

LORD ARTHUR SAVILE'S CRIME By Constance Cox

Based on a short story by Oscar Wilde. Period; the 1890's. The action takes place in the drawing-room of Lord Arthur Savile's house in Grovesnor Square, London.

Act 1, an evening shortly before the marriage of Lord Arthur to Sybil Merton.

Act 2, the same, the following morning.

Act 3, the same, early evening, several days later.

An interval of 15 minutes will occur at the end of Act 2 scene 1.

Lord Arthur, a rich but not very bright young man with a much-hampered education (*I've only been to Eton and Oxford!*) is to be married to Sybil, the beautiful daughter of Lady Julia Merton.

His faithful manservant, Baines, has all the acumen which comes from many years of devoted service. He is also the brains (or what passes for them!) of the outfit.

Two devoted aunts, Lady Clementina Beauchamp, Lady Margaret Windermere and the Dean of Paddington comprise Arthur's closest family. It has fallen to the Dean to marry (*I mean, perform the ceremony*) Arthur and Sybil on Thursday the 24th.

Sybil's mother, Lady Julia Merton, is not wholeheartedly in favour of the marriage. She employs the famous Mr. Podgers, who reads "*The past, the present and the future from the palm of the hand.*" to give Arthur's hand a going-over. What is revealed by Mr. Podgers, casts a dark shadow across the lives of our hero and Sybil.

Arthur is doomed to perform a desperate deed which he hopes to keep strictly private, but despite Baines' best efforts, his plans are discovered by the anarchist, Herr Winkelkopf. Is he working for the Police? "*Oh Nein! Nein! Nein!*". So his expertise is brought into service and a happy outcome is sure to result.

When will the wedding bells ring out? Well, for Baines, who finds himself betrothed to the maid, Nellie, despite his earlier prejudice against matrimony, in a few weeks. But what of Arthur and Sybil? Circumstances, as you will discover, demand a short postponement.

Directed for Off Centre Theatre by Wyn Parry.



Off Centre Theatre

Proudly Presents a Comedy by
Constance Cox, based on a short story
by Oscar Wilde



Lord Arthur Savile's Crime

February 15, 16, 17 & 19

At 7--30 p.m.

at Dingestow Village Hall



Victorian Beauties

Left;
the Duchess of Leinster.

Right;
Miss Maude Millett.
She appeared in Oscar
Wilde's "An Ideal
Husband" in 1895



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Lord Arthur Savile's Crime by Constance Cox was first produced at the Royal Court Theatre London on 7th October 1952 with Claude Hulbert in the title role and the play has been a firm favourite for both the professional and amateur theatre ever since.

Constance Cox is one of the earliest adaptors of the classics including Mansfield Park, Wuthering Heights, Jane Eyre, Pride and Prejudice and Forsyte Saga for TV. It has been a joy to work with such an enthusiastic cast. Not only have they worked hard in preparing this show but the Wardrobe Mistress, Set Designer and Publicity all members of the cast.

In Constance Cox words 'The play has no message except to make you laugh.' We hope you will spend an enjoyable evening with us and go home still smiling. Thank you for coming.

Wyn Parry

The Working Classes

FRONT OF HOUSE

Joan Parry and her splendid Team.

STAGE CREW

Sound and Lights

Stage Manager,

Props Department.

Set Design and painting

Wardrobe

Paul Macer-Wright

Terry Cane, assisted by David Wells.

David and Elaine Andrews .

Tony Sully.

Ann Hartland

Costumes supplied by Marigold (Cardiff)

Off Centre Theatre wishes to thank the following Firms for generous help in the staging of this performance;

Market House Antiques,
36 High Street,
Ross-on-Wye
Herefordshire.

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Monmouth.
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Our thanks to local Firms which have advertised in this programme and to those Firms and individuals who gave Draw Prizes. Also to Dingestow Village Hall Committee and Dennis Long, the Caretaker for the willing help we have received in staging this production



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CAST, IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE.

BAINES, THE MANSERVANT

TONY SULLY .

Apart from appearing in a one-act play in 2004, Tony has not appeared on stage since student days . However, as a Lecturer, he gives performances every week . He says that this play has "Fired me up on all cylinders !"

LORD ARTHUR SAVILE

TONY WELLS

After joining OCT as a backstage operative and developing an unhealthy interest in smoke machines and thunder flashes his court-appointed psychiatrist advised that it would be in his interest, and also in the interest of public safety, to leave such things behind and move into the spotlight on stage. Having appeared in disguise in previous roles in "The Happiest days of Your Life" and "See How they Run", he felt ready to appear before the public with his facial hair as William Featherstone in "How the Other Half Loves." Following the public reaction he has returned to appearing incognito as a clean-shaven Lord Arthur Savile.

MISS SYBIL MERTON

KAREN DAVIES

Karen is a newcomer to Off Centre Theatre, having appeared in only one previous performance as Mary Featherstone in "How the Other Half Loves" in October 2004. She enjoyed the role immensely, so couldn't wait to get back into the acting world again and she now appears as Sybil Merton. She has found the play to be very entertaining and has enjoyed working with her fellow cast-members.

THE DEAN OF PADDINGTON

BRIAN PHILLIPS

Many years ago, he played the title role of Arthur, (Well not that long ago, surely ?). He had forgotten how many words Arthur has. He now finds that with years of experience he can forget any number of lines with ease. He has greatly enjoyed being a significant member of the Higher Clergy of the Church of England, a role he never attempted before. A founder-member and first chairman of Off Centre Theatre.

LADY CLEMENTINA BEAUCHAMP

MARCIA COOK

Marcia has been a member of Off Centre Theatre for many years. She has appeared in a number of productions and directed several plays for O.C.T. She manages to fit her love for theatre around her day job running a Care Agency for the last eight years. She arrived in Monmouth in 1972 having moved from Guildford, where she ran a Public House.

LADY MARGARET WINDERMERE

JUDITH ROSSITER

This is Judith's first role in a play with OCT. She appeared last year briefly in the Summer Showcase. She has made her home in Monmouth with her husband and children, after leaving Germany in 2002. Judith took up

Amateur Dramatics while living in Germany and has not looked back since.

LADY JULIA MERTON

ANN HARTLAND

Ann has trodden the boards on and off, since the age of three. She is a founder-member of Off Centre Theatre and has appeared regularly. For six years during her 'teens, she was a member of a Concert Party and enjoyed every minute of it. She played Nancy in "Oliver", and won an award as Best Supporting Actress in the production of "Abigail's Party". She appeared as Madame Arcati in "Blythe Spirit" and also appeared in "St. Joan". She worked for the national Health Service and ended up as Sister in the St. Laurence's Hospital, Chepstow. She says, "Life is sweet !"

MR. PODGERS

WYN PARRY

Previously a Director of the Swansea-based Dylan Thomas Theatre, he joined Off Centre Theatre when he moved to Monmouth in 2001. He had a minor role in the 2002 pantomime, "Robinson Crusoe" and then played Rainbow in "The Happiest Days of Your Life". He was the Butler in "The Importance of Being Earnest" and was delighted to be asked to direct this present play. Due to a sudden departure of the actor cast originally as Podgers, he also plays this character.

NELLIE

ELIN ROSSITER

Elin is off to Manchester University in September, so her time with OCT will be a short one. She has appeared in school productions in Germany. She enjoys music and sings and plays saxophone with Monmouth Big Band.

HERR WINKELKOPF

CLIFF SMITH

Cliff was born a Londoner but has chosen to be a Welshman and now feels nearly Welsh ! He has been a member of both Off Centre Theatre and Monmouth Operatic Society for a number of years. He has been fortunate, he thinks, to have been given some juicy character roles recently. The Headmaster in "The Happiest Days", Henry Miller in the Operatic Society's production of "Calamity Jane" and the Revd. Arthur Humphrey in "See How They Run". Next month, he assumes the role of Sir Joseph Porter in the Operatic Society's production of "H.M.S. Pinafore". However, tonight he promises to be Frederick Winkelkopf and leave the ruling of the Queen's Navy to others.

PROMPTER

Janet Waters .