



# HOME CHAT

May 2000

The Newsletter of The Noël Coward Society

## Premiere of *Relative Values*

The Premiere of the film of Noël Coward's *Relative Values* will be at the Odeon, West End (Leicester Square to you or I) on the 21<sup>st</sup> June. We have arranged that members and their guests can attend, and also go to the official party afterwards.

This will be the first feature film of a Noël Coward script for over 50 years. My new Theatrical Companion to Coward (see separate offer!) tells me that the last major Coward film was *Blithe Spirit* in 1948. Since then there have been some remakes for television, but nothing like a major nationwide release.

The event will be to benefit the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Dame Julie Andrews (*who plays Felicity, Countess of Marshwood*), William Baldwin (*Don Lucas*), Stephen Fry (*Crestwell*) and Colin Firth (*The Honourable Peter Ingleton*) will be at both the film and the party. The party will be held at the National Portrait Gallery.

For those who need detailed times: The film is 7:30pm for 8:00 and the party is 9:30 to 11:30pm. The dress code is "lounge suits".

The cost is not cheap, but it didn't seem right that we seek a discount on a charity event. So it will be £25 per person for the film premiere, or £60 per person for the film premiere and party.

Order forms for tickets can be obtained from the Society. I hope that by the time you receive this I will also have the number at the RSPCC for credit card bookings.

The film will immediately move to nationwide release from the 23<sup>rd</sup> June. We are still talking to the distributors about a couple of other ideas for members to be involved in the release of this major film.

One of these is to help in the publicity with members of the Society being interviewed about the film by local radio. See separate article on Page 2.

*Hello,*

*This edition follows fairly quickly on from the late April edition. It is still May (just) as I write it, but it may be June by the time you get it. I am catching up – honest!*

*I have kept it purposely short. There is news about the premiere of *Relative Values*, please see the lead item. Other than that, this edition gives more detail on a couple of the offers we have already made.*

*I have left out our usual *Production News*, because little has changed. And there is no competition this month.*

*Best regards,  
Gareth*



***This Happy Breed***  
**Special Offer – See Page 2**



# Be a Film Critic for a Day

The film *Relative Values* is being shown around the UK at special screenings for the regional press. Any member may attend a screening for free, subject to agreeing that they will subsequently be available to go into a local radio station to be interviewed about the film, Noël Coward and the Society. We will arrange those interviews. If you want to join the press for a day then let Gareth know at the Society.

## Here is a list of the Press Screenings:

### UGC

Ipswich	7th June AM
Aberdeen	8th June AM
Birmingham Gt Park	8th June AM
Sheffield	8th June AM
Northampton	13th June AM

### Odeon/ABC

Leicester	6th June AM
Tunbridge Wells	6th June AM
Southampton	7th June AM
Brighton	7th June AM
Edinburgh	7th June AM
Oxford (GeorgeSt)	8th June AM
Manchester	8th June AM
Glasgow (Renfield st)	8th June AM

### Showcase

Reading	6th June AM
Bristol	8th June AM
Nottingham	8th June AM
Leeds	8th June AM
Peterborough	17th June AM (Sat)

### Warner Bros.

Cambridge	8th June AM
York	8th June AM

### UCI

Norwich	7th June AM
Cardiff	8th June AM

### Independents

Isle of Man	7th June AM
Belfast	14th June PM

## *This Happy Breed*

### Special Offer to Members.

We are very pleased to announce that the theatre management offer all members two tickets for the price of one concessionary ticket for the first two weeks of the run.

i.e. in the period 13<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> June.

Book through the Box Office  
(020 7351 1878) Just claiming your special price  
as a member of the Society

**13<sup>th</sup> June – 15<sup>th</sup> July**  
**Man in the Moon Theatre**  
**392 Kings Road**  
**London SW3 5UZ**

## Theatre Royal, Haymarket

Telephone: WHITKALL 9832

Manager and Licenses STUART WATSON

Dear Sir,

H. M. TENNENT LTD. and JOHN C. WILSON  
request the pleasure of your company on TUESDAY  
EVENING, MAY 4th, at 6.30 (sharp) at a Performance  
of

**"THIS HAPPY BREED"**

By NOEL COWARD

Should you or your representative be unable  
to be present, kindly return the enclosed voucher  
to the Box Office at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket

Yours faithfully

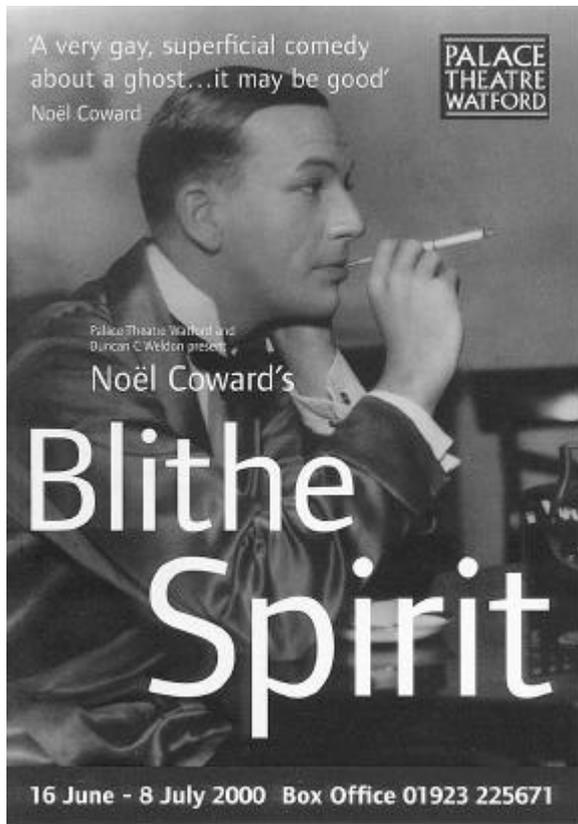
M. FLYNN,

Box Office Manager.

Press Representative—RICHARD CLOWES.

*John Parker Esq.*

An invitation for a Mr John Parker to see the  
original production of *This Happy Breed*



## Society Party to see the latest *Blithe Spirit* 27<sup>th</sup> June

We are off to see this latest production of *Blithe Spirit* at the Palace Theatre Watford on the 27<sup>th</sup> June. Do join us with your guests.

This production is brand new. The cast is Anne Bryson as Mrs Bradman; Natalia Markarova as Elvira; Anne Reid (Jean in TV's *Dinnerladies*) as Mme Arcati; Christopher Strauli as Charles and Paula Wilcox as Ruth. At the end of the show, there is a talkback opportunity when the cast and director will meet with the audience in the theatre to discuss the play and its production.

Prior to the show, I thought we might have a light bite to eat at a local bistro, "The French Restaurant", which is within a short walk of the Theatre. The director of the play has accepted our invitation to join us. The restaurant is at 106, The Parade Watford. We will meet at the restaurant at 18:30.

If you (and your guests) would just like to come to the theatre only, then tickets will be £10 per person (or £7.50 for concessionary tickets). Meet at the theatre at 19:30 for curtain up at 19:45.

If you would like to join us at the restaurant, then the meal will be £12.50 per person, including wine. (So that makes a total of £22.50 per person)

**Book, before 20<sup>th</sup> June, with Gareth (01963 351421).**

### Bargain Theatre Tickets

As last month, a member has generously donated some "2 for the price of 1" vouchers for London shows.

**Whistle Down the Wind:** 2 top price seats for £35 (normally £35 each) – valid for performances until 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

**La Cava – The Musical:** 2 top price seats for £35 (normally £35 each) – valid for performances until 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

**Spend Spend Spend:** 2 top price seats for £35 (normally £35 each) – valid for performances until 24<sup>th</sup> June.

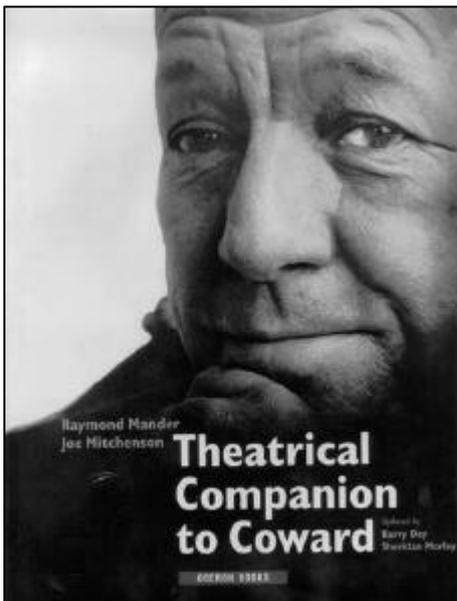
**The Woman in Black:** 2 top price seats for £28.50 (normally £28.50 each) – valid for performances until 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

If you would like some of these vouchers then send a SAE to the Society, stating your preference.

### Sir John Gielgud

We cannot let this edition of Home Chat go without mourning the death of Sir John Gielgud, probably the greatest actor that any of us will have seen on stage.

Far better obituaries have been written than anything we could offer here. But for us, his death is also the loss of another link to the world of Noël Coward, who he understudied in *The Vortex* in 1924. They remained friends thereafter.



## Theatrical Companion to Coward

We now have copies in stock of this completely revised book, originally produced by Raymond Mander & Joe Mitchenson in 1957. This revised version has been produced by Barry Day and Sheridan Morley. It is a wonderful reference book, and absolutely vital.

The Society is selling the book at £19.25 (which represents a 30% discount) plus packing and postage. It is a very big and heavy book, so postage works out as £5 in the UK; £14 to Europe, USA, Canada, Singapore, Hong Kong and £16 to the rest of the world.

*P.S. There is a rumour that there are a couple of mistakes in the book. None have been reported so far, but do let us know if you spot any.*

## Sir Noël Coward – His Words & Music

A lady has sent in a large softback book for us to sell for her. It is the 1973 edition of Coward songs as published by Chappell & Co of New York. It is in very good condition. She would like £12 for it (plus postage).

The words and music are for the following:

Chase Me Charlie, Dance Little Lady, Don't Put Your Daughter On The Stage Mrs Worthington, Has Anybody Seen Our Ship?, Here And Now, I Went To A Marvellous Party, If Love Were All, I'll Follow My Secret Heart, I'll See You Again, Let's Say Goodbye, London (Is A Little Bit Of All Right), London Pride, Mad About The Boy, Mad Dogs And Englishmen, Matelot, Men About Town, Nina, The Party's Over Now, Play Orchestra Play, A Room With A View, Sail Away, Someday I'll Find You, Something Very Strange, The Stately Homes Of England, This Is A Changing World, Three White Feathers, We Must All Be Very Kind To Auntie Jessie, We Were Dancing, Why Do The Wrong People Travel?, World Weary, You Were There, Zigeuner.



### The Website

The website is changing. You will need a password to get into a Members Only area. We will send it out as soon as the changes are made.

#### Home Chat

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### Production News

No new production news this month, there has been only a couple of Amateur Productions notified to us since the last Home Chat, and they are so far in advance that they will keep until the June Edition.

But, on the gossip front, there is some progress on the *Masterpieces* revue. Rumour has it that Penelope Keith is interested. Still hoped for production in the autumn.

Also, there are discussions going on for a production of *Private Lives* for Broadway, with Jeremy Irons.



