



Belmont
Theatre

TEN TIMES TABLE





L to R: Lisa Pitman, Rob Smith, Laurence Conway and Judi Campion



L to R: Bill Baynes, Julia Patterson, Paul Williams, Carole Baynes, Bernie Vick

Belmont Theatre

(amateur)

presents

Alan Ayckbourn's

TEN TIMES TABLE

by arrangement with Samuel French Ltd



Directed by Lorna Alder and Michael Collins

Wednesday 19th - Saturday 22nd October 2011

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Chairman's Chat ...

There's a sense of déjà vu as I write this, having been Belmont's Chairman for six years, then having a year off and now back in the hot seat (but for how long I don't know).

Things have not become easier! The Committee, myself and some staunch supporters/ volunteers do a lot of work to keep Belmont up there among the best. Our latest project has been around storage for costumes, furniture, props and scenery. You may know we've been storing these in three garages – costumes in Bushey; the rest in Carpenders Park. These cost something like £2500 a year (and that was with pay-up-front discounts)! The Bushey garage leaked and one of the CP garages was vandalized (not to mention someone leaving a pile of steaming horse manure outside our door!! As that was about four feet high, it must have been one helluva horse.

Now, though, thanks to Chris and Hilary Hare – Belmont members living in Spain - we have new, more affordable, storage in Belmont Circle. Costumes have already been moved from the leaky Bushey garage and, this week, the rest of the stuff has been or will be moved in conjunction with transferring scenery to and from the theatre. We're also having the electricity re-installed – we do need to have power and light when working on scenery. This is a long drawn out process (and expensive, at nearly £2000 plus the costs of an electrician to re-rig the lights and sockets). However, installation is hopefully only weeks away and we consider it worth the cost and hassle involved.

Right, this Chairman is going to shut up and turn you over to Mr Ray Dixon, Chairman of the Pendon Pageant Committee. Lovely to see so many of you out there and I hope you enjoy Belmont's latest foray into the rather unpredictable world of Alan Ayckbourn.

Bill Baynes

Co-Directors' Chat ...

Alan Ayckbourn wrote *Ten Times Table* as a result of the tortuous committee process he witnessed when the Stephen Joseph Theatre moved to a new location and the production should strike a chord with anyone who had had dealings with committees!

There are some delightful characters in the play and it has been a pleasure to rehearse, with everyone really throwing themselves into the production.

The action revolves round the setting-up of a festival to commemorate the little-known 'Massacre of the Pendon Twelve', and quickly descends into organised chaos. Will Eric fulfil his dream of addressing the massed ranks of the proletariat? Will Helen's dress ever be ready? When will Bernard Lorne-Messiter attend a committee meeting? Will Lawrence be sober enough to ride a horse through the market square, and why have so few people heard of John Cockle and the Pendon Twelve? All these questions will be answered in this riotous production.

We would like to thank the cast, backstage crew and The Pump House staff and organisation who, as usual, have been so helpful and friendly.

So sit back and prepare to laugh. . .

Lorna Alder and Michael Collins

Sir Alan Ayckbourn

Sir Alan Ayckbourn CBE was born in Hampstead, London in April 1939. His mother Irene ('Lolly') wrote short stories under the name 'Mary James'; his father, Horace was an orchestral violinist, at one time deputy leader of the LSO. His parents, who separated shortly after WWII, never married.

Ayckbourn wrote his first play (at prep school) when he was 10. While he was at prep school his mother married Cecil Pye, a bank manager, and new family consisted of his mother, his stepfather and Christopher, his stepfather's son. This marriage ran into difficulties early on and it's thought that his rather unconventional childhood and the relationships therein had a bearing on the themes and characters in Ayckbourn's mature plays. Later Ayckbourn attended Haileybury School and while there toured Europe and America with the school's Shakespeare company.

Leaving school at 17, Ayckbourn took temporary jobs in various places before working at the Scarborough Library Theatre, where he was introduced to the artistic director, Stephen Joseph. He became a mentor and father figure for Ayckbourn until his (Joseph's) death in 1967.

Ayckbourn was called for National Service but swiftly discharged, officially on medical grounds. For a while he moved around to wherever he could find work but eventually settled in Scarborough, buying the house formerly owned by Stephen Joseph.

In 1957, Ayckbourn married Christine Roland, another member of the Library Theatre company and his first two plays were written jointly with her under the pseudonym of 'Roland Allen'. They had two sons, Steven and Philip, but separated in 1971. Around this time, he started to share a home with Heather Stoney, an actress he had first met ten years earlier. Neither he nor Christine sought a divorce for thirty years and it was only in 1997 that they formally divorced and Ayckbourn married Heather Stoney. As Ayckbourn was awarded a knighthood just before the divorce, both his first and second wife are entitled to take the title of Lady Ayckbourn.

During his career Ayckbourn has written and produced seventy-three full-length plays in Scarborough and London and was, between 1972 and 2009, the artistic director of the Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough, where all but four of his plays have received their first performance. More than 40 have subsequently been produced in the West End, at the Royal National Theatre or by the Royal Shakespeare Company since his first hit *Relatively Speaking* opened at the Duke of York's Theatre in 1967.

In February 2006, he suffered a stroke in Scarborough, and stated: "I hope to be back on my feet, or should I say my left leg, as soon as possible, but I know it will take some time. In the meantime I am in excellent hands and so is the Stephen Joseph Theatre." He left hospital after eight weeks and returned to directing after six months, later announcing he would step down as Artistic Director of the Stephen Joseph Theatre, although he continues to write and direct his own work at the theatre.

Major successes include *Absurd Person Singular* (1975), *The Norman Conquests* trilogy (1973), *Bedroom Farce* (1975), *Just Between Ourselves* (1976), *A Chorus of Disapproval* (1984), *Woman in Mind* (1985), *A Small Family Business* (1987), *Man Of The Moment* (1988), *House & Garden* (1999) and *Private Fears in Public Places* (2004). His plays have won numerous awards, including seven London *Evening Standard* Awards. They have been translated into over 35 languages and are performed on stage and television throughout the world. Ten of his plays have been staged on Broadway, attracting two Tony nominations, and one Tony award.

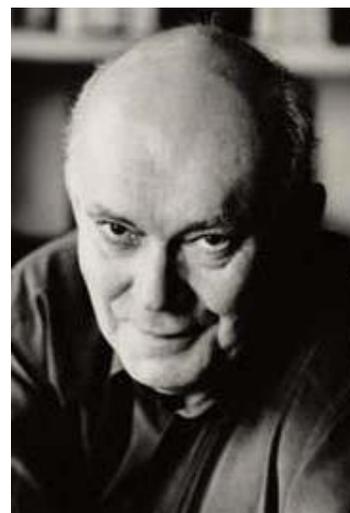
TEN TIMES TABLE - AN INTRODUCTION

World Premiere: 18 January 1977 - Stephen Joseph Theatre in The Round, Scarborough.

London Premiere: 5 April 1978 - The Globe Theatre.

In 1976, the theatre company, founded by Stephen Joseph in 1955 and now led by Artistic Director Alan Ayckbourn, moved to the former Boys' Grammar School in Scarborough and became what was later known as the Stephen Joseph Theatre in the Round.

The first original work presented at the new venue was Ayckbourn's *Ten Times Table* and the main inspiration was the many long and exhausting committee meetings Ayckbourn had to endure until his company could move to its new home.



Ayckbourn found the creative process difficult as normally he would write a play through with minor alteration but he found this work problematical and discarded much of what he had written. Initially a multi-set production with the action split between the committee room, various houses and the outside he eventually decided to keep the action in a single set of the committee room. His decision to rewrite to this new scenario meant he had to work over the Christmas period to meet the advertised opening night deadline.

Around the year end typed copies of the manuscript were sent to London impresario Michael Codron who promptly took an option before the Scarborough opening on 18 January 1977.

The play encouraged audience participation with the issuing of commemorative John Cockle T-shirts and Pendon Folk Festival programmes. The play's initial success was encouraged by several local Scarborough dignitaries who saw themselves in the characters portrayed. One member of the theatre trust, described as 'notorious' on the Ayckbourn website, saw every performance apparently with a beaming smile. However it is more likely that the individual characters are composites drawn from many years' observation of such types.

With the transfer Ayckbourn directed a Codron production in the West End for the first time (although he had just directed a National Theatre production of *Bedroom Farce*. The format was also changed from the original three-act format to two.

The play received mixed reviews but was a reasonable Box Office hit, running up a year at the Globe. It was nominated for Comedy Of The Year at the Society Of West End Theatre Awards.

Synopsis

Set in the ballroom of the run-down Swan Hotel, members of the Pendon community come together as a committee to organise a town pageant based on a distant piece of local history, the 'Massacre of the Pendon Twelve' – where the Earl of Dorset crushed an uprising of rebellious workers, led by John Cockle. The committee comprises disparate characters with very different views of what the pageant should be and what it represents.

As the meetings progress, the group becomes ideologically divided with the left-wing side, led by a Marxist Polytechnic teacher, building it up as a political rally. In response, the right-wing side of the committee formulates plans for a violent confrontation.

The pageant ends in chaos, broadly recreating the original event, leaving no-one better off especially when it is discovered there is no historical authenticity to the Pendon Twelve Massacre.

After Simon Murgatroyd (<http://plays.alanayckbourn.net>)

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
0845 5213453
or email membership@belmonttheatre.org.uk



Rob Smith and Judi Campion



Bernie Vick and Lisa Pitman

TEN TIMES TABLE

Cast

Ray	Bernie Vick
Donald	Bill Baynes
Helen	Carole Baynes
Sophie	Judi Champion
Eric	Rob Smith
Audrey	Julia Patterson
Lawrence	Paul Williams
Tim	Laurence Conway
Philippa	Lisa Pitman
Max Kirkov	Bill Rebello



Music

Clog Dance from La Fille mal gardée (Hérold/Lanchbery)

The music to The John Cockle Song is Widdecombe Fair (traditional)

Land of Hope and Glory from Pomp and Circumstance March No 1 (Edward Elgar/words by A C Benson)



The action takes place in the Swan Hotel Ballroom. Time - the present.

Act I - Scene 1 At the meeting held on Wednesday 3rd November

- Scene 2 At the meeting held on Friday 17th December

- Scene 3 At the meeting held on Thursday 19th May

Act II - Scene 1 At the emergency meeting held on Sunday 5th June

- Scene 2 On Festival Day Saturday 11th June

Production Team

Co-Directors	Lorna Alder and Michael Collins
Stage Manager	Bill Rebello
Assistant to Stage Manager	Tom Alder
Producers	Michael Collins and Mary Woolf
Continuity	Mary Woolf
Sound	Amy Caulfield
Sound Effects	Jim Gatt
Set Design	Michael Collins
Set Construction	Bill Rebello and Company Members
Costumes	Anne Sutherland
Properties	Mary-Anne Anaradoh and Les Sutherland
Front of House Co-ordinator	Estelle Dell
Box Office	Gillian and Malcolm Weinberg
Marketing / Publicity	Malcolm Weinberg and Michael Collins
Programme Design	Mike and Maggie Morrow
Programme and Poster Printing	Graham Lucas
Front of House Staff	Members and Friends



There will be an interval of twenty minutes between Acts 1 and 2

Please ensure that mobile phones are switched off.

Due to Copyright laws, the taking of photographs and video recording is not permitted.

Belmont Theatre Company wishes to express its gratitude to Sainsbury's for allowing us to display large publicity banners at their two stores in Watford. Their cooperation is really appreciated and is a great boost to our publicity.

PenPics



Bernie Vick (*Donald*)

Bernie's last appearance for Belmont was as a drunken photographer in *When We Are Married* when he managed to steal the show! He was also a memorable Lord Overcoat in *Jack the Ripper*, and regularly performs for other local amateur groups, including Kenton Light Operatic Society and East Lane.

Bill Baynes (*Ray*)

Fresh from his triumph as Professor Linden in Belmont's last production, which he says he thoroughly enjoyed, Bill has allowed himself to have his arm twisted (yet again) to appear in TTT. Alternating between performing and directing, Bill is always to the fore in any Belmont activity. Over his near half-century of involvement with amateur theatre, he has taken on many challenging roles, and lists among his favourites Don Quixote in *Man of La Mancha* and Dan Mendoza in *Jack The Ripper*.



Carole Baynes (*Helen*)

Carole most recently appeared as an ageing thespian in *Laying the Ghost* and a serial killer in *A Murder is Announced*, and also took the part of Ruby in *When We Are Married*. She directed Belmont's *The Likes of Us*, coaxing memorable performances from children and adults alike, and will be turning her hand to direction again for our next production, *The Small Hours*.

Judi Campion (*Sophie*)

This will be Judi's first play with BTC although she has performed in two musicals - *Oh What a Lovely War* and *The Likes of Us*. She has been affiliated to the society for many years helping with scenery etc. Judi has also been a member of Players 2 for over 20 years and has taken many lead roles there, including Sally Bowles (twice) in *Cabaret*, Charity in *Sweet Charity*, *Zorba*, *Fiddler, Me and My Girl* to name but a few. Judi has been studying for a degree for 3 years and 'hung up her boots' for a while, so she really enjoys getting her teeth back into her favourite pastime.





Rob Smith (*Eric*)

Rob enjoys directing and being on stage, having played a range of parts from the demonic Martin in *Brimstone and Treacle* to a fairy-gangster in a re-imagining of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Rob joined Belmont in 2008 and thoroughly enjoyed dying on stage in *Sweet Revenge*. He has since run acting workshops with Belmont and directed *Laying the Ghost*. Rob is revelling in the exciting chaotic energy of the *Ten Times Table* rehearsals, saying "it's great performing with such a wonderful group of actors and the sense of fun our directors bring to the play".

Julia Patterson (*Audrey*)

Julia's last outing for Belmont was as the youthful Heroine in 'The Little Heir' in *Fourplay*. The years appear to have taken their toll since then as she now appears as a dodder, deaf old lady. A veteran of pantomime, Julia has also appeared in several BTC productions, one of the most notable as a whore in *Jack the Ripper*.



Paul Williams (*Lawrence*)

A relative newcomer to amateur dramatics, Paul's last appearance on stage was in *Rebecca* in a cameo role as a boat builder whose evidence throws a spanner in the works. He previously worked backstage for us on several productions including *The Likes of Us*.

Laurence Conway (*Tim*)

Laurence has been with Belmont since the 1990s. He enjoys both acting and directing, and tends to go from one to the other and back again. Most recently he appeared in *Bedroom Farce* and directed *Sweet Revenge*. The most satisfying part of acting, he feels, is the challenge of becoming someone else – voice, mannerisms, etc – and there's certainly plenty of scope for that in the part of Tim!





Lisa Pitman (*Philippa*)

Lisa joined us for our previous production, *The Linden Tree*, where she played a militant and extremely stroppy doctor which obviously prepared her for her current role as a soft-spoken mouse! A member of the Royal Navy Theatre Association, she has starred in a variety of productions including *When We Are Married*, *Tom Jones* and *Mr Whatnot* as well as four pantos and Terry Pratchett's *Maskerade* at The New Theatre Royal in Portsmouth. Besides appearing on stage she has also been involved in directing, lighting, publicity and costume making. A lady of many talents!

Bill Rebello (*Max Kirkov*)

If you want anything made, from props to sets, then ask Bill. He is our wizard jack-of-all-trades and can turn his hand to just about anything, besides ruling our backstage crew with a rod of iron. Previously briefly glimpsed on stage in *Laying the Ghost*, audiences will get another chance to see him in this show, but blink and you'll miss him!!



Lorna Alder and Michael Collins (*Co-Directors*)



Lorna has been a member of Belmont for many years both on stage - most recently as Marion Linden in *The Linden Tree* - and backstage, but this is her first go at co-directing. She says that she wants to thank Michael for all his support - and that she's learned so much from him - not least that directing is a lot more difficult than it looks!

Michael was delighted when Lorna asked him to co-direct this Alan Ayckbourn classic. This is obviously his kind of humour. Since joining Belmont 'Players' in 1977 Michael has directed some 14 plays and appeared in countless others. Over the years he has been Chairman, Treasurer, and is back again helping with the publicity team. A veritable Belmont trouper. He was one of the organisers of our recently brilliant evening to celebrate 65 years of Belmont history. Here's to the next 65!

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Belmont Theatre

(amateur)

MURDER MYSTERY

Francis Durbridge's

**The
SMALL HOURS**



15-18 Feb 2012

Pump House Theatre

Local Board Road, Watford WD17 2JP

BOX OFFICE 0845 521 3453

www.belmonttheatre.org.uk

Past Shows

1947	Charity Begins	1975	Semi-Detached Lunch Hour & Black Comedy	1993	The Odd Couple Lord Arthur Saville's Crime
1948	Ladies In Retirement		The Day After The Fair		Stepping Out
1949	Wasn't It Odd The Maitlands	1976	The Diary Of Anne Frank The National Health	1994	One For The Road Run For Your Wife
1950	The Blue Goose Dear Brutus	1977	Tonight At Eight Don't Just Lie There-Say Something	1995	Blitz Come Blow Your Horn Pardon Me, Prime Minister
1951	I Remember Mama Happiest Days Of Your Life		The Life & Death of Almost Everybody	1996	The Forsyte Saga Time Of My Life
1952	Death Takes A Holiday Playbill	1978	1066 And All That Absurd Person Singular	1997	Out Of Order A Christmas Carol
1953	Travellers Joy	1979	Glasstown Habeas Corpus	1998	All My Sons Tons Of Money
1954	When We Are Married Light Of Heart		Robinson Crusoe Night Must Fall	1999	Lend Me A Tenor The Winslow Boy
1955	Quiet Weekend	1980	Big Bad Mouse The Erpingham Camp	2000	Thank You Hollywood Rock Nativity
1956	Heaven And Charing Cross	1981	Ring Round The Moon Reluctant Heroes	2001	A View From The Bridge Funny Money
1957	Summer In December	1982	And A Nightingale Sang A Christmas Carol	2002	Oliver! The Ghost Train
1958	Saloon Bar Fresh Fields	1983	Move Over Mrs Markham Golden Pathway Annual	2003	Don't Dress For Dinner Communicating Doors
1959	A Question Of Fact Sailor Beware	1984	Charley's Aunt How The Other Half Loves	2004	Separate Tables Twelve Angry Men
1960	Fly Away Peter Speaking Of Murder	1985	Hobson's Choice Rock Nativity	2005	The Intruders/Black Comedy Inherit the Wind
1961	Doctor In The House Search By Night	1986	Witness For The Prosecution Two And Two Make Sex	2006	Letting and Lovage Party Piece
1962	Wild Goose Chase Night Must Fall	1987	Blithe Spirit Bedroom Farce	2007	Death of a Salesman There's A Girl In My Soup
1963	Watch It Sailor Pink String And Sealing Wax	1988	Time And The Conways The Heiress	2008	Private Lives On Golden Pond
1964	Happiest Days Of Your Life The Brides Of March	1989	An Inspector Calls Outside Edge	2009	A Chorus of Disapproval The Coarse Acting Show 2
1965	Women Are Like That Rock-A-Bye Sailor	1990	Laughter In The Dark Absent Friends	2010	A Tomb With A View Jack The Ripper-The Musical
1966	Billy Liar Bell, Book And Candle	1991	Confusions Pack Of Lies	2011	Arms and the Man It Runs in the Family
1967	Duet For Two Hands Simon And Laura	1992	My Friend Miss Flint Mixed Doubles		House Guest
1968	Wanted One Body Separate Tables	1993	Ghosts Hay Fever		Gaslight
1969	Breath Of Spring Something To Hide	1994	Billy Liar Abigail's Party		Oh What A Lovely War
1970	The Full Treatment Murder Mistaken	1995	No Sex Please, We're British Murder At The Vicarage		Plaza Suite
1971	Beside The Seaside Blithe Spirit	1996	The Coarse Acting Show Relatively Speaking		When We Are Married
1972	Boeing, Boeing The Heiress	1997	Oliver Barefoot In The Park		Fourplay
1973	Present Laughter Dear Octopus	1998	Key For Two Seasons Greetings		Sweet Revenge
1974	Say Who You Are The Same Sky				We'll Meet Again
	The Chalk Garden You Too Can Have A Body				The Likes of Us
	Not Now Darling Hotel Paradise				Bedroom Farce
	Mixed Doubles				Rebecca
					A Murder is Announced
					Laying the Ghost
					The Linden Tree