

Lambeg | players

STOP IT! NURSE

A comedy in 3 Acts

By SAM CREE

STOP IT! NURSE

a message from our chairman



Therese Boomer
CHAIRMAN

Welcome to this year's production of Sam Cree's 'Stop it Nurse!'.

There will be plenty of fun and frolics on the Ward tonight as Sam Cree's characters get up to their usual mischief.

We at Lambeg Players, rely heavily on those hardworking people who help us to get our productions to the stage. Whilst the cast take the applause, they readily share the acclaim with those who build the set, provide costumes and create sound and lighting.

We are all part of the Lambeg Team.

And finally to you, our audiences without whom all our efforts would be pointless.

Now, please sit back, relax and enjoy the show.

THERESE BOOMER
CHAIRMAN



Ian Bennington
PRODUCER

Lambeg Players go on tour

This year we are again going on tour and will perform as follows:

Lisburn	Harmony Hill Presbyterian Church Hall	Wed 25 th & Thurs 26 th May
Ballyearl	Courtyard Theatre	Fri 12 th & Sat 13 th Aug
Portrush	Summer Theatre	Wed 24 th to Sat 27 th Aug

STOP IT! NURSE

the play

Bert Cooper (a man with some marital issues) and Harold Smiley (a mild mannered man with a weak bladder) are in a hospital ward together when their peace is shattered as Sammy McCracken (an ardent Linfield supporter) and Frank Devlin (an equally ardent Glentoran supporter) are admitted leading to much antagonism. Add to this the caustic Sister, the playful nurse Freda, the eccentric spinster and hospital visitor Miss Cherry and a few other hilarious characters such as the wrestler Mad McGurk, Bert's wife Martha and his bit on the side Dolores and you have a recipe for hilarious madness and mayhem all in the setting of the hospital ward from hell!

ACT ONE

Scene One – The Men's Surgical Ward in a large hospital
Scene Two – Ten minutes later

ACT TWO

Scene One – Three days later
Scene Two – Friday evening

ACT THREE

Scene One – Friday evening
Scene Two – Saturday morning

the cast & crew

(In order of appearance)

Bert Cooper	.....	Jon Paul Bruce
Harold Smiley	.....	Moore Brown
Freda Ferguson	.....	Gillian Cherry
Ward Sister	.....	Karen Webb
Nurse Holmes	.....	Karen Bennington
Sammy McCracken	.....	Paul Bennington
Frank Devlin	.....	Ian Bennington
Miss Cherry	.....	Laura Kerr
Phyllis Russell	.....	Emma Pollock
Martha Cooper	.....	Laura Kerr
Dolores Maxwell	.....	Fiona Dickson
Commentator	.....	Alastair Dickson
Mad McGurk	.....	Sam Boyd
Producer	.....	Ian Bennington
Business Manager	.....	Henry Brown
Set Design & Production	.....	Alastair Dickson
Stage Manager	.....	Karen Bennington
Lighting Set-Up	.....	Dermott McCurdy
Sound & Lighting	.....	Catherine Bennington
Props	.....	Karen Bennington
Programme & Publicity	.....	Ian Bennington

Backstage and front of house team

Alastair Dickson, Colin Boyd, Liz Boyd, Roberta Bennington, Tina Gough, Robbie Atkinson.

Lambeg Players would like to thank:

Triplicate

Rosemary Drama Group

biographies



Jon Paul Bruce - Bert Cooper

Jon Paul is a busy man. He has been in so many productions already this year, we've lost count! He is a member of Belfast Operatic and starred in their production of Calamity Jane this year. He has also performed with New Lyric and St. Agnes Choral Society. He made his debut with Lambeg Players six years ago in 'Second Honeymoon' and then brought the house down as the Genie in our pantomime 'Aladdin'. Always on the go, Jon Paul has recently taken up boxing in his spare time. He is delighted to play the part of Bert Cooper as he gets to lie down and take a break - that's when his wife Martha isn't harassing him!



Moore Brown - Harold Smiley

Moore is a long standing member of the Lambeg Players and has been in numerous plays and pantomimes during that time. He has played the Dame on several occasions and a variety of roles in our plays. Harold Smiley is one of Moore's favourite roles - lying on the bed means it is obviously less demanding physically and he can get a wee rest during the show. He also takes on the responsibility of treasurer for the Lambeg Players as he is such a wee treasure himself and we wouldn't know what we would do without him. A keen golfer in his spare time, Moore can be found on golf courses all over the country. Moore is particularly proud of his young son Ben's recent achievement as he was selected for the school swimming team. The 'Players' are very proud too - 'Finding Nemo' will need to be our next production so that Ben can show off his skills! Or perhaps a Lambeg Players' Gala is in the offing?



Gillian Cherry - Freda Ferguson

Gillian joined Lambeg Players in her late teens and continued in many pantomimes and plays until she took a break to have a family. As mother to two young boys, she leads a busy life. The funny thing is this - when Gillian joined the 'Players', she thought it was a football team. She is absolutely brilliant at football! Luckily, the Lambeg Players have an annual football match in Portrush, just before we do the play on the Saturday evening at the Summer Theatre, so Gillian is able to be a star performer at both. Where does she get the energy, never mind the fancy footwork? Gillian loved playing the nosy neighbour, Emily Beattie in 'Family Fever' but has grasped the opportunity to get onto the Ward in 'Stop it Nurse!'.



Karen Webb - Ward Sister

Karen started to get a complex when she got the part of the Ward Sister when Ian told her that she was a natural for the part as the Ward Sister had to be very bossy. She soon calmed down when she realised what fun it was to be in charge. She has had a lot of training for the role having performed in the pantomime as the Stepmother in 'Cinderella' and Ali Baba in 'Sinbad'. Her roles in our plays have been equally assertive, playing Maud in last year's production of 'Family Fever'. Karen was also involved in the Holocaust Memorial Day in the City Hall last year and toured for a year with the play which was written by another Lambeg Player, Wilnor Tennant.

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Karen Bennington - Nurse Holmes

Karen has been involved with the Lambeg Players since she was ten and is in fourth year at Methody. The youngest daughter of Ian, our producer, she is following in her father's footsteps. She enjoyed being Stage Manager for last year's production, 'Family Fever' but this is her first role in a Sam Cree play. Karen has enjoyed the tea and biscuits at rehearsal and spending time with the older members of the cast. She is also a member of Music Theatre for Youth and enjoys baking in her spare time.



Paul Bennington - Sammy McCracken

Paul is a well known face in the Lambeg productions. He has taken part in many plays and pantomimes over the years as well as producing some of our shows. Last year, Paul played the part of the hen-pecked Patrick Hall in 'Family Fever' and made the role his own with his strong Ballymena accent and antics on the stage. He is delighted to play Sammy McCracken this year even though he has had the most lines to learn. No problem to Paul. He was able to apply a lot of his footballing knowledge to the role as he manages the Banbridge under 15 team in which his youngest son Andrew plays. A keen five-a-side footballer, Paul has kept in training for the role by watching Match the day and lying in bed for hours on end.



Ian Bennington - Frank Devlin

Ian has been involved with Lambeg Players for more years than he can remember and is also a member of Belfast Operatic. His favourite roles in pantomimes have included Buttons, Mr. Tickle and Wishy Washy. He has also produced several pantomimes and plays. That is a sure recipe to turn his hair grey overnight. He also enjoyed playing the dim witted Willie Beattie in last year's production of Family Fever. A keen cook in his spare time, Ian is keen to enter Masterchef and is always showing off his cooking skills much to the delight of the 'Players'. Also a keen five-a-side footballer, like Paul, he has kept in training for the role by watching Match of the Day and lying in bed for hours on end. He is delighted that his youngest daughter Karen is joining him in this production as Nurse Holmes.



Laura Kerr - Freda Ferguson/Martha Cooper

A member of both Belfast Operatic and Lambeg Players, Laura has played leading roles in musicals, pantomimes and plays for many years. She is delighted to once again be doubling up as Miss Cherry and Martha in this production. Unfortunately, Catherine was unavailable for the part of Martha due to other theatrical commitments. 'Stop It Nurse!' is one of Laura's favourite Sam Cree plays as she had a hankering to go into nursing herself but the Health Service wouldn't permit it. Apparently it was felt that she would be a liability on the Ward. After this, you may agree! A teacher in Pond Park Primary, Lisburn, Laura is heavily involved with the school choir and musical productions. She also leads the Youth Choir in the Salvation Army. Word has it that she is thinking of moving into athletics following Fiona's recent success.

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Emma Pollock - Phyllis Russell

Emma has been with the Lambeg Players for many years. She has played a range of roles in plays including being regularly typecast as the 'young love interest' and stretching her acting skills with a number of female character parts. It was rumoured that members of the audience thought Emma was in fact American, so convincing was her acting in one of our recent plays! A huge compliment indeed. In this production, Emma plays the part of Phyllis, the long suffering fiancé of Sammy. Emma is a keen participant in 'Zumba' classes in her spare time. There definitely is a 'fitness' bug among the cast this year!



Fiona Dickson - Dolores Maxwell

Fiona has been with the Players taking on a variety of roles both on and off stage. Particular highlights include Sally Mitchell in 'Second Honeymoon' and Babs in 'The Mating Season'. This year she is thrilled to reprise her role as Dolores Maxwell, another favourite part. Mother of three daughters, Fiona works in Countryside management and in her spare time enjoys running, recently coming 32nd in the 5K Runher event at Stormont. We are all thrilled as there were at least 400 in the event and Fiona achieved a personal best! An obsession with sewing and all things 'creative' enabled Fiona to become a valid member of the costume team, particularly during the panto season. Her organisational skills and ability to multi-task coupled with her creative abilities ensure that the cast look resplendent each year. Then Fiona takes a deep breath and gets a chance to focus on her athletic pursuits. Should she get a chance to carry the Olympic torch in Belfast?



Sam Boyd - Mad McGurk

Sam is following in the footsteps of his father, Colin, by now appearing in his third play. He took The title role of Wee Willie Winkie in one of our previous pantomimes and judging by his current stature, this was some considerable time ago! He was just made for this part and has thrown himself into it, doing extra training at the gym. As you will see he is a force to be reckoned with! Sam has also played Vince Fontaine in Banbridge High School's production of the musical 'Grease'. He also plays rugby for Ulster at youth level.

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Lambeg Players & Charity

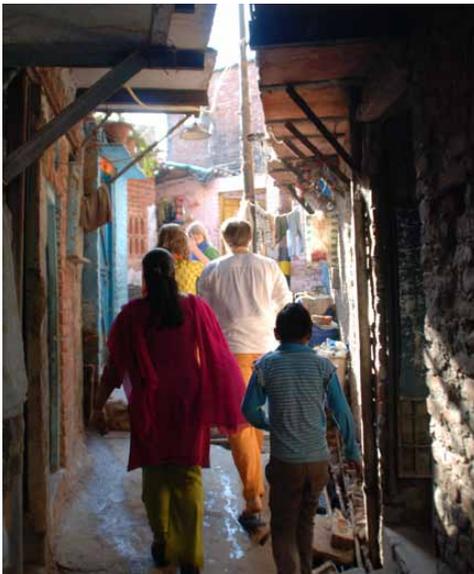
Marie Curie

At our last show in Lisburn's Island Theatre hall, "Once Upon a Time" we raised over £1,000 when cast member Emily White nominated Marie Curie to receive the voluntary collection we lifted on the Friday and Saturday night shows.

Asha - India

The year before, it was Asha- India which received the contents of the famous "orange buckets" at our Panto and again over £1,000 was donated to benefit children and adults living in the slums of Delhi. This money provided vital medical supplies for premature babies and their mothers. It also went towards computers and internet access for the children in the slum resource centre. These photographs show some of the children and the team of Methodist College students who go out there to work every year.

www.asha-india.org



Lambeg Players and charity

For many years Lambeg Players have worked with a variety of groups to raise funds for charity. This symbiotic relationship has raised well over £80,000 in recent years. Initially we started out helping local churches by performing plays and pantomimes in their church halls. More recently we have diversified to collaborate with other charities, some of whom are listed below.

Salvation Army
Cystic Fibrosis Trust
The Tsunami Appeal
CLIC Sargent

OutReach Amazon in Brazil
Asha-India

Marie Curie
Scouting in Malawi
Children's Hospice
Oasis Village Orphanage in Zambia
NI Kidney Research
Meningitis Research

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**STOP IT!
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A comedy in 3 Acts
By SAM CREE

We will be presenting this new play in:

HARMONY HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HALL
Wed 25th & Thurs 26th May 2011 at 8pm
For tickets phone Ian Bennington
on 07710 582288

BALLYEARL NEWTOWNABBEY
Fri 12th & Sat 13th August 2011

PORTRUSH SUMMER THEATRE
Wed 24th - Sat 27th August 2011

**WE WILL BE ANNOUNCING
OTHER DATES AND VENUES
SO PLEASE WATCH THIS SPACE!**

We will be auditioning for our January 2012 PANTOMIME on Tuesday
6th September 2011 at Harmony Hill Presbyterian Church Hall at 8pm.

www.lambegplayers.com