

BELMONT
THEATRE COMPANY

PRESENTS

Laying The Ghost

By Simon Williams



YEW TREE HOUSE
HOME FOR RETIRED ACTORS

Directed by Rob Smith

23rd - 26th February 2011

Pump House Theatre

Local Board Road, Watford, WD17 2JP

www.belmonttheatre.org.uk



~ Past Productions ~

1974 Charity Begins	1975 Semi-Detached	1994 One For The Road
1978 Ladies In Retirement	Lunch Hour & Black Comedy	Run For Your Wife
1949 Wasn't It Odd	The Day After The Fair	Blitz
The Maitlands	1976 The Diary Of Anne Frank	1995 Come Blow Your Horn
1950 The Blue Goose	The National Health	Pardon Me, Prime Minister
Dear Brutus	Tonight At Eight	The Forsyte Saga
1951 I Remember Mama	1977 Don't Just Lie There-Say Something	1996 Time Of My Life
Happiest Days Of Your Life	The Life And Death of Almost Everybody	Out Of Order
1952 Death Takes A Holiday	1066 And All That	A Christmas Carol
Playbill	1978 Absurd Person Singular	1997 All My Sons
1953 Travellers Joy	Glasstown	Tons Of Money
1954 When We Are Married	Habeas Corpus	Lend Me A Tenor
Light Of Heart	1979 Robinson Crusoe	1998 The Winslow Boy
1955 Quiet Weekend	Night Must Fall	Thank You Hollywood
1956 Heaven and Charing Cross	Big Bad Mouse	Rock Nativity
1957 Summer In December	1980 The Eppingham Camp	1999 A View From The Bridge
1958 Saloon Bar	Ring Round The Moon	Funny Money
Fresh Fields	Reluctant Heroes	Oliver!
1959 A Question Of Fact	1981 And A Nightingale Sang	2000 The Ghost Train
Sailor Beware	A Christmas Carol	Don't Dress for Dinner
1960 Fly Away Peter	1982 Move Over Mrs Markham	Communicating Doors
Speaking Of Murder	Golden Pathway Annual	2001 Separate Tables
Doctor In The House	Charley's Aunt	Twelve Angry Men
1961 Search By Night	1983 How The Other Half Lives	Masquerade
1962 Wild Goose Chase	Hobson's Choice	2002 Inherit The Wind
Night Must Fall	Rock Nativity	Lettice & Loveage
Watch It Sailor	1984 Witness for the Prosecution	Party Piece
1963 Pink String And Sealing Wax	Two And Two Make Sex	2003 Death of a Salesman
Happiest Days Of Your Life	Blithe Spirit	There's a Girl in my Soup
1964 The Brides Of March	1985 Bedroom Farce	2004 Private Lives
Women Are Like That	Time And The Conways	On Golden Pond
1965 Rock-A-Bye Sailor	The Heiress	A Chorus of Disapproval
Billy Liar	1986 An Inspector Calls	Coarse Acting Show II
Bell, Book And Candle	Outside Edge	Tomb With a View
1966 Duet For Two Hands	Laughter In The Dark	Jack The Ripper The Musical
Simon And Laura	1987 Absent Friends	2006 Arms & the Man
Wanted One Body	Confusions	It Runs In The Family
1967 Separate Tables	Pack Of Lies	House Guest
Breath Of Spring	1988 My Friend Miss Flint	2007 Gaslight
1968 Something To Hide	Mixed Doubles	Oh What A Lovely War
The Full Treatment	Ghosts	2008 Plaza Suite
1969 Murder Mistaken	1989 Hay Fever	When We Are Married
Beside The Seaside	Billy Liar	Fourplay
Blithe Spirit	Abigail's Party	2009 Sweet Revenge
1970 Boeing, Boeing	1990 No Sex Please, We're British	We'll Meet Again
The Heiress	Murder At The Vicarage	The Likes Of Us
1971 Present Laughter	1991 The Course Acting Show	2010 Bedroom Farce
Dear Octopus	Relatively Speaking	Rebecca
1972 Say Who You Are	Oliver	A Murder Is Announced
The Same Sky	1992 Barefoot In The Park	
1973 The Chalk Garden	Key For Two	
You Too Can Have A Body	Seasons Greetings	
1974 Not Now Darling	1993 The Odd Couple	
Hotel Paradiso	Lord Arthur Saville's Crime	
Mixed Doubles	Stepping Out	

Belmont Theatre Company is an amateur company and is affiliated with the National Operatic & Dramatic Association

~ Co-Chairpersons' Chat ~

The cast and crew would like to welcome you to our production of *Laying The Ghost*. This delightful comedy is set in a retirement home for aging actors. It's Margot Buchanan's 70th birthday. Little did she know she'd be spending the day with an ex-husband, his second wife, a psychic and a ghost! So sit back and enjoy this delightful play, full of hilarity and chaos. Once again we wish to thank all those who have been involved in this production: the director Rob Smith, all the cast and the backstage crew, front of house, publicity and box office.

Kim Wedler & Malcolm Weinberg

~ Director's Introduction ~

I love actors; there is a special energy about them, a certain kind of charisma, that driving force for them to want to be on stage, to bare their soul to an audience, to entertain. Imagine a retirement home full of them, so many stories, so much drama, comedy... and probably a few catheters. When Belmont kindly/bravely asked me if I would be interested in directing *Laying the Ghost* by Simon Williams (probably best known as Captain James Bellamy in the original TV series *Upstairs Downstairs*), the opportunity to tell a story written by an actor, with actors, set in a retirement home for actors, how could I say no?

Belmont have been very kind to me; they have let me run two series of acting workshops and this is my first opportunity to direct for them. I very much appreciate the trust they have placed in me. The rehearsal process has followed the script closely with lots of laughs, drama and a few crazy situations. I have been blessed with a superb cast, willing to try things out and embrace their roles. They have worked incredibly hard and I am very proud of what they have achieved in bringing the show to life. The Crew has equally been fantastic, hugely skilled and supportive. It has been a great pleasure working on *Laying the Ghost* and I very much hope you enjoy the fruits of our labours.

Rob Smith

~ Residents ~



(in order of appearance)

Freda Deacon

Mrs. Kidd

Margot Buchanan

Sadie Croft

Lady Judy Buchanan

Sir Leo Buchanan

Superman

Robin / Graham Latimer

Francis

Mary Woolf

Kim Wedler

Carole Baynes

Lottie Rebello

Lorna Squires

Bill Baynes

Arabo Shahenian

Paul Williams

Bill Rebello

The play is set on a warm spring morning in the sitting area of the Yew Tree House, home for retired actors.

Mary Woolf (Freda Deacon)

After playing a Nagging Wife, an Evil Housekeeper, a Nosy Old Biddy and now a Daft Old Clairvoyant, Mary stated, "I'm wondering if in due course I might be invited to play Dracula's Mother, I know my place."



Kim Wedler (Mrs Kidd)



Kim is pleased to be back performing with Belmont after being seen as 'scatty' Kate in *Bedroom Farce* last February. She has enjoyed the part of Mrs Kidd immensely and hopes she adds a little light relief throughout some of the tension. She also wants to say thanks to all the cast who have worked really hard on this production.

Carole Baynes (Margot Buchanan)

Since joining Belmont Theatre Company, Carole has been involved in five productions as a dancing soldier, a maid, a murderer, the director – and now an old 'has been'. After many years of playing characters younger than herself, Carole is strangely enjoying playing Margot – who is somewhat older than she is (honest!). Perhaps this is because it gives her the chance to have a lively battle on stage with Bill – the old luvvie!



Lottie Rebello (Sadie Croft)

This is Lottie's second production with the Belmont Theatre Company, her first being in 1999 as part of the gang in *Oliver* at the tender age of 11 ahh! She is usually seen, or rather not seen as one of our backstage crew, doing a fantastic job as Assistant or Stage Manager for many of our recent shows.



Lorna Squires (Judy Buchanan)



Lorna joined Belmont via the acting workshops and made her first appearance on stage as Phillipa in *A Murder Is Announced*. As Judy Buchanan Lorna hopes she has no common ground with her 'snotty nosed' character who is disliked by almost everyone! This is her second production with Belmont.

Bill Baynes (Leo Buchanan)

It seems Bill has been around Belmont TC since Adam was a lad, but it's really only since 1983 when he joined us to play Willie Mossop in *Hobson's Choice* (still one of his favourite roles). You saw him last as a sardonic Welsh Police Inspector in *A Murder is Announced*. Tonight, for a change, he's playing a character who's older than himself - Sir Leo Buchanan, an elderly luvvie (no acting needed there then!)



Arabo Shahenian (Superman)

Arabo is a medical student from London. Following a break from acting he joined Belmont last year and played the part of Trevor in *Bedroom Farce*. He also enjoys playing the piano and tennis.



Paul Williams (Robin / Graham Latimer)



Paul has been with us for about two years and after helping out on previous productions backstage, he has decided to ‘take the plunge!’ This is his second appearance for Belmont following *Rebecca* last year.

Bill Rebello (Francis)

Despite being a very active member of Belmont for ten years, Bill has worked hard to keep out of the spotlight after much coaxing this is Bill’s acting debut. He has focused his extraordinary talents on building Belmont’s sets, and over the last two years has also successfully turned his hand to stage management. When asked if he would be nervous about appearing on stage he said “No, as long as I don’t have to say anything”. We very much hope we won’t have to wait another ten years before he treads the boards again.



~ Staff ~

Producer	Bill Baynes
Director	Rob Smith
Stage Manager	Bill Rebello
Assistant Stage Manager	Amy Caulfield
Sound & Lighting	Clare Hamilton
Set Design	Bill Baynes
Set Design & Build	Bill Rebello
Scenic Artist	Peter Williams
Costumes	Ann Sutherland & Cast
Wigs	Irene Ramsay
Hair & Makeup	Barbara Davies
Special Props Creation	Les Sutherland Amy Caulfield Marek Wedler
Props Supervisor	Paul Williams
Prompts	Frankie Hogan Saiyada Smith
Marketing / Publicity	Michael Collins
Programme Design	Rob Smith
Printing	Graham Lucas
Box Office	Gillian & Malcolm Weinberg
Front of House Manager	Estelle Dell
Front of House Staff	Members & Friends

~ Committee ~

Co-Chairpersons	Malcolm Weinberg / Kim Wedler
Secretary	Gillian Weinberg
Treasurer	Malcolm Weinberg
Publicity	Michael Collins
Membership	Saiyada Smith
Newsletter Editor	Mike Morrow
Artistic Director	Lorna Alder
NODA Rep	Frankie Hogan
Group Rep	Amy Caulfield
Social Secretary	Mary Woolf
Special Events	Estelle Dell

~ Life Member ~

Kathy Aldridge

~ Patrons ~

Clr C & Mr A Bath	Prof & Mrs D Larman	Susan Smith
Robin & Lynn Benton	Ann Lucas	Bernie Solomons
John Burchell	Graham & Lindsey Lucas	Adam Stoddart
Margaret Chatfield	Mrs Edna Marshall	Jackie Stringer
Jill Davis	Alex McAuliffe	Les & Anne Sutherland
Mr & Mrs P H East	Harker Moor	Mrs & Mrs S Trott
Mrs Mary Ennis	Arthur Orchard	Gunna Vangenderen
Anthony & Lesley Etkind	Monica Parsons	Mr & Mrs D Wardell
Eithne Le Forestier	Eileen Paton	Mr R L Watson
Mrs Peggy Gilbert	Tom & Mary Power	John Wayman
Chris & Hilary Hare	Yvonne Robinson	Mrs Winifred Wilkins
Geoff Hulett	Gemma Smith	Peter Williams

Do you have space in your life for theatre?

Do you or anyone you know have unused dry garage space locally which can be put to good use for storage of props and costumes?

We are not externally funded and rely on ticket sales and members fees to break even. Storage adds a large amount to the cost of each show, for which we neither want to reflect in our ticket prices nor skimp on productions. If you have or know of suitable space please contact me on **01923 351698** or email hiprog@yahoo.com and help support the dramatic arts in your local community.

Malcolm Weinberg-Treasurer Belmont Theatre Company

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Would you like to be part of Belmont?

If you are interested in any aspect of amateur theatre then we would be very keen to hear from you. There are lots of ways you can get involved and take part in this fun, creative and fulfilling hobby. You don't need any theatrical experience, just lots of enthusiasm and a willingness to get 'stuck-in'.

For more information, please call our Membership Officer on **08455213454** or email **membership@belmonttheatre.org.uk**

~ Our Next Production ~

J.B. Priestley's
THE LINDEN TREE

18th-21st
MAY 2011

at 7.45pm
(Saturday Matinee at 2.45pm)

Pump House
Theatre

Local Board Road,
Watford, WD17 2JP

BOX OFFICE
0845 521 3453

Tickets: £12
(concessions: £10
for all performances)

