

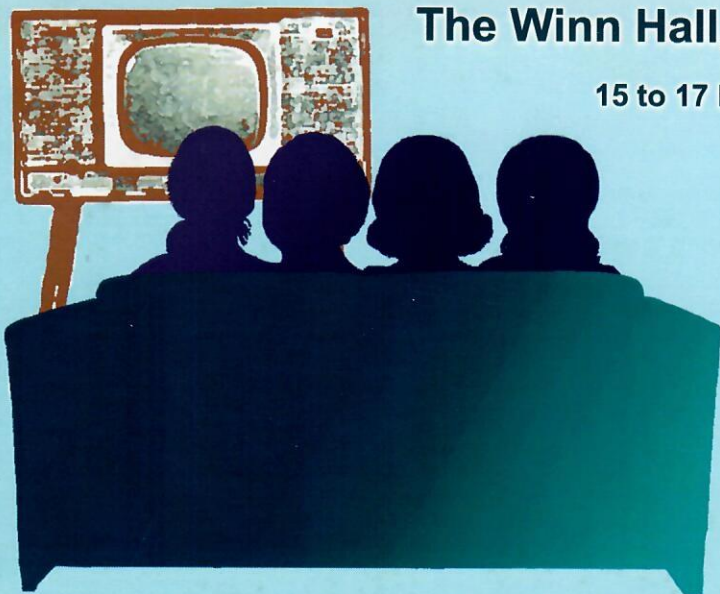
DADS presents

Nasty Things, Murders

by Arthur Lovegrove

The Winn Hall, Dunsfold

15 to 17 November 2007



Nasty Things, Murders



After her first dramatic appearance as a Centurion in a school production of *Androcles and the Lion*, Camilla swapped script for score to dance with the Sanderstead Dramatic Society. Having decided to retire from the stage, she was eventually persuaded back onto the boards only by the thrill of appearing in the DADS production of *Last Tango in Dunsfold* (2000). Commenting that "with memory going, cast me while you can", we are sure Camilla has many appearances yet to come.

Gillian's long stage career started in a school one-act Russian play, as a Cossack, quickly followed by appearances at the Steiner hall with the Dickens Fellowship, and in Wilkie Collins' *The Light House*. Willing to "try anything on stage, except directing", Gillian appeared as Catherine of Aragon in DADS *Henry Hereafter* (1998) and then as the doomed novelist in *Tomb with a View* (2003) - a born actress, Gillian's demise, and that final twitch, has yet to be beaten in any DADS death scene.



We think Shirley was referring to Amateur Dramatics when she told us she was involved in "anything and everything" at school! Anyway, her fondest memories are as the games master in *The Happiest Days of their Lives* and the Virgin Mary in a tableau. During her first, and almost last, DADS appearance as a mad sister in *Tomb with a View* (2003), she tripped onto stage, losing a shoe and making a most undignified entrance. Remaining seated in tonight's drama should be a safe casting option.

Mary's first serious stage appearance was as Thomas Cromwell in *A Man for all Seasons* - remembered mainly because (as scripted) she held a schoolfriends' hand over a lighted candle! Her first DADS appearance as Delia in *What Do We Do About Henry?* (her revelation of happenings behind the 'fridge in the village shop was a show highlight), was followed by the part of a Policeman in *Aladdin* (2007). No lighted candles or funny accents tonight, just Mary at her spooky and intriguing best.



After coming late to the amateur dramatics scene, Mary Anne appeared in several shows with the Weald Players, in *Absurd Person Singular* and as Mrs Reece in a 'Farndale Avenue' version of *Macbeth*. Mary Anne's first DADS appearance (no pun intended!) was as Genie of the Ring in *Aladdin*, accompanied by pyrotechnic flashes, smoke and bangs. Despite saying "Oh, my Gosh! I wish I was sitting in the audience", we look forward to her future (less dramatic) appearance on the Dunsfold stage.

Asked why he wanted to direct a play, John said "how could anyone resist being alone, night after night, with five lovely ladies. And seeing how previous DADS directors have made it look so easy," he continued, "I couldn't resist the temptation. I only hope that my efforts match up to the commitment and effort of everybody else. Good luck and best wishes to the cast, the producer, and the behind-the-scenes helpers and organisers."



Nasty Things, Murders

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Set in the Grantley Home for Retired Gentlewomen - what could be more peaceful and pleasant than four elderly ladies enjoying an evening's TV viewing, watching the dramatisation of a notorious murder of 20 years ago? But, when the TV breaks down before the climax of the drama, their thoughts and guesses as to the identity of the villain slowly harden into the conclusion that one of them is the real-life murderess! Increasing frustration, suspicion, and fear grip the emotions of the ladies, only to be dispelled when one of them receives a most unexpected telephone call. As calm settles again and the ladies prepare to retire for the night, the behaviour of one of them is rather strange, to say the least.....!

Directed by John Simper
Produced by Louise Enticknap

Cast

Ethel	Camilla Fryer
Louise	Gillian Kisch
Madge	Shirley Jeffrey
Mary	Mary Murphy
Matron	Mary Anne Pryor

Behind the scenes

Stage Manager	Anne Cannings assisted by Michael Hutt
Assistant Stage Manager	Beryl Cooke
Lighting and Special Effects	Tony Cannings
Scenery	Jonathan Mason
Make up	Jo Lavis
Wardrobe	Mary Hardcastle
Box Office	Gillian Kisch
Publicity & Programme	Richard Woof
Front of House	The Gentlemen of Grantley House
Catering	The Ladies of Little Dunsfold
Video Filming	Matt & Caroline Wright



An amateur production by Dunsfold Amateur Dramatic Society

A Short History of DADS

The first performance of what was to become DADS was presented in the gardens of the Dunsfold Rectory in August 1916. Titled *A Fairy Play*, it was composed by Mrs. Hollins, the wife of the Rector, and performed by children from the village school. The next year Mrs. Hollins presented *Christmas Eve in the Clouds*, in the newly opened Winn Hall. Over the next twenty years, the energetic Hollins family presented nearly 50 plays and ballets, mostly in the Winn Hall, but sometimes at the village summer fete, and often "on-tour" in the surrounding villages.

After a wartime break the Society was revived. Over the next twenty-five years the DADS staged a wide range of dramas, comedies and the occasional pantomime or review, regularly playing to full houses and building an impressive reputation as a very professional amateur drama group. Besides the regular shows in Spring and Autumn, the Society also held a regular carol singing "concert" in the village, raising money to support The Evergreens summer outing and Christmas party.

In the late 1970s, the Society was faced with shrinking membership and financial difficulties - one of the solutions to these problems was the formation of the Junior DADS group. Together with a drive for new membership, the Society started to thrive again, gradually rebuilding its local membership base and reputation for staging first-class shows. During the 1980s and early 1990s the high reputation of the Society attracted more and more members from outside Dunsfold until, by the end of the decade, there were virtually no Dunsfoldians appearing on-stage.

At the end of the 1990s, DADS decided to focus more on the village, drawing members mainly from Dunsfold, and concentrating on presenting a single show each autumn. In the last few years, the DADS have also presented a Poetry evening and the occasional 1-off stage play, as a fund-raiser for local charities.

As part of its 90th birthday celebrations in 2006, the Society compiled a history of the DADS, with reviews and plots of more than 150 comedies, dramas and pantomimes presented over the last 90 years, with lists of cast and back-stage helpers, history of the Winn Hall, Carol Singing in the village, Poetry Evenings, charities and memories by past members.



Nearly sold out, the 90th anniversary DADS history has a wonderful collection of photographs and memories of the Society. Never to be republished, only 10 copies are available, Price £10

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