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Lambeg | players
PRESENTS

Married Bliss

A hilarious comedy packed
with classic Ulster humour

by Sam Cree

a message from our chairman



Paul Bennington
CHAIRMAN

Welcome to the Lambeg Players' production of Sam Cree's evergreen comedy, **Married Bliss**.

Last year was our 50th Anniversary and for the first time in many years, we took the show on tour, playing in Lambeg, Portadown, Ballyearl and ending with a week in the summer theatre in Portrush.

Please sit back, relax and enjoy the show, and maybe we will see you again at one of the other venues!

PAUL BENNINGTON
CHAIRMAN

Lambeg Players go on tour

This year as we start our second half century, we are again going on tour and will perform as follows:

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Lambeg | Harmony Hill Presbyterian Church Hall | 19 th - 20 th April |
| Lisburn | Christ Church | 11 th - 12 th May |
| Portadown | Town Hall | 25 th - 26 th May |
| Portrush | Summer Theatre, Town Hall | 22 th - 25 th August |

the play

Set in the sixties, the action of the play takes place in the annex building to the farmhouse of Andrew Calvin Knox near Ballymena.

Andrew Calvin Knox is a Ballymena man with a tendency towards 'prudency with money'. His daughter Mary Rose is a tad 'agricultural' so her romantic life is somewhat under-developed!

Belfast couple Ernie and Grace Ramsey visit the Knox establishment and are subjected to Andrew Calvin Knox's characteristic parsimony with hilarious results and a crew of other characters join the mix giving rise to all the classic Sam Cree tensions, famous humour, slap-stick and surprises that have made his comedies perennial favourites with Ulster audiences.

ACT ONE

A Sunday evening in September

ACT TWO

Scene 1... The following Tuesday afternoon

Scene 2... That evening

ACT THREE

Friday evening

the cast & crew

Mary Rose Knox Emily Pentland

Donald McDonald Paul Bennington

Andrew Calvin Knox Colin Boyd

Ernie Ramsey Moore Brown

Grace Ramsey Paula Brown

Janet McVeigh Jacqueline Clarke

Mrs Martha Ramsey Karen Webb

James Ramsey Jonathan Moore

Joyce Ramsey Fiona Dickson

Producer Ian Bennington

Production Assistant Paul Bennington

Business Manager Henry Brown

Stage Manager Alastair Dickson

Set Construction Alastair Dickson
Phil Grimes
Mark McLarnon

Lighting Set-up Dermott McCurdy

Sound & Lighting Winston Kerr

Sound Effects Kevin Sage

Set Painting David McClelland

Props Jonathan Moore

Programme and publicity Ian Bennington

Backstage and front of House Team:

Tim Webb, Colin Agar, Sid Harrison, Jackie Brown,
Geoff Clarke, Roberta Bennington, Joan Brown

Lambeg Players would like to thank:
Soundcraft AV, Bob Huffam Props, Triplicate.

biographies



Colin Boyd - Andrew Calvin Knox

Colin has been with Lambeg Players for over 30 years (he started when he was 6!), playing many lead roles in both pantomimes and plays. His early theatrical performances were on the stage of the Grand Opera House in the Belfast Scout Gang Shows of the 70's and 80's. He recently returned there in guest appearances with Belfast Operatic Company in "Kiss Me Kate", "Annie Get Your Gun," and "Titanic". He has also made guest appearances with Dunmurry Dramatic Society and played Wild Bill Hickock in Lisnagarvey Operatic Society's 2003 production of "Calamity Jane." This year he is again guesting with Lisnagarvey in their production of the musical "Anything Goes".

For Lambeg, Colin's stage credits include Councillor Albert Parker in J B Priestley's "When We Are Married," Benjamin Tapeworth in "Strike Happy" by Duncan Greenwood, Aubrey Allington in "Tons of Money" by Will Evans and Arthur Valentine and of course last year's Frank McIlroy in Sam Cree's "Second Honeymoon". This year Colin is looking forward to reviving the part of Andrew Calvin Knox which he played in Lambeg's last production of this play.



Emily Pentland - Mary Rose Knox

Emily has featured in many of our pantomimes and plays over the years. Notable roles have included the mighty ward sister in Sam Cree's "Stop it Nurse", the scheming Stella Morley in "The Mating Season" and Cruella De Brun in last year's panto "Aladdin".

In the last two Panto's she has joined the production team with particular responsibility for choreography and will produce our next pantomime alongside Ian Bennington and Laura Kerr.



Karen Webb - Mrs Martha Ramsey

Karen has taken major roles in our pantomimes playing the Empress Kow Tow in "Aladdin" and the evil stepmother in "Cinderella". She was a memorable Mrs Liggett in last year's "Second Honeymoon" and of course Lily in "Strictly For The Birds".

She is the co-owner of a puppet company Kaz & Co. which has toured throughout Ireland performing in schools and youth organisations. Karen runs a creative arts group for children which performed a musical in Lagan Island Theatre Lisburn in 2005.



Paul Bennington - Donald McDonald

This is Paul's 32nd year with the Lambeg Players during which time he has played a whole variety of roles in plays and pantomimes. Paul has also been co-producer of the Pantomimes since 1988.

In recent years, leading roles have included the splendid cad Malcolm Adair in "Second Honeymoon", Herbie Glover in "Strictly for the Birds", Alderman Helliwell in "When we are Married" and Sidney Gillespie in "The Mating Season". In keeping with the "families" tradition in the Players, Paul's wife Roberta and children Amy, Peter and Andrew were all involved in the recent Pantomime Aladdin.



Paula Brown - Grace Ramsey

Paula has taken leading roles with the Lambeg Players in both Panto and plays in recent years. Notable parts have included Agnes McIlroy in "Second Honeymoon", Mrs J in "The Mating Season" and Freda Ferguson in "Stop it Nurse".

Her professional skills as a stenographer with UTV and the Court Service have helped her with wordy lines – particularly important in this play as she takes on the huge role of Grace Ramsey which her elder sister Laura Kerr played when we last produced this show. Paula is another member of the cast whose early performances were in Gang Show. She is actively involved in youth work with the Salvation Army.



Jacqueline Clarke - Janet McVeigh

Jacqueline is Paula's twin sister and like Paula, has been involved for many years in musical and dramatic activities with the Salvation Army as part of "The Communicators" and before that in Gang Show.

In our last Panto Aladdin, she and twin Paula played the manic comedy duo So-Shy and Sing-Hi. Before that, Jacqueline was the Fairy Godmother in Lambeg's Panto "Cinderella" and played Jack in the Ulster Community and Hospital Trust's Panto "Jack and the Beanstalk" and Cinderella in their recent Panto.



Moore Brown - Ernie Ramsey

Another Gang Show veteran, Moore has featured in Lambeg Pantos and plays for more years than any of us care to remember. His numerous roles have ranged from Dame to benevolent Baron, to King Neptune and of course Emperor Kung Foo in last year's "Aladdin" and a heavily made up Ugly Sister in our Panto "Cinderella".

In addition to being our long standing company treasurer, he has also had many parts in plays with highly acclaimed performances as the limp wristed Victor Bruce in last year's "Second Honeymoon", Harold, he of the weak bladder, in "Stop it Nurse", Uncle Fred in "The Mating Season" and Albert McCartney in "Strictly for the Birds".



Fiona Dickson - Joyce Ramsey

Fiona has been with the Players for over 20 years. Previously a regular in Pantos and Plays, she took a break to nurture her three children through the early years. In recent years, Fiona has played cameo roles as Sally Mitchell in "Second Honeymoon", Dolores in "Stop it Nurse" and Babs in "The Mating Season". However, she reached the pinnacle of her Am Dram career when she was promoted to Costume Assistant for Panto 2006 "Cinderella" and again in 2007 for "Aladdin".

The whole Dickson family are involved in Lambeg Players with Fiona's husband Alastair heading up the backstage team as Stage Manager, whilst Emma and Alexandra were in "Aladdin" and Eve has turned her hand to selling programmes on the odd occasion. Fiona has plenty of acting experience as she is a civil servant by day.



Jonathan Moore - James Ramsey

Jonathan is a veteran Lambeg Player, renowned for sourcing all the exotic props. He has also taken various roles in pantomimes and plays including, Lord Twit in "Wee Willie Winkie", Henry Jefferson in Second Honeymoon, Robin in "The Mating Season", Billy Nicholson in "Strictly for the Birds", the King in "Cinderella" and the Grand Vizier in "Aladdin".

A chartered surveyor by profession, he remains, (just exactly as it said in last year's programme), Lambeg Players' most eligible bachelor. (Applications on postcards please). Some of us cannot believe he is still single when he drives an M3 babe magnet!



Ian Bennington - Producer

Ian has been performing in musicals since early schooldays. He joined Lambeg Players some sixteen years ago and has taken prominent roles in pantomimes and plays as well as producing a number of Sam Cree comedies in recent years.

He is also a member of Belfast Operatic Company and played Edgar Beane in "Titanic" the musical in May 2005 and again in November 06 in the newly refurbished Opera House. He also played Nahum the beggar in BOC's production of "Fiddler on the Roof". Ian's interest in music extends to his business life where he sits on the development board of the Ulster Orchestra.

Like many in Lambeg Players his family all get involved, with his three children all going on stage in our pantomimes and his wife Catherine heading up the costume team and keeping up our cultural education in her role as social secretary.

lambeg players support worthy causes



Lambeg Players' Ian Bennington presents a cheque to Valerie Cromie, Area Fund Raising Manager of children's cancer charity CLIC SARGENT.

Continuing our annual donations to charity, we supported a range of charities from the proceeds of our pantomime "Aladdin" which we performed in January in Lisburn's Island Hall Theatre.

Among the organisations to benefit were children's cancer charity Clie Sargent and Northern Ireland Kidney Research Fund, both of whom were given a cheque for £516.

Other causes which also raised money through sponsored nights and collections from the audience were Cystic Fibrosis, Zambian Orphanage Fund and Brazilian Street Children Fund. This brings Lambeg Players' fund raising efforts to over £60,000.

Lambeg Players' Business manager, Lisburn man Henry Brown commented...

"As an amateur drama organisation with a strong emphasis on family participation and enjoyment, our priority is to ensure that all our hard work on the production of pantomimes and plays is showcased to full houses and working with a range of good causes gives us great audiences and at the same time raises much needed funds for deserving causes such as Meningitis Research, Scouting in Malawi and the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice. Our audiences over the years have been extremely generous".

Beauty AND THE BEAST



Lambeg | players

PRESENT

a spectacular pantomime

Wednesday 2nd January - Saturday 5th January 2008, 7.30pm

Tuesday 8th January - Saturday 12th January 2008, 7.30pm

(Matinee on Saturday 12th January at 2.30pm)

Tickets on release early November 2007