

Credit must also go to the professional direction of Jean Franks. Not only were Don's 'sightless' movements extremely realistic, because of rehearsing in a blindfold, but every detail, even down to the Saks of Fifth Avenue carrier bag, was authentic.
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Bexley Times | 23 February 1978



Season Booking Form

I would like to book ___ seats for each remaining show of the 2007/8 season:

Production

- Wait Until Dark (2-9 February 2008) _____
- Much Ado About Nothing (2-12 April 2008) _____
- Justifying War (24-31 May 2008) _____
- Abigail's Party (12-19 July 2008) _____

Tickets cost £6.50.

I enclose a cheque for £_____ payable to **Edward Alderton Theatre**. (If you wish to have tickets forwarded to you, please enclose a SAE.)

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Please send completed form to **Edward Alderton Theatre, c/o 24 Bristow Road, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA7 4QA**. Any queries should be referred to the Box Office on **020 8301 5584** (6-8pm, Mon to Fri).

Newsletters will now be emailed to people where possible in order to reduce postal costs. If you would prefer to still receive yours in paper form, please let us know.

Edward Alderton Theatre

5 Brampton Road | Bexleyheath | Kent | DA7 4EZ



Box Office 020 8301 5584
www.edwardalderton.org

Newsletter: January 2008

Editorial

Happy New Year to you all.

After **Wait Until Dark** (see the director's comments overleaf), our April production is William Shakespeare's perennial comedy **Much Ado About Nothing**, directed by Richard Banks (2-12 April 2008). In May is our political drama, **Justifying War**, based on the transcripts of the Hutton Enquiry into the death of David Kelly and directed by Matt Arnold. We round off the 2007/8 season with **Abigail's Party**, another favourite, directed by myself and starring Sarah Hills (Beverly), Ian Long (Laurence), Matt Clowry (Tony), Wendy Marsh (Susan) and newcomer Sam Griggs (Angela). This will be performed from 12-19 July.

Our 2008/9 season - Our 33rd - is shaping up nicely, with a mix of classical and contemporary drama, comedy old and new, and a good old-fashioned whodunit to round things off. Keep a check on the news page of our website for an announcement in due course.

All best wishes,

Mark Campbell

Artistic Director, Edward Alderton Theatre

Our next production...

Wait Until Dark by Frederick Knott

2 – 9 February 2008

A few words from director Paul Lay

The first play I directed at the Edward Alderton Theatre was **Dial M For Murder** by Frederick Knott, a tense thriller with a plot full of twists and turns, where an innocent girl is persecuted by bad guys.

Now, twenty years on, I return to the excellent pen of Frederick Knott with **Wait Until Dark**. This play also has a storyline with many twists and turns. Also there is an innocent girl persecuted by bad guys (one of them very bad).

However, the girl in this thriller has an additional obstacle in that she is blind.

I won't give anything away about the story, although I suspect a few of you will know it, either through the stage play or the film starring Audrey Hepburn.

I have the good fortune to have a very strong cast working for me, with Fiona McGahren making her debut on the Alderton stage in the central role of Susy – the blind girl. Fiona has considerable experience acting at the Geoffrey Whitworth Theatre and the Erith Playhouse.

Croker and Mike – the bad guys – are played by Clive Madel and Andy Kelly respectively. Clive has recently been seen in **Murder in the Cathedral** and **Habeas Corpus**, while Andy appeared in the former and took the main role in **Brimstone and Treacle** – all at the Alderton.

Roat – the very, very bad guy – is played by Matt Clowry at his nastiest best. Matt has recently been seen in **Da** and **Keyboard Skills** and will be seen later this year in **Abigail's Party**.

Finally, Hannah Jacobs puts in a nice cameo as Gloria – Susy's precocious young neighbour.

Hope to see you there.

30 Years
Ago This
Month

Butterflies are Free

by Leonard Gershe

Directed by Jean Franks

11 - 18 February 1978

Kentish Times review:

Edward Alderton scores with ambitious American play

Blindness is a subject that can easily be over-sentimentalised. But the play **Butterflies are Free** offers a superbly balanced mixture of tenderness and humour.

Last week's production of this American comedy was undoubtedly ambitious, even for Bexleyheath's Edward Alderton Theatre, but everything, including the accents and the non-seeing gestures of the leading character, Don Baker, was handled masterfully. I was full of admiration for the way Don, played by Neal Flux, bravely and cheerfully coped with his blindness in setting up an apartment on his own in New York to escape the suffocating domination of his well-meaning mother.

Her stuffiness was an amusing match for the zany and free-living style of Don's next-door neighbour, Jill Tanner, with whom he falls in love. Only after his beautiful but fickle neighbour goes off to live with another man do we feel sorry for him. And only then does he show any self-pity. Nicky Corfield's superb performance as Jill compared well with that of Goldie Hawne in the film version. Both actresses were equally well suited to playing the delightfully effervescent and comical character.

The wealth of American-style humour was not lost on the audience, particularly as the actors' timing was perfect all the way through Leonard Gershe's fast-moving and witty script.