

# Careline Theatre Going Forward

No sooner had we finished "Cinderella" than some people were trying to pigeonhole us. "Specialise" they said. "Stick with pantomimes and revues and old-time music-halls". Alright, "Cinderella" went down very well but, specialise, after one I show? Not likely! Who knows, after "Run For Your Wife", some might suggest we specialise in doing comedy? The truth is that there are many different types of theatre and, with the advantage of Fontilles, we want to adopt a broad approach and then, maybe, sit back and think of some degree of specialisation. Apart from anything else, our audiences will have their own preferences and this will be reflected in our box office business!

Careline Theatre's very first production proved to be even more of a success than we could have hoped.

We took a traditional pantomime, acknowledged as one of the most difficult forms of theatre to transpose from the professional stage and, I without compromising in any aspect, put on a production the quality of which surprised just about everyone who saw it.

From our point of view "Cinderella" came close to meeting most of our objectives. We used to best advantage the professional elements which we had at our disposal and, not only did our production look and sound good as a whole, but many excellent individual and chorus performances showed that a largely inexperienced cast could, with the right direction, achieve remarkable standards. We engendered a lot of enthusiasm, delighted our audiences and maximised every benefit of the lovely, old, Fontilles theatre. On top of that, we were sufficiently successful in financial terms to be able to make generous donations to both Fontilles Sanatorium and to Careline/ComSanit.

So here we are with something totally different. Farcical comedy is another notoriously difficult medium and one with which amateurs so often try, and fail. Everything from acting techniques to set building is a total contrast to pantomime and presents us with an entirely new challenge. Nevertheless, with a cast which, again, combines exprofessionals and first-timers, we shall be doing our best to achieve the highest standards and leave our audiences with the feeling that they have enjoyed the sort of evening at the theatre that they remember from UK.

To occupy and interest many of our members who are not directly involved in tonight's play (as well as to raise more money which we need to carry on our improvements in the theatre) our next production, in a couple of weeks time, is truly innovative. We are combining with Jade, the well-known and highly respected fashion boutique in Calpe, to mount "Putting On The Style", a production which combines fashion and variety entertainment. Our members will be staging the show and providing the dancing and singing which will be interspersed with the display of Europe-wide fashion. We hope you will support us and enjoy the evening.

Through the Summer we hope to hone our skills through play readings and workshops so that we are even better able to provide quality entertainment next season.

**A Comedy by** **Ray Cooney**  
**Directed by** **John A. Booth**

#### **Cast in order of appearance**

Mary Smith	Elaine A. Farrow
Barbara Smith	Lynne Parsons
John Smith	Graham B. Chadwick
W Det Sgt Troughton	Margaret Cordery
Stanley Gardner	Neil Cuming
Newspaper Reporter	Terry Farrow
Det Sgt Porterhouse	Rick Rosewell
Bobby Franklyn	John A. Booth

<b>Stage Management</b>	<b>John A. Booth &amp; Bill Parsons</b>
<b>Properties</b>	<b>Ray Hatch &amp; Stephanie Herrod</b>
<b>Prompter</b>	<b>Sue Dearson</b>
<b>Wardrobe</b>	<b>June A. Booth &amp; Linda Chadwick</b>

**Stage Staff & Scenery Design & Construction** Bill Parsons, Neil Cuming, Terry Farrow & Roy Martin



**ELAINE A. FARROW.** Probably the one thing which Elaine missed most when she moved out to Spain was the involvement with The BoyScout Gang Shows around her home town of Newcastle- U-Lyme in North Staffordshire. A career hairdresser, Elaine was responsible for all the hair and wigs in the shows and was known as "Wiggy" long before anyone realised that was not her real name! Elaine had one season as a 'Blue Coat', entertaining in holiday camps, her only other prior experience of stage work. After some initial reluctance, Elaine became an enthusiastic member of the chorus and dancers in our previous show, "Cinderella". She also showed an immediate talent for dressmaking and was responsible for designing and making a large number of the beautiful costumes for that show. And now the truth can come

out: the Ghost in "Cinderella" was played by Elaine A. Farrow, her acting debut!



**LYNNE PARSONS.** The performing gene in Lynne's family obviously went walkabout and has only just made a welcome reappearance.

Lynne's grandmother was a professional singer and dancer and trod the boards in many parts of the world, notably in Canada. However, when Lynne went as a child to see plays and pantomimes in the beautiful, old theatre in her home town of Windsor, she never even dreamed that, one day, she herself would be up there on stage. Her first experience came in the chorus of our "Cinderella" and perhaps she was more surprised than anyone else when she landed this part in "Run For Your Wife". A new challenge then, but Lynne is up for it.



**GRAHAM B. CHADWICK.** One of the four Founder Members of Careline Theatre although, contrary to popular belief, it was his wife, Linda, who was the original prime mover. For a total of fifteen years Graham was

Chairman of a successful UK theatre group which gained many festival successes with their plays. His acting career started at Stockport School and continued through numerous parts with several societies until he took up directing. Graham reckons that his best part was in the (virtual) two-handed comedy, "Rattle Of A Simple Man", which he also directed. He also had a very busy ten years as amateur-theatre critic for The Manchester Evening News, reviewing literally hundreds of shows in the process. He was on the committee of Stockport Amateur Operatic Society for seven years before coming out to Spain. Concurrently, working as Graham Baxter, he had seventeen years as a very regular, freelance presenter, interviewer, sports reporter and commentator for BBC radio, appearing on Radio Two, Radio Three, Radio Four, BBC World Service and Radio Manchester (later GMR).



**MARGARET CORDERY.** Margaret first came to prominence in Orba as proprietor of the Forn Vell Restaurant with husband Sid. Stage work was never on her menu, however, until she showed a natural aptitude for dance which she demonstrated in Careline Theatre's 'Showcase' in June last

year. This, and "a great pair of legs up to her armpits", led to her grabbing the role of Prince Charming in our pantomime, "Cinderella" in January. With this introduction to singing, dancing and acting, Margaret has become an avid supporter of Careline Theatre and jumped at the chance when we changed the role of Det Sgt Troughton to a female. She is keen to develop a versatile talent and, along with several other members of this cast, will be seen in completely different circumstances in "Putting On The Style" later in June this year.



**NEIL CUMING.** Although he hails from Bolton, Lancs, Neil's introduction to adult theatre was amongst the seasoned semi-pros of Birmingham's Crescent Little Theatre, a very happy and formative period in his considerable stage experience. Neil first trod the boards at school and then at college where he trained to become a teacher. He has been involved with amateur theatre in various parts of UK and he has also produced and directed many school presentations. Through the years his notable parts have included Sir Toby Belch in "Twelfth Night", Estragon in "Waiting For Godot" and Morry in "The Bespoke Overcoat". 'Stanley' is his first major part in a comedy of this type and he is looking forward to creasing his laugh lines more!



**RICK ROSEWELL.** It was as a Redcoat at Butlins, Clacton that Rick's laconic talent first emerged. He moved on to add his considerable voice to the famous George Mitchell Singers and would, in all probability, have been a regular member with them when they achieved even greater fame on TV as 'The Black And White Minstrels'. However, Rick had an overriding interest in electronics, which he had studied after leaving school, and he chose to follow this interest during a spell of sixteen years in The Royal Air Force. Later, he ran his own electronics company until he and wife Ann retired to Spain in 1986. Rick made the perfect Baron Hardup in our "Cinderella" and has one of the most familiar faces in Orba as he and Ann have been the ever cheerful proprietors of Bar Cheers in Orba since it opened in 1987.



**JOHN A. BOOTH.** John retired to Spain three years ago after over 40 years in professional theatre. A solo rendition of "Leaning On A Lamppost"

at the ripe old age of seven led to other appearances and then the bug bit. He learned the business in professional weekly rep with various companies before broadening his experience on the technical side dealing with lighting, sound, scenery, props and stage management as well as performing. It was then a short step into company and theatre management, finishing as a theatre general manager with a complete background of theatrical experience. Over the years John has worked in theatres up and down UK, including The Opera House and Palace Theatres, Manchester; Theatre Royal, Nottingham; Octagon Theatre, Yeovil; Tameside Hippodrome; Civic Theatre, Barnsley, and the famous City Varieties, Leeds, home of BBC's "Good Old Days". He has worked with artists such as Ken Dodd, Lulu, Danny LaRue, Norman Collier, Roy Castle, Vince Hill, Henry McGee, Ken Platt, Jim Bowen, Matt Munro, Ronnie Hilton and many, many more. John now lives in Orba with his lovely choreographer wife, June and a crazy alsation named Elsa and, as a founder member of Careline Theatre, retirement seems as far off as ever!



**TERRY FARROW.** Terry has never been an actor and never had any ambitions in this direction. In fact, the emergence of Careline Theatre really came as an interruption in his peaceful retirement from a working life as a British Telecom engineer. Quite happy to work backstage, Terry was press-ganged into the chorus and then the role of Major Domo in "Cinderella". Now he finds himself dragged into another 'demanding' role as the newspaper reporter (don't blink or you might miss him). Terry says his secret for success in show business is his "inner sense of humour"! A Londoner through and through, Terry adopted Staffordshire as his second home through wife Elaine.