



1934 - 2022

Clubrooms: 6 - 8 Castle Hill Richmond North Yorkshire DL10 4QP
www.richmond-ads.org.uk

Summer 2022 28 - 30 July
 and 3 - 6 August

Stepping Out

by Richard Harris

Directed by Lynne Kerr

Autumn 2022 10 - 12 November

A Midsummer Night's Dream

by William Shakespeare

Directed by Jim Brown

Sedgefield Festival 2022

Roger Ordish has offered to direct *The Form* by N.F. Simpson at the 2022 Sedgefield Drama Festival. There will be a readthrough and auditions hopefully in the week following *Stepping Out* (w/c 8th August) at 1930h in the Club Rooms. Confirmation of the exact date to follow.

Roger has provided the following information:

One performance at the Sedgefield Drama Festival on a day between Tuesday 13th September and Friday 16th September, 2022.

It is an oeuvre belonging to 'the Theatre of the Absurd'. It is deliberately absurd but should be played with utter seriousness for maximum comic effect. It is set in an office in the early 1960s with props of that era such as typewriters and filing cards. A cassette recorder is also involved

The author, N.F. Simpson, has written fairly elaborate yet whimsical descriptions of three of the four characters. The ages he gives need only be the roughest of guidelines:

MR WHINBY: Aged about 23, he lacks charm but has a natural gaucheness, which would do instead, provided he were willing to make a go of being the failure nature intended him to be.

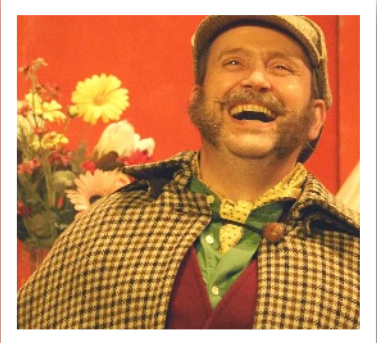
MISS HAVIOUR (secretary): is younger than Whinby but more mature and possesses a quietly mocking, feminine intelligence, which enables her to see through Whinby while at the same time taking a perverse liking to him in spite of the irritation he causes her.

MR CHACTERSON (middle aged): is a successful senior linesman for the Gas Board (gas providing company). He is reliable and efficient at his job, but somewhat colourless as a man.

MISS ONGEW: the other secretary is not described by the author. To my mind she is older than Miss Havioir, concerned for Mr Chacterson's well being and likes to mother her boss.

The play was first performed with a very distinguished cast in London in 1961. Costume would be contemporary with that time. (remembering that 'the Sixties' did not start until 1964!).

An English playwright closely associated with the Theatre of the Absurd, Norman Frederick Simpson was known to his friends as Wally Simpson, in comic reference to the abdication crisis of 1936. A Londoner by birth, Simpson studied at Emanuel School before taking a job as a bank clerk. During wartime he served in the Royal Artillery and Intelligence Corps, travelling to Italy, Palestine and Cyprus. Following a post-war degree in English Literature at the University of London, Simpson taught English in adult education for almost twenty years. The turning point in N.F. Simpson's life came in 1957 when he was awarded third prize in the Observer newspaper's quest for new writers, spearheaded by Theatre critic Kenneth Tynan.



Chair's Corner

Hello Everyone,

Things are moving with our current production of *Stepping Out* now in rehearsal, and it is really looking good at this early stage. Remember, tickets for the show are on sale now and if you and your friends want good seats, get them booked online or at the box office. No point in waiting till July!

I spent last weekend at the Georgian Theatre as organiser of the GTR One Act Drama Festival. The five plays entered were all worthy of the event and the winning play, "*These Are The Days*" by Shari Gledhill was beautifully performed by Allerton Players who are performing it again at the semi-final of the All England Theatre Festival at Saltburn, this weekend.

A close runner up was Sedgefield Players with "*And Go To Innesfree*" by Jean Lennox Toddie. Leyburn ADS, Richmond School Theatre Company and GTR Youth Theatre completed the entries and Richmond School was awarded the trophy for Best Youth Group with "*The Edelweiss Pirates*" by Atub Kahn Din. This weekend of drama was well worth seeing, with an excellent adjudicator in Sue Doherty. Everyone who is interested in appearing in, or directing or working backstage, should make the effort to attend festivals as you can learn so much by watching other groups. I hope we can encourage more directors from RADs to come forward for next years festivals whenever or wherever they may be.

Finally, I know the autumn is still in the distant future, and a number of you have already expressed an interest in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* but I do hope you will come along on Monday 9th May to the workshop. It will be a fun evening! If you can't make it on Monday night, but are interested in taking part in the play please let Gregan know asap. Lots of good parts for men and women so don't hold back---get involved!

See you on Monday

Regards,

Warnock Kerr.

e-mail: chairman@richmond-ads.org.uk

RADS Social Events

Clubnights

Monday 9th May

A get-together and read-through of our proposed Autumn production, Shakespeare's ever-popular comedy *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Hosted by Jim Brown, it is also an opportunity to express an interest in being in the play and/or taking on one of the backstage roles. Further information was in last month's Newsletter and is on the RADs website Members Only page.

Monday 13th June

RADS AGM will be held in the Club Rooms this year (not via Zoom). Watch out for AGM papers in your inbox shortly. Interested in coming on the committee? Get in touch with Gregan Davis our secretary secretary@richmond-ads.org.uk

Stepping Out - Costume Help

Lynne Kerr is still seeking help from anyone who would be interested in doing costumes. The cast will be dressing themselves as far as possible, but are costumed for the last two numbers. We already have most of these, so this should not be too onerous, we just really need help with the few bits that need sourcing.

Could anyone who could help please contact Lynne at lynne.kerr@hotmail.co.uk as soon as possible.

We are also in need of a bicycle basket for the production - does anyone have one we can borrow? If you do, please again drop Lynne a line on the email above.

The updated cast and crew list is as follows:

Mavis	Joanne Mason
Mrs. Fraser	Susie Ordish
Lynne	Claire Smith
Dorothy	Stephanie McAulay
Maxine	Helena Langford
Andy	Nicola Bryan
Geoffrey	Paul Mason
Sylvia	Jodie Martin
Rose	Carole White
Vera	Wendy Morris

Director	Lynne Kerr
Choreographer/Dance teacher	Maureen Mundell
Stage Manager / Sound	Brian Rogers
Set	Charles Lambert
Music	Mike Walker
Lighting	Miles Templeton
Properties	Norma Rogers
Rehearsal prompt	Graeme Mulvey
Costumes	Help required!