



Abigail's Party

By Mike Leigh

24–28 May 2022

Programme £2



TEDDINGTON
THEATRE CLUB

FANCY A LITTLE TOP UP?



Abigail's Party

By Mike Leigh

**Act 1: The living room of Beverly and Laurence's
house, early evening in July 1977**

Act 2: The same, sometime later that same evening

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with
Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd.

No photography or recording!

Show Pictures



A Welcome from our Artistic Director



Welcome to Hampton Hill Theatre and TTC's production of *Abigail's Party*.

This play's popularity is the stuff of legend. We knew when we chose it that it would sell well, but I don't think any of us thought it would sell out completely quite so quickly. So congratulations to all of you who got in quickly and are able to see the show!

Defining why the play is so popular is tricky – popular opinion is that it's because in the almost (but not quite) caricature characters we see something of ourselves; and there's some truth in that – I can definitely recognise people I've met in every one of tonight's quintet. Possibly though the attraction is looking back to a period in time that many of us can remember and yet can't quite believe really happened – certainly in terms of fashion and interior design. Or maybe it's just a well written ghoulishly funny play.

Talking of fashion and design of the time, TTC is fortunate to have an extremely talented team of technicians and designers and the amount of research that goes into costume and set design is incredible. What you see this evening is a replica of what I remember from my childhood. I still have nightmares about our front room curtains!

I know that Ian, Laurie, Kathryn and the cast have had a great time working on the play and there's been lots of laughter ringing through the corridors during the rehearsal process. So sit back in the seat of your personal time capsule and enjoy your trip back to the 1970's and immerse yourself in orange and brown swirly carpets, lava lamps and Mateus Rose (which can be purchased in the bar).

From the Director ...

A show of this (or indeed any) size doesn't just come together out of nowhere; it requires the often tireless efforts of so many people from across a number of our club's different departments. To each and every one of them I offer my immense debt of gratitude for enabling me to make the very best of my first foray into "offstage" work. More specifically, I give thanks – with much love – to the following individuals:

to Mia, Bill, Hannah, Josh, and Juanita, you deserve every word of praise and rapturous applause you receive. Thank you for entrusting your time and energy to me, thank you for your commitment, and thank you for making this process the relentlessly fun experience it was. "Ta" times a million;

to Laurie Coombs, my production manager and confidante, for being my guiding light in all things theatrical (and in many more things non-theatrical);

to Lottie Walker, for scheduling this crowd-pleaser in the first place, and for steering the artistic programme of the theatre, at large. We salute you!;

to Charles J. Halford, for his wisdom and know-how, and for being (in the Irish sense of the word) a "sound lad";

to Lesley Alexander, for fabric wizardry the likes of which we would be lost without, and for dressing Josh in those outrageous flares;

to Kathryn Halford, who I have very much enjoyed getting to know, and whose wicked sense of humour has kept me laughing throughout rehearsals;

to Gary Stevenson and Rob Foot, for "keeping 'er lit" and showing off what we have made in the best light possible;

to Jacqui Grebot, for introducing me to sights hitherto unseen in the prop fairies' den of inequity, and for propping up the show in general;

to Wes Henderson Roe, for not being shit;

to Fiona Auty, for the flourish and dressing, for her keen attention to detail, and for her general “can-do” approach to it all;

to Priya and Sian for their muscle in building the staging and furniture moving;

to Meaghan Baxter, for keeping us all in cheesy pineapple bits and managing every stage of show week. It is well and truly your show now!;

to Joe Evans and Juliet Hill, for supporting Meaghan and helping us keep track of all the many, many bits and pieces;

to Jojo Leppink, for capturing our best sides;

to Andy Smith, our artistic link (and a former Laurence, himself), whose advocacy and support during the reading and auditions week, and throughout, was very kindly received;

to Dave Dadswell, who “procured” for us an LP of Demis Roussos (ostensibly from a charity shop, but we all suspect from his secret stockpile at home);

to Barbara Pendleton, Sarah Pendleton, Janet Williams, Sally Cadle and Sandy Almazan, for allowing us to borrow their furniture and various props;

to Richmond Furniture Scheme for being so accommodating and for storing most of Beverly’s living room;

to the front of house, box office and bar teams without whom the show couldn’t go on;

to my parents, always.

And for everything else, and a million-and-one other things besides, to Elizabeth Parker.

“Cheers, everyone!, have a lovely gin and tonic!”



The Cast and Crew

Beverly..... Mia Skytte
LaurenceBill Compton
Angela..... Hannah Lobley
Tony Josh Clarke
Sue.....Juanita Al-Dahhan

Director..... Ian Kinane
Production Manager Laurie Coombs
Stage Manager..... Meaghan Baxter
Assistant Stage Manager Joe Evans & Juliet Hill
Set Design Wesley Henderson Roe with Fiona Auty
Set Build Fiona Auty
..... With Priya Virdee & Sian Walters
Sound Charles Halford
Lighting Design Gary Stevenson
Lighting Operation Rob Foot
Wardrobe..... Lesley Alexander
Props Jacqui Grebot
Rehearsal Prompt..... Kathryn Halford
Photographer Jojo Leppink
Artistic Link..... Andy Smith
Backstage and Technical Link..... Gary Stevenson

Biographies

Mia Skytte - Beverly

Mia is thrilled (and a little terrified) to be finding her inner Beverly for this iconic play. Her last performance in the Coward was for OHADS as *The Other Woman in The River*, which couldn't have been a more different role. The former a gin-swimming monster, the latter a dope-smoking enigma, but both brilliant characters in complex, fascinating plays. The last play Mia was in for TTC was *Cause Célèbre* as Alma Rattenbury.



Bill Compton - Laurence

Over the past 28 years Bill has been involved in over 80 productions either as an actor, director or designer. In 2017 he was nominated for Arts Richmond Best Supporting Actor Swan award for his portrayal of Christopher Tavistock-Smyth in Jimmie Chinn's *Too Long an Autumn*. In November Bill will be directing *Dracula* for Youth Action Theatre at Hampton Hill Theatre. In his spare time Bill likes to dabble with a full time job, see his beautiful wife as they pass each other by the back door and spend time playing Star Wars / Lego / Disney Princesses with his four wonderful children.



Hannah Lobley – Angela

Hannah joined TTC in 2019 when she played Jane Seymour in their production of *Wolf Hall and Bring up the Bodies*. Hannah last appeared on the HHT stage as Kate in *Shakespeare in Love*. Other recent roles include the garish Dandini in *Cinderella Meets the Monsters*, Merlin in *King Arthur in Space* and Rona in the Swan nominated *The Revlon Girl*. Hannah is also a performed playwright. She wrote the sell-out play *Strictly Come Barking* and won two awards for her play *Happily Ever After Parole*. Hannah was part of the TTC New Writing Fringe 2022 as the writer and co-director of *The Book Club*.



Josh Clarke – Tony

Josh has studied theatre and performance from school to college to university and has been a drama queen for as long as he can remember! He joined YAT in 2013 and has been involved in over ten productions both at Hampton Hill and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Josh joined TTC in 2017 and is thrilled to be invited to *Abigail's Party!* Most recently he went back to school, appearing as Salty in *Teechers* in the round in January. Other acting credits with TTC include Johnny in *Still Life* and Mrs Morgan in *King Arthur in Space*. Josh can also be found behind the scenes, telling actors where to stand and how to say a line. His directing credits with TTC include *The Regina Monologues*, *Zoo* and the Swan Award winning *Pornography* in 2019.



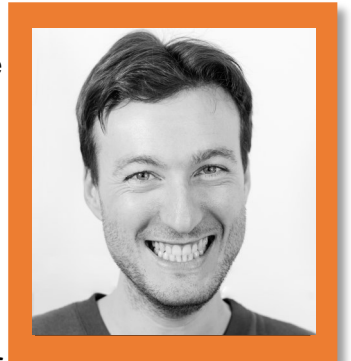
Juanita Al-Dahhan - Sue

Juanita's first role with TTC was Dame Dotty in *King Arthur in Space* in 2019. In 2021 she was an Ugly Sister in the Halloween Panto *Cinderella Meets the Monsters* and, also in 2021, Juanita was in the RSS summer show *Comedy of Errors* playing Dromio of Syracuse. Earlier this year Juanita was involved in TTC's New writing Fringe piece playing Winifred in *The Book Club*, written by our Ang! Juanita is delighted to be cast as Sue in *Abigail's Party*.

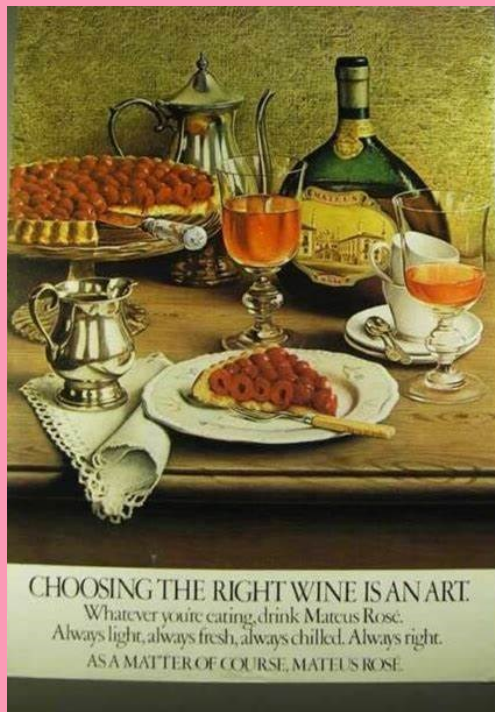


Ian Kinane - Director

Abigail's Party is Ian's directorial debut. Previous stage credits for Teddington Theatre Club include Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in *Amadeus*, Henry Tudor in *Wolf Hall and Bring up the Bodies*, Tom Ince in *The Cat's Meow*, and Jake Quinn in 2018's *Stones in his Pockets* (Swan Award, Best Actor) as well as its 2021 revival. Other stage credits include *Things I Know to be True*, *Glorious: The Florence Foster Jenkins Story*, *The Making of 'Tis Pity She's a Whore*, *The Trials of Oscar Wilde*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Pillowman*, *The Wonderful World of Dissocia*, *Attempts on Her Life*, *Phéd*, *The Tiger's Bones*, *The History Boys*, *Speed-The-Plow*, *Angels in America*, *Normal*, *Orpheus*, *Juno and the Paycock*, *The Crucible*, *The Playboy of the Western World*, *As You Like It*, *Death of a Salesman*, and *Chicago*. Ian's feature film debut was in *The Hopeless End of a Great Dream* (2016), directed by Declan Clarke and commissioned by TBG+S, Belfast Exposed, Centre Cultural Irlandais Paris and Trinity Creative.



Party Like Beverly



Another Gin & Tonic Ang?



Dress an Avocado with a prawn or two.

DRESSED AVOCADOS

(see colour picture facing page 33)

Avocados (allow half per person)

Lemon juice

Tomato vinaigrette or garlic cream dressing (see below), or shrimps or other shellfish, plus thin mayonnaise or soured cream and seasoning)

Lettuce leaves (optional)

Cut open the avocados, using a sharp and stainless knife, and making a deep cut through the flesh, up to the stone and entirely encircling the fruit. Separate the halves by gently rotating them in opposite directions and discard the stone. Brush the cut surfaces with lemon juice.

Serve with one of the following dressings, spooned into the hollow of each avocado-half, or fill the hollow with shelled shrimps, prawns, flaked crab or lobster meat, moistened with thin mayonnaise or well-seasoned soured cream. If you wish, serve the pears on lettuce leaves, as seen in the picture.

Tomato Vinaigrette: Using a container with a tight-fitting lid, shake together $\frac{1}{2}$ pint salad oil, $\frac{1}{8}$ pint red wine vinegar, $\frac{1}{4}$ level tsp. salt, a little freshly ground pepper, $\frac{1}{4}$ level tsp. dry mustard, $\frac{1}{2}$ level tsp. caster sugar and $\frac{1}{2}$ level tsp. tomato ketchup. (Serves 6.)

Garlic Cream Dressing: Using a container with a tight-fitting lid, shake together $\frac{1}{2}$ pint garlic vinegar, $\frac{1}{2}$ pint single cream, $\frac{1}{2}$ level tsp. salt, a little freshly ground pepper, 1 clove of garlic, skinned and crushed, $\frac{1}{4}$ level tsp. caster sugar and 1 tbsp. chopped parsley. (Serves 6.)



Teddington Theatre Club

Formed in 1927, Teddington Theatre Club is now one of the leading amateur drama groups in south west London, performing in their own custom-built theatre in Hampton Hill. Starting out to stage Shakespeare for schools, it soon developed to stage a wide repertoire of plays for the general public, originally to raise funds for its schools programmes.

TTC's first production, in 1927, was *Scenes from Twelfth Night* followed in 1928 with *The Merchant of Venice* and *Scenes from As You Like It*. Since then, the Club has gone on to put on over 670 productions and counting as it rapidly approaches its hundredth anniversary. Having performed four or five productions a year in hired halls for many years, in 1969 the Club were granted a lease of part of Richmond Council's Hampton Court House and after two years of conversion work finally opened its own theatre in 1971.

As the lease came towards its end, negotiations with Richmond Council secured a site on Hampton Hill High Street for a new theatre and after a concentrated period of fundraising and with a grant from the National Lottery, the well-equipped Hampton Hill Playhouse (now Theatre) was opened in 1998.

TTC present about ten productions a year and welcome new members - from those who wish to be on stage to the technical teams or front of house. All shows at the Theatre are supported by a huge team of volunteers – so thanks to all of those who have supporting this show with marketing, front of house, bar, health & safety, box office, finance and more.

There are lots of ways to get involved, so please go to our website to find out more and to keep in touch with what's on at Hampton Hill Theatre, sign up to our monthly show listing at

www.hamptonhilltheatre.org.uk

COMING SOON

**Booking at www.thelittleboxoffice.com/teddingtontheatreclub
or phone 020 8410 4546 (5.00pm - 8.00pm Mon - Sat)**

TUE 28 JUN - SAT 2 JUL 2022

OUR COUNTRY'S GOOD

By Timberlake Wertenbaker

The funny, uplifting and true story of the first play to be performed in Australia.

This is amateur production is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd.

WED 6 JUL - SAT 9 JUL 2022

THE KILLING OF SISTER GEORGE

By Frank Marcus

Foul-mouthed. Foul-tempered. But does she deserve to die?

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd. on behalf of Samuel French Ltd.

TUE 4 OCT - SAT 8 OCT 2022

PYGMALION

By George Bernard Shaw

How can you turn a common flower seller into a duchess?

TUE 15 NOV - SAT 19 NOV 2022

Incident at Vichy

By Arthur Miller

[Occupied] France 1942. No one is safe, but can one man give the ultimate sacrifice?

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Limited.

Teddington Theatre Club is affiliated to Arts
Richmond and this production is entered for the
Swan Awards for Drama and Musicals.





TEDDINGTON THEATRE CLUB

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Teddington Theatre Club is resident at Hampton Hill Theatre.

90 High Street, Hampton Hill, TW12 1NZ

Company registration number 939448.

Registered charity number 257265

HAMPTON HILL
THEATRE

