube baby, Louise Brown, born
Bjorn Borg wins Wimbledon for 3rd time
Georgi Markov, a Bulgarian dissident, was murdered in London with an umbrella that carried a poison pellet.



1979

Rubbish piles up - "winter of discontent"
Margaret Thatcher becomes prime minister
Lord Mountbatten killed by IRA bomb



About Sand Castles

We all like to be beside the seaside and as everybody knows, an Englishman's home is his sand castle. Stan and Bernice Billet and William and Margaret Patterson have been taking their holidays in the same resort for years. They don't exactly rule the waves but they have turned the area around their beach huts into a cozy little fiefdom. And then along comes Doug, with his nieces. They don't give a hoot for beach hut protocol - they just want to have fun in the sun.

Sandcastles was commissioned for the BT Biennial 2000 when over 100 amateur companies around the UK simultaneously premiered the play on 14 October that year.

The action takes place on a beach in the south of England some time in the 1970s

ACT ONE

- Scene 1** A Summer morning
Scene 2 An hour later

ACT TWO

- Scene 1** Early next morning
Scene 2 The next morning
Scene 3 The end of the Season

There will be an interval of approximately 15 minutes between the two acts

Cast in order of appearance

William	Gordon Casson
Margaret	Thérèse Casemore
Beachcomber	Peter Pearce
Phyllis	Fee de Bruler
Stan	Tom Rigby
Sam	Sophie Stevens
Ashley	Louise Pardington
Bernice	Caroline Pearce
Pauline	Caroline Mitchell
Mother	Ann Hartland
Ida	Paula Brady
Norma	Barbara Spence
Doug	Tony Wells
Debs	Rachel Stevens
Becky	Bronwen Evans

Directed by
Jane Rodgers

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Who Plays Who in Sand Castles?



Gordon Casson—William. Gordon a member of OCT for over 20 years, has appeared in many productions, and has assisted back-stage or front of house in many others. In recent years he has also directed plays such as *Tons of Money*, *The Happiest Days of Your Life*, *See How They Run* and *Wind in the Willows*. He has enjoyed a purely "acting" role in this production, and hopes OCT will continue to stage plays with parts for the more mature man! An avid Burnley fan, Gordon looks forward to a successful time for his team in the Premier league next season.



Therese Casemore - Margaret. Therese was born in Lymington in the New Forest and trained as a librarian. She has always been interested in amateur dramatics having appeared on stage as a teenager. She gave it up when she married, had children and travelled—although she was a fully paid up member of the Bermuda Music and Drama Society for a while. She came to live in the Wye Valley in 1989 and joined OCT about 8 years ago to help with costumes and got hooked again. She has appeared on stage in a number of productions for OCT and says she has enjoyed every one of them! You may remember her as a drunken rabbit in *Wind in the Willows*. Therese is Costume Director for this production.



Tom Rigby - Stan. Tom is originally from Merseyside and has been a very active member of OCT since he joined in 2006. Since joining he has been on stage as Felix in *The Odd Couple*, the Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz* and Ted in *What's for Pudding*. He directed *A Little Box of Oblivion* which was performed in a joint production with Monmouth Music Theatre in 2007. In his youth Tom was a fairy in *Iolanthe* and at 17 going on 18 - Ralph in *The Sound of Music*. Outside of the drama scene Tom sings, plays golf and has recently started a promotional products and marketing business... Express Corporate.



Caroline Pearce - Bernice. Caroline has lived in Monmouth all her life. You may not know her by name but Caroline is a familiar face to many having worked in a national store on Monnow Street for 30 years. She is involved in a wide range of activities in the local community including Monmouth Carnival and Twinning Associations. As a member of OCT Caroline has appeared many pantos, variety shows and plays. Most recently she was Maureen in *What's for Pudding*. Over the years Caroline has also made hundreds of costumes for OCT, carnival floats and fancy dress events.



Caroline Mitchell - Pauline. Playing Toad in *Wind in the Willows* gave 12 year old Caroline a taste of applause and she enjoyed several roles in plays and musicals during her teens at boarding school in the Lake District. Joining OCT in 2003, she played Gwendoline in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, followed by Penelope Toop in *See How They Run* other roles followed, most recently, The Inspector in *Little Box of Oblivion*. She loves playing feisty females but as an alternative Caroline throws herself into the annual Usk panto. She came to Monmouthshire in 1971 and went to London after A Levels and a secretarial course in Oxford. Married to a vet, she has 3 teenage sons who regularly upstage her in the Usk panto. She lives near Lansoy with her family, two dogs, two ponies and six hens.



Ann Hartland - Mother. Ann was born in a village owned by Simon de Monfort called Earl Shilton. She stepped on stage for the first time at the age of 3 and later performed in local concert party shows and pantomimes. Performing highs were Nancy in *Oliver*, Angela in *Abigail's Party*, for which she won the Gwent Drama League award for best supporting actress, and Madam Arcanti in *Bilthe Spirit*. She last appeared on stage for OCT in *Summer End* when she played the part of Emily Baines—an elderly care home resident. She says "I now seem to be stuck playing spiteful old ladies and I'm not like that at all - ask anyone who knows me! She hopes everyone enjoys the play



Tony Wells - Doug. After spending 10 years having beach hut holidays in Essex, parts of this play seem too close to the truth for Tony. He has been a member of OCT for over 12 years initially working backstage before venturing onto the stage in 2002. Tony is now a regular (some may say too regular) performer in OCT productions. Last year he played the part of The Stranger in *The Rose and Crown*. When not on or back stage Tony works in education for Gloucestershire County Council. The lighting technician for Sand Castles is his son David so Tony hopes that this means you will see him in a good light tonight.



Rachel Stevens - Dabs. Rachel is 18 years old and loves to sing, dance and act. She is a student at Hereford College of Arts studying Performing Arts. Rachel teaches dance classes for children in Monmouth with her younger sister Sophie. Rachel also loves to sing with Sophie and recently performed as a duet in Showcase Spectacular. She has been a member of Off Centre Theatre since the age of 7. She has performed in many pantomimes and also played the character "Mole" in *The Wind in the Willows*. In the future she would like to perform in the West End. Rachel is choreographer for this production with her sister Sophie.



Bronwen Evans - Becky. Ever since Bronwen was three years old, she has loved the limelight and being able to act. Living in Ireland, her passion was ballet, and she performed in a variety of shows; but when she came to live in Monmouth she started at Curtain Call (which stopped four years ago) performing in shows like *The Ice Queen*, *Snow White and the Seven Jockeys*, and *Mini Beast Mansion*. Now she is in an acting class with the Savoy Drama group. This is the first show which she has done with OCT, and she is looking forward to doing many more!



Fee de Bruier - Phyllis. Born in Staffordshire, she came to Monmouth as a child where her father, Roy Wallis, was town clerk. Wallis Close and the Wallis Room in the museum are named after him. Fee lived in a commune in Cornwall for 20 years before returning to Monmouth in 1986. She joined OCT in 1995 and has appeared in many shows, plays and pantomimes. Last year she appeared as Mrs Reed in *The Rose and Crown*. Fee is an accomplished artist and OCT has benefited from her skills with the scenery and other art works she has created. She is a qualified aroma-therapist, masseuses and nutritionist. Now Fee is concentrating on her art work and exhibits regularly in London.



Paula Brady - Ida. Born and bred in Dublin, she came to Wales in April 2006 and loves it. She joined OCT in 2006 with little experience in amateur dramatics, previous roles as a child included, Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* and later she was of the ugly sisters in Cinderella! She played her first adult part as Gwendolyn in *The Odd Couple* with OCT and last year was Mary in *What's for Pudding*. Her background is in education and she has established 'Bristol Business College' delivering professional evening diploma courses and management training workshop. Her hobbies include walking her favourite Westie and Springer Spaniel, horse riding and golfing!



Barbara Spence - Norma. Originally from Liverpool, Barbara has been a member of Off Centre Theatre since 1990 when she first appeared in *Toad of Toad Hall* as Chief Ferret ("A Triumph" - the Monmouth Beacon). Since then she has appeared in many OCT productions playing a range of characters including Baroness Hardup in *Cinderella* and was a memorable back end of Daisy the cow in *Jack and the Beanstalk*. A forester by profession, working for the Forestry Commission, she has lived in Monmouth for over 20 years.



Peter Pearce - Beachcomber. Peter was born in Newbury, moving to Monmouth when he was 3. He is a builder by trade with his own business. At first reluctant to go on stage he made his first appearance in the memorable "Full Monty" routine in *Sleeping Beauty*. In Peter's own words "since then his parts have got much bigger". A natural comedian, Peter has delighted audiences with the range of comic characters he has played—these include a singing vicar, a naughty little boy and most recently as Dennis in *What's for Pudding*. In his spare time, when not watching football, Peter is a referee for Gloucestershire FA.



Sophie Stevens - Sam. Sophie is 15 years old and loves to sing, dance and act. She is in year 10 at Monmouth Comprehensive School and is studying for her GCSE's which include Music, Dance, Drama and many more. With her sister Rachel Stevens she teaches two dance classes for children. She also does gymnastics, Line Dancing and loves to sing with her sister. Sophie plays 4 instruments Piano, Cello, Drums and the Concertina. She has been a member of Off Centre Theatre for 7 years. In the future Sophie plans to study performing arts and have a career on stage. With her sister Rachel, Sophie is choreographer for this production



Louise Pardington - Ashley Louise is, at nearly 10, one of the youngest members of OCT. She has enjoyed being on stage at school and with The North Panto for a number of years, and is now an active member of the OCT Junior Theatre section. She already has 2 major OCT productions under her belt, being in *The Wizard of Oz*, and the Stan Stennett production of *Babes in the Wood meets Robin Hood*.