



OFF CENTRE THEATRE PRESENTS

# IT'S ENTERTAINMENT!

A VARIETY SHOW  
RAISING FUNDS FOR

**monmouth  
festival 2004**

**2ND & 3RD JULY 2004  
7.30 PM**

**AT THE HABERDASHERS' MONMOUTH  
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**

**TICKETS £8  
available from Huckaback,  
Church Street, Monmouth**



AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE  
LONDON OPERATIONAL CENTRE  
THE ARTS COUNCIL OF WALES  
SUPPORTING DONORS

OCT is a member of  
**NODA**



A MEMBER OF  
NODA 2004

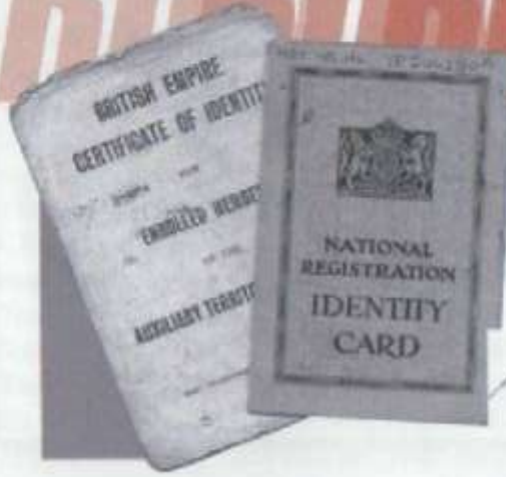
OFF CENTRE THEATRE presents

# SEE



# HOW THEY

# RIRIRIRUN



THE CLASSIC FARCE BY  
**PHILIP KING**

**Wednesday 2nd June  
to Saturday 5th June**  
Curtain Rises at 7.30pm  
**at Haberdashers' Monmouth  
School for Girls**



CYMRU  
CERBYDDURAU  
CYMRU  
THE ARTS  
COUNCIL OF  
WALES

### Message from the Chairman

On behalf of Off Centre Theatre welcome to The Haberdashers' Monmouth School for Girls for our production of **See How They Run** by Philip King.

The production you see tonight is the result of many months of hard work. The actors on stage will receive their recognition and applause from you the audience. But spare a thought for the many others you don't see – the backstage team. They have been working away unseen making costumes, constructing sets, providing technical support etc. etc. This, like any OCT production, is a real team effort. So congratulations to everyone involved. I hope you enjoy this performance and that you will support our forthcoming productions which include:

**It's Entertainment** – on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> July at this venue. This is a variety show which is being staged by OCT to raise funds for Monmouth Festival. You are guaranteed a great evening's entertainment while supporting The Festival which itself provides even more great evenings of entertainment -that's real good value. The show starts at 7.30 and tickets cost £6.

**Jack and the Beanstalk** – late December – early January, also at this venue. OCT's annual pantomime is an absolute must.

OCT has a great reputation, built up over many years, but without the enthusiasm of you, our audience, it would be of no avail. Thank you for your support. 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 are interested in joining please contact our membership secretary (the Producer of this production), Cedric Gibbons, tel. 01600 716162.

Thank you again. Now sit back and enjoy the show.

Barbara Spence Chairman

### The Cast

**Caroline Mitchell** is a recent newcomer to OCT having joined in September 2003 to play Gwendolen in *The Importance of being Earnest*. She plays the lead role in the play - 'Penelope Toop.'

**Jenny Hickey**, having been spotted in 'The Narth' Panto, last year played 'Miss (Sausage) Gossage' in *The Happiest Days of Your Life* for OCT. She plays the classic comedy role of 'Miss Skillon.'

**Rhian Mitchell** joined OCT for the Summer Show Tour in 2000, then played 'Prince Charming' in *Cinderella* 2001. Returning to the area last year she played 'Happy' in *Snow White* in January. Rhian plays 'Ida,' Penelope's 'see all, know all, say nothing' maid.

**Jim Newcomb** is no stranger to Monmouth audiences.

He directs and performs regularly for OCT. He plays Penelope's husband, 'Reverend Lionel Toop.'

**Chris Ryde** joined OCT in 1998 and has been a pantomime favourite since *Sleeping Beauty* in 1999. He has written for, and appeared in, the last three Summer Shows. In 2002 he played the lead role of 'Charles' in *Blithe Spirit*. Chris plays Penelope's pre-war acting colleague, 'Lance Corporal Clive Winton.'

**Terry Dauncey** played in the very first OCT production - *Maria Marten or the Murder in the Red Barn* in August 1986. Last year he directed *The Importance of Being Earnest*. He is taking a rest from directing to play 'The Bishop of Lax.'

**Gordon Casson** was Assistant Director for *The Grand Old Duke of York* in 1988. A man of many talents, he continues to be very active, on stage and off, for OCT and at The Narth. He is the Director and also takes on the role of 'Sergeant Towers.'

**Cliff Smith** has appeared in Panto and Variety since 1994 and played the major role of the Headmaster, Geoffrey Pond, in *The Happiest Days of Your Life* last year. He appears regularly with Monmouth Operatic Society. He plays 'The Reverend Arthur Humphrey.'

**Tony Wells** has been part of the backstage team for many years. This is his second straight play, having appeared as 'Edgar Sowter' in *The Happiest Days of Your Life* last year. He plays the role of the Intruder.



# SEE HOW THEY RUN

By Philip King

Cast

*In order of appearance*



Ida, a maid : Rhian Mitchell

Miss Skillon : Jenny Hickey

The Rev. Lionel Toop : Jim Newcomb

Penelope Toop, his wife : Caroline Mitchell

Lance-Corporal Clive Winton : Chris Ryde

The Intruder : Tony Wells

The Bishop of Lax : Terry Dauncey

The Rev. Arthur Humphrey : Cliff Smith

Sergeant Towers : Gordon Casson

Willie Briggs : Geoffrey Manning



Produced by Cedric Gibbons

Directed by Gordon Casson

Designed by David Evans

The action of the play takes place in the Vicarage at Merton-cum-Middlewick.

It is September 1944.



Act 1                      Afternoon

Act 2                      The same night

Act 3                      A few seconds later

There will be an interval of 15 minutes after Act 2.



Stage Manager	Terry Cane
Asst Stage Manager	Geoffrey Manning
Lighting	Paul Macer-Wright, Gerald Russell
Wardrobe Mistress	Thérèse Casemore
Properties	Elaine Andrews, David Andrews
	Geoffrey Manning
Prompts	Sally Hayter, Thérèse Casemore
Construction	Terry Cane, David Evans,
	Cedric Gibbons
Poster Design	David Evans
Landscape scene by	David Evans,
Banner	Fee De Bruler
Publicity & Programme	Cedric Gibbons
Period Dress	Script to Screen, Cardiff
Front of House Officers, Men & Women	Pamela Wilson & Team
	The Nelson Museum
Ticket Sales	The Nelson Museum
Front of House Posters	Jay Dyer
Photography	



The Play was produced at the  
Comedy Theatre, London on January 14th 1945  
with the following cast

Ida	Joan Hickson	Miss Skillon	Joan Sanderson
Lionel Toop	Ronald Simpson	Penelope Toop	Beryl Mason
Clive Winton	George Gee	The Intruder	Michael Duffield
The Bishop	George Bishop	Arthur Humphrey	John Deverell
Sgt Towers	James Page	Directed by	Henry Kendall

Philip King recalled that the opening night went like a bomb, even though three doodle-bugs dropped during the performance. But no one left the theatre until the play was over.

### Thanks to

The Headmistress and Bursar of H.M.S.G; Monmouthshire Beacon; Andy Sherwill of the Free Press; Chris Jones; The Curator & Staff of the Nelson Museum; St John Ambulance; Brian Phillips and Pastorprint; St Mary's Parish Church in Wales; Monmouth Library; The House 1860 - 1925 Antiques; Tom & Marilyn Dart; Chris Munslow; Albert James; Lynn Hounsome; Huckabuck; Glynn Davies; Myfanwy Holder; Kay Nesbitt; Liz Hicks; Sally Hayter; Ann Hartland; Mike Webb; Margaret Wrightson; Muriel Lacey; Lloyd Bennett; Sue Miles; Betty Williams; Jane & Derek Elway; Kay Nesbitt; Tri-Wall Europe; Monmouth Scout Association; Monmouth Conservative Club; Jeff Mitchell; Maggie Douglas; Martin Goddard; Gerald Russell; Sandee Craig; Coleford Amateur Dramatic Society for the donation of costumes and properties; the many local shops, Companies and individuals too numerous to mention who have helped and advised in many ways.

### Pre-performance/interval music on the wireless in 1944

*Compiled with the assistance of Percy Childs*

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Chattanooga Choo-Choo                 | Glen Miller      |
| 2. The Laughing Policeman                | Charles Penrose  |
| 3. Someone To Watch Over Me              | Margaret Whiting |
| 4. Take The 'A' Train                    | Duke Ellington   |
| 5. The Patty Cake Man                    | Ella Mae Morse   |
| 6. Run, Rabbit, Run                      | Flanagan & Allen |
| 7. I'm Wasting My Tears On You           | Tex Ritter       |
| 8. In The Mood                           | Glen Miller      |
| 9. Dream                                 | Pied Pipers      |
| 10. Walter, Walter, Lead Me To The Altar | Gracie Fields    |
| 11. Stuff Like That There                | Betty Hutton     |
| 12. It Could Happen To You               | Joe Stafford     |
| 13. And Her Tears Flowed Like Wine       | Anita O'Day      |
| 14. I Wanna Banana                       | Arthur Askey     |
| 15. That Old Feeling                     | Peggy Lee        |
| 16. [I've Got a Gal in] Kalamazoo        | Glen Miller      |



### The Cast of See How They Run

Performed by the Staff at Monmouth School Spring 1981

Ida	Ann Hartland	Bishop	Robert Parry
Penelope Toop	Mrs Tucker	German	John Hartland
Mrs Skillon	Betty Loffhagen	Rev.d Arthur Humphrey	Mr Nettleship
Rev.d Lionel Toop	Bob Bowditch	Sergeant Towers	Mr Humphreys-Jones
L/Cpl Clive Winton	Bill Burn		



The shopping basket on set was made by Italian prisoners of war in the Internment camp at Newent and sold to a villager.

The needlework for the fire screen was completed by the Late Mrs Eileen Minchin during the Blitz, in the shelter of a London Underground Tube station.

### Queue Seats

Noted local photographer and long standing member of the Monmouth Civic Society, Derek Jones M.B.E., recalls seeing the original production of *See How They Run* at the Comedy Theatre, London, early in 1945. At the time he was based just outside London and took a day trip to see Lawrence Olivier and Ralph Richardson in "one of the Henry's". No tickets were available, but he bought a 'Queue Seat' After a day in town he returned to the theatre and the large queue for any returned tickets. He was able to get near to the front as he had bought his *queue seat* earlier. In the event he was unable to get a ticket and after wandering around happened on the Comedy Theatre where Philip King's farce began later than the Shakespeare. He went in and remembers "roaring with laughter."

### How to Join

If you are interested in joining Monmouth's Premier Amateur Dramatic Society please contact the Membership Secretary, Cedric Gibbons on 01600 716162. We are always looking for Producers, Directors, Designers, Sound & Lighting Technicians, Set Constructors Artists and Painters, Costumiers as well as Actors and back stage and Front of House helpers. Subscription rates are low and you will receive a regular Newsletter detailing forthcoming events. This year (after a search of 18 years) the Society will, *at last*, be moving into a permanent home; a room in which we can meet regularly for readings, auditions, workshops etc., as well as space for storage for our costumes. The way ahead is exciting.

Farce is either good or bad. And the fact is that everyone knows which is which. The good ones you laugh at, the bad ones you leave.... Because the aim of farce is merely (*merely!*) to create laughter. It is the most misunderstood and often the most underrated form of theatre there is. Alan Ayckbourn

"If you are teetering unsteadily on the top of a pair of rickety steps and fall and break your neck - that's tragedy; leap athletically into space and perform a perfect pirouette - that's comedy; land on your backside, with your tights around your ankles - that's farce." Brian Rix, *Life in the Farce Lane*



## The House 1860 - 1925 Antiques

6 - 8 St James Street,  
Monmouth NP25 3DL.  
Telephone 01600 772721

A large selection of **ORIGINAL FURNITURE**  
from the Arts & Crafts & related Movements

**We do NOT sell new or reproduction objects**

[www.thehouse1860-1925.com](http://www.thehouse1860-1925.com)

**Monmouth Operatic Society**  
present an

## Opera Gala Night

**Saturday October 9th 2004**  
**at St Mary's Church, Monmouth**  
See local Press for details later in the year



OFF CENTRE  
THEATRE

## New Year 2005

**JACK AND THE BEANSTALK**  
**"ROLL ON WINTER!!"**

**I CAN'T WAIT FOR ANOTHER PANTO!!"**