

*Spring Grove Fringe presents*

# ***Drinks before Dinner***



## ***Drinking Companions Between Mouthfuls***

*by Alan Ayckbourn*

***Friday 6th October 2017 at 8.00pm***

***Saturday 7th October 2017 at 7.30pm***

***St John's Parish Hall, Grove Lane, KT1 2SU***

***Reg. Charity No. 1150982***

# Drinks before Dinner

## Drinking Companions

Harry  
Paula  
Bernice  
Waiter

Directed by

Jeremy Barnes  
Emma Nail  
Vicky Maunder  
Scott Milligan

Chris Brookes

## Between Mouthfuls

Donald Pearce  
Waitress  
Emma Pearce  
Waiter  
Martin Chalmers  
Polly Chalmers

Directed by

Laurie South  
Janice Smith  
Jenny Robson  
Nigel Bellwood  
Adrian Treloar  
Karina Ramnarain

Bethany Birley



Stage Manager  
Lighting  
Sound  
Box Office  
Bar  
Catering

Tony Tresigne  
Nigel Duffin  
Mark Springthorpe  
Tessa Kind  
Mike Charlton  
Amanda Shaw, Val Boyle, Rod Gavshon,  
Jenny Robson, Stephanie Stepehnsen

This evening, we have two one act plays from Alan Ayckbourn's *Confusions* collection.

*Drinking Companions* and *Between Mouthfuls* are set in the same 1970s Midlands railway hotel.

There are dark undertones to both plays but, being by Ayckbourn, all issues are handled with a great deal of humour.



*Drinking Companions* is a tale of lust and libido, played out in a two-bit hotel in a provincial town. Will Paula succumb to the charms of Harry? What has Harry got to offer? Will Bernice help Paula out of a hole? All will unfold before your disbelieving eyes.

Set in the seventies, a time of flares, and corduroy, of pomp rock and glam rock (and Demis Roussos), of working weeks and three day weeks, of sexual liberation and sexual frustration. Sometimes the clash between appearance and reality, the old world and the new, is hard to get to grips with, particularly for an older man trying to navigate his way through sexual liberation, having consumed just enough alcohol to remove his inhibitions ...



During the interval, our curvaceous waitresses will whisk you back – in a thoroughly un-politically-correct way – to the 1970s ... past the Berni Inn of indulgence, the wrecking schooner of sweet sherry, the cheese and pineapple on oh-so-trendy sticks, the half-grapefruit with unnecessary glacé cherry, the gaudy pink prawn cocktail, with its frisson of food poisoning.

When we arrive at Abigail's party ... sorry, Amanda's party ... what will we find there?

*Between Mouthfuls* deserves a bit of warning in that marriages fall apart on stage, all seen through the eyes of the waiters. An added complication is that the audience can only hear what the waiters can hear. It is a strong case of theatre imitating real life. We hope you enjoy and that your meals will be more comfortable and less stressful than those of the couples on stage. Alan Ayckbourn tends to get straight to the matter of concern, and as funny as this is, it certainly concerns.

## ***Our charity for this show***

Following this production, a donation will be made to the *Royal Marsden Cancer Charity*.



The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity raises money to support The Royal Marsden, a world-leading cancer centre.

The support of the charity means that the hospital continues to be there for everyone who needs it:

- ensuring nurses, doctors and research teams can provide the very best care and develop life-saving treatments which are used in the UK and around the world,
- funding state-of-the-art equipment and ground-breaking research,
- creating the best patient environments.



*Police hold back crowds booking for the Spring Grove Christmas show*

### ***A Crackers Christmas***

24/25 November – Get ready for Christmas with Spring Grove Fringe’s cranky Christmas cabaret – a zany evening of: cabaret acts tumbling from Santa’s sack, wine-tasting with a particular Yuletide bouquet, a seasonal quiz and ... who-knows-what else! TfL advises that the arrival of The Three Kings may cause traffic disruption to Christmas shopping in the Kingston area.