

SPRING GROVE FRINGE – 2023

PRESENT
LAUGHTER

BY NOEL COWARD

Friday 19th May, 7.30pm
Saturday 20th May, 7.30pm

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

Charity No. 1150982



PRESENT LAUGHTER



Present Laughter is a comic play written by Noël Coward in 1939 but not produced until 1942 because the Second World War began while it was in rehearsal, and the British theatres closed. The title is drawn from a song "in Shakespeare's Twelfth Night that urges *carpe diem* ("present mirth hath present laughter").

The plot depicts a few days in the life of the successful and self-obsessed light comedy actor Garry

Essendine as he prepares to travel for a touring commitment in Africa. Amid a series of events bordering on farce, Garry has to deal with women who want to seduce him, placate both his long-suffering secretary and his wife, cope with a crazed young playwright, and overcome his impending mid-life crisis. The character is a caricature of the author's real-life persona, as Coward acknowledged.

As the play allows for much over-acting and confusion we considered it a suitable endeavour for the 'never-knowingly-over-rehearsed' thespians of Spring Grove Fringe and we hope you enjoy the result; if not, the bar provides a pleasant diversion as always.

All the action takes place in Garry Essendine's flat.

ACT I: One morning

ACT II Scene 1: Midnight, a few days later

ACT II Scene 2: The next morning

ACT III: One week later on the eve of Garry's departure for Africa

CAST

Daphne Stillington
Miss Erikson
Fred, the butler
Monica Reed
Garry Essendine
Liz Essendine
Roland Maule
Henry Lyppiatt
Morris Dixon
Joanna Lyppiatt
Lady Saltburn

Olivia Boulton
Karina Ramnarain
Scott Milligan
Sandie Glenny
David Hamilton
Janice Smith
Matt Sexton
Laurie South
Adrian Treloar
Daisy Jones
Amanda Shaw

Director	Sandy Gavshon
Prompt	Jo Need
Set Design	Gavin Dawson, Helen Dawson
Backstage Team	Helen Dawson, Alison King
Costume	Jenny Robson, Sandy Gavshon
Lighting	Nigel Duffin
Sound	Mark Springthorpe
Catering	Amanda Shaw, Jess Fuller, Val Boyle
Bar	Jayne Britten



Spring Grove Fringe welcomes new members and especially anyone interested in acting or helping out backstage (technicals, costume, set design, catering). We know there is a lot of talent out there hiding under bushels, so do contact Amanda at amanda@hoegh.co.uk.

Following this production, we will be making a donation to two charities.

MIND IN KINGSTON

Mind in Kingston is an independent, registered charity, affiliated to National Mind and part of the Mind federated network. Operational since 1972, it provides a range of services to local people that experience mental health issues in and around the Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames. Its aim is to ensure that everyone with a mental health issue in and around the Borough of Kingston upon Thames get support and respect.



The charity provides a range of services, including Counselling Services, Mindful activities, Mental Health Awareness Training and Drop-in Cafes. These are designed to support people with mental health issues in the local community to maintain and improve their mental wellbeing, increase their self-esteem and self-confidence, make meaningful connections with others and be able to live independently in their local community.

BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION

In memory of SGF's dear friend, Mike Charlton.

The British Heart Foundation's vision is a world free from the fear of heart and circulatory diseases. A world without heartbreak.

It funds around £100 million of research each year into all heart and circulatory diseases and the things that cause them. Heart diseases, stroke, vascular dementia, diabetes. They're all connected, and all under its microscope, so people can have more time with the ones they love.



6TH & 7TH OCTOBER 2023

Knowing us, knowing you – Here we go again! Our next production on 6th & 7th October will be an Extrava-ABBA-ganza! That's the Name of the Game! A supper evening with a Greek menu, so Gimme, Gimme, Gimme ... whatever is to your taste after Midnight. You can join in the sing-along and we'll Take a Chance on You. Who knows? There may even be a Dancing Queen!!

