

Charlton Kings Community Players Present

Escape?

A Double Bill

Fumed Oak


Written by **Noel Coward** Directed by **Chantal Dent**

The Man Without A Name


Written by **David Shellan** Directed by **Becky Peach**

16 and 17 April 2010
7.30 pm

Charlton Kings Junior School, East End Road, Charlton Kings



Next Production
Charlton Kings Community Players
present

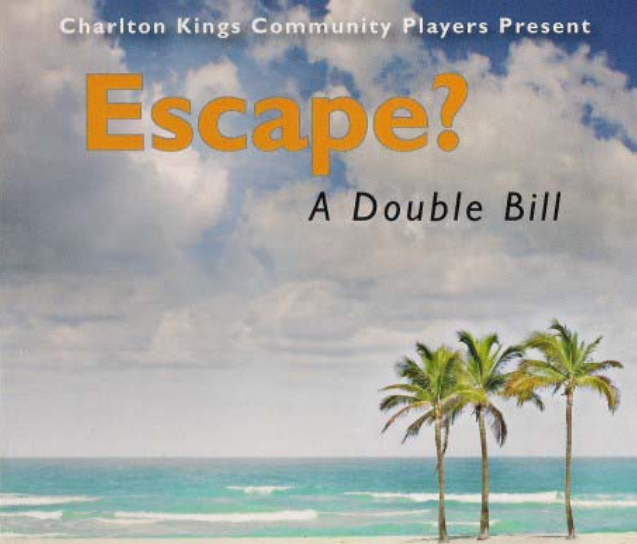


Coming Late 2010!
Performance dates to be confirmed
www.charltonkingscommunityplayers.com

Charlton Kings Community Players Present

Escape?

A Double Bill



Back Stage Crew

Production Manager	Jane Jones
	Tony Jeans
Stage Manager	Janet Honeywill
	Jane Jones
	David Brawn
	Nigel Jones
	Debbie Dundas
Scenery	Ray Talbot
Scenery Painting	John Honeywill
Light and Sound	Richard Major
Make-up	Brogan Dent
	Emily Cross
Publicity	Jane Kane
Programme Design	Andrew Laver
First Aid	Sue Goolod and Claire Thomas
Ticket Sales	Derek Palmer
Front of House	Andy Culley and team
	Joyce Parsons
	Helen and Sophie Hart
	Helen Jones
	Yvonne Brawn
Refreshments	Jane Kane/ Andy Culley
Prompt	Tricia Ratcliffe
Props	Jane Jones
Car Parking	Chris Flippance

Acknowledgements
The Charlton Kings Community Players would like to thank the following for their help and support.
Sacred Hearts for the loan of scenery
Baptist Church for the rehearsal space
Charlton Kings Junior School for the venue
Charlton Pharmacy and The Vine for selling tickets
All those in the community who have loaned props or supported the production and a special one....
Peter Grainger for organising the Director workshops which encouraged our new directors and led to the production of this double bill.

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Fumed Oak
Written by Noel Coward
Directed by Chantal Dent

An "unpleasant comedy" of family friction. Set in the 1930's Fumed Oak tells the story of a down-trodden husband who, 15 years on, is still suffering the consequences of being tricked into his unenviable marriage.

For my directing debut I was asked to choose something from the 1930's with a small cast and a well known playwright and in doing so stumbled across 'Fumed Oak'. Billed as an unpleasant comedy it was clearly another example of Coward's penchant for writing about recognisable people in familiar relationships. Although Fumed Oak is very much a story of its time I couldn't help but wonder if he was ahead of his days in writing what we might now recognise as a 'fly on the wall' style drama. Of course storylines about dysfunctional family life have become more and more popular, in soaps such as Coronation Street and Eastenders, or in any one of the reality programmes on our screens, so much so that we have almost become oblivious to it. However, one can imagine that the audience in the thirties may have been a bit more unsuspecting!

We have had a huge amount of fun pulling the play together and I have felt really fortunate to be working with the experience of such stalwart members of the players as Sylvia Fry, Claire Cipriani and Andrew Laver and thank them all for the massive commitment and effort they have put in over what seems to be a very few short weeks in the lead up to this production. It was also a revelation watching the very talented Prudence Bond capture the essence of Elsie, she showed real dedication from the outset and was always willing to offer up ideas but also to listen and take on board other suggestions. All in all I think it's fair to say it's been a really great team effort.

We have worked hard but played hard and had a lot of laughter over the last 8 weeks. I was also assured that there was a fantastic support team working behind the scenes to get everything organised and this proved to be very true. My particular thanks go to Jane Jones for her impressive organisation, to Ray Talbot and the team for the ambitious 'one act play' set and to Tricia Ratcliffe for her help and support throughout.

It has been a thoroughly enjoyable first project and I hope you enjoy watching it as much as I have enjoyed being involved.

Chantal Dent, Director



The Man Without A Name
Written by David Shellan
Directed by Becky Peach

The timeless life of an old couple on a desert island is interrupted by two young soldiers of the 'Cold War': an American and a Russian.

When I first read this play, I adored the tone, the relaxed pace and the simplicity of the dialogue- It felt very fresh and light. This impression is built on the more I read the play and see it performed in rehearsal. I am delighted with the cast who bring great fun and energy to the rehearsals; and not only respond well to direction but contribute and develop their own ideas onstage, something I believe to be very important. They are all very talented as I am sure you will see.

I am incredibly grateful for the help from everyone in the Players; teamwork is an integral part of this group and this whole evening is a shining example of that. In particular, I would like to thank Brian Deacon, the assistant director, because in reality that job description is not at all accurate. His organisation and support have been invaluable.

This piece, in my opinion, can be enjoyed by all because of its many layers of meaning. Beneath the comic story of Bella and the Man's unexpected visitors, lie political and social messages of rivalry and love. Please, take whatever messages from the performance you like, but above all, enjoy it. It has been a pleasure working on this play and we hope you have a lovely evening.

Becky Peach, Director

Cast

Henry Gow	.....	Andrew Laver
Doris Gow	.....	Claire Cipriani
Elsie Gow	.....	Prudence Bond
Mrs Rockett	.....	Sylvia Fry

Cast

Man	.....	Martyn Fry
Bella	.....	Catherine Walker
US Soldier	.....	Alex Meadows
Russian Soldier	.....	Luke Drinkwater







You often hear the phrase “*you never know what goes on behind closed doors*” but I have chosen Noel Coward’s black comedy **‘Fumed Oak’** because we get the opportunity to do just that! Set in 1936 it tells the story of a beleaguered salesman, Henry Gow – downtrodden husband of Doris, his bad-tempered and sloppy wife, un-enamoured father to the whingeing and ‘adenoidal’ Elsie and unfortunate son-in-law to the nagging live-in Mrs. Rockett. The play is set in two scenes, the first over breakfast where we catch a glimpse of Henry’s unenviable existence and the second later that day where, fuelled by years of frustration and a couple of scotches, we see quite a different side to Henry Gow!

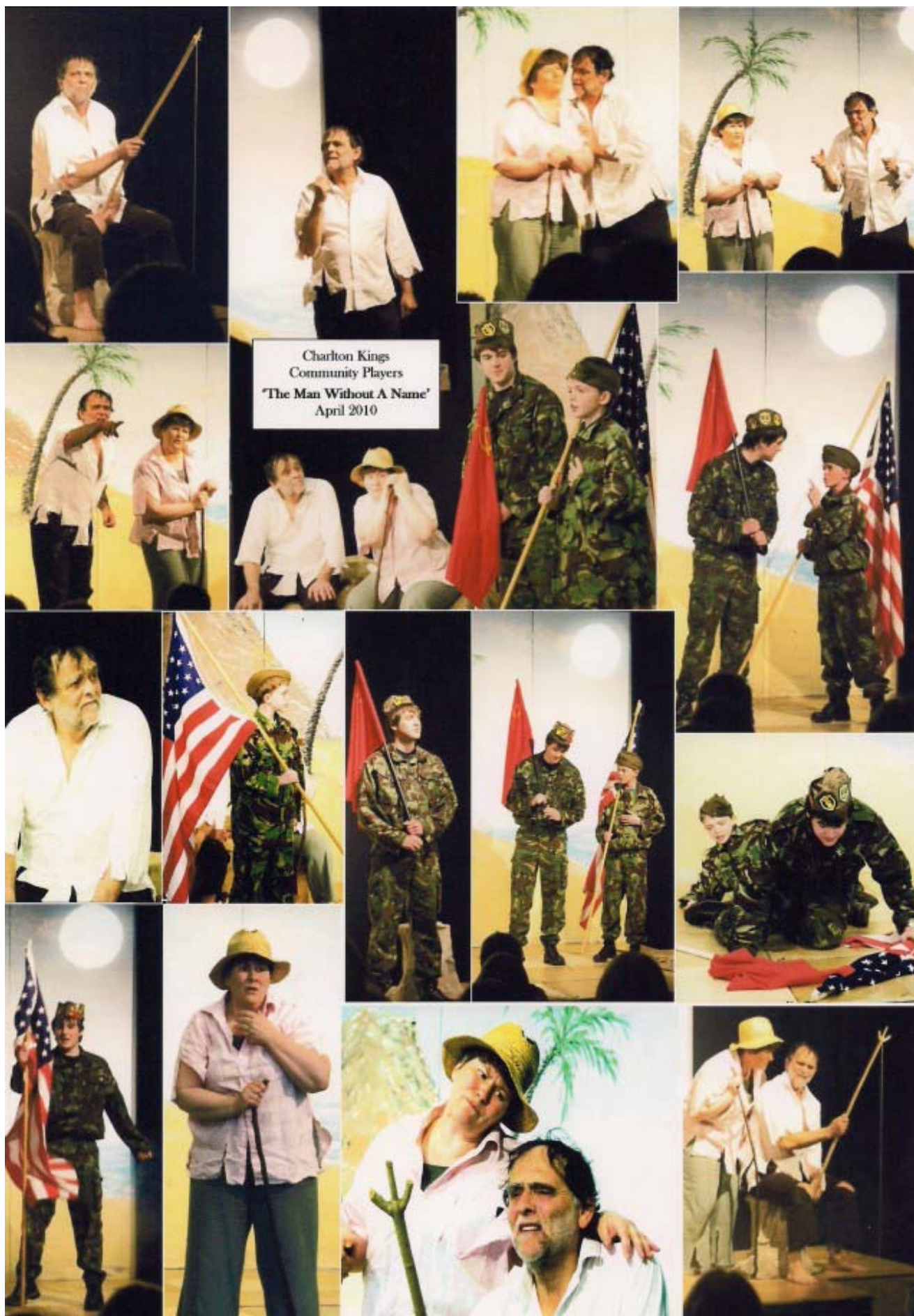
We are fortunate enough to have a stellar CKCP cast, including Andrew Laver – last seen as Bottom in ‘*A Midsummer Night’s Dream*’ - as Henry, Claire Cipriani – Mrs Bumble in our 2006 production of ‘*Oliver*’ - as Doris, Sylvia Fry – ‘Old Sally’ in the same production - as the miserable matriarch Mrs. Rockett, and introducing the lovely Prudence Bond who will be transformed into the nasal and insipid Elsie!

‘Fumed Oak’ is a taste of traditional theatre at its very best. Take a chance to ‘Escape’ and join us for our Double Bill. We look forward to seeing you there!

Chantal Dent

March 2010 Charlton Kings Community Players newsletter









It is a curiosity of this Double Bill that Chantal and I could have picked two plays that are so similar and so different at the same time. This play is also a comedy, but much lighter and gentler. It is set on a desert island, residence of an old man and Bella for fifty seven years. They spend their time eating nuts and fish, trying to remember details from the wider world, and inventing a new religion each week.

One day, their monotony is rudely interrupted by an egotistic American soldier and a sarcastic Russian soldier, who vie to claim the island for their respective countries. Eventually, they leave, taking their Cold War agendas with them, and the old man and Bella resume their normal life.

As the part of the man, we have cast our very own Martyn Fry, who has featured in countless productions, most recently as Mr Bumble in **'Oliver!'**. To play the character of Bella, we have chosen the brilliant Catherine Walker, who is making her CKCP debut. Luke Drinkwater and Matt Sim, both involved in **'Oliver!'** play the soldiers.

I am so pleased to have found this relatively unknown gem to share with you. On the behalf of everyone involved: we look forward to seeing you in April!

Becky Peach

March 2010 Charlton Kings Community Players newsletter

