

Lambeg|players

PRESENTS



Cupid Wore Skirts

A Three Act Comedy by
SAM CREE

Cupid Wore Skirts

a message from our chairman



Ian Bennington
CHAIRMAN & PRODUCER



Colin Boyd
PRODUCER

Welcome to this year's production of Sam Cree's **Cupid Wore Skirts**.

There is no doubt that Sam Cree wrote some very funny plays. These days there is the odd thing that seems a little non-pc but Norn Iron people just adore the classic ingredients of farce and typical characters that we have all come to know and love.

This season, I set out to produce the play and Colin Boyd offered to give me a helping hand. As we got into the swing of it, Colin quickly brought his many years of experience in directing shows to the table so it rapidly became very much a joint effort.

This play demanded a slightly more stylish set than the usual Sam Cree with its central theme of an antique dealer's lounge so thankfully Alastair Dickson, as always, delivered the goods and our good friends Belvoir Players opened their store rooms to me so we are particularly proud of our setting.

Thanks also to my wife Catherine and brother Paul for giving so much help with the papering and décor etc.

As always, we are going to have a ball on stage and hope you have too.

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



Lambeg Players go on tour

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

Lisburn	Harmony Hill Presbyterian Church Hall	Thurs 24 th & Fri 25 th May
Ballyearl	Courtyard Theatre	Fri 3 rd & Sat 4 th Aug
Portrush	Summer Theatre	Wed 22 nd to Sat 25 th Aug

Cupid Wore Skirts

the play

Cupid Wore Skirts is a hilarious comedy in which widower Andrew Coulter ill-advisedly bets his caustic sister in-law that he will be remarried within a week and promptly puts an advert in the personal column of the local paper. Thus ensues substantial antics as three highly unsuitable women line up as potential wives and a number of classic Sam Cree farcical situations unfold with hilarious results. The action takes place in the living room at the rear of Andrew Coulter's antique shop and is set in the 1960s in Belfast.

ACT ONE

Scene One – A Saturday Afternoon

Scene Two – Wednesday Afternoon

ACT TWO

Scene One – Ten Minutes Later

INTERVAL

ACT TWO

Scene Two – The Following Evening

ACT THREE

The Following Evening

the cast & crew

(In order of appearance)

Grandad Coulter Paul Bennington

Daphne Dunlop Amy Bennington

Brian Coulter Chris Cherry

Harriet Courtney Laura Kerr

Andrew Coulter Colin Boyd

Monique Le Blanc Anna Nelson

Gladys Gilmore Gillian Cherry

Isobel Stanfield Fiona Dickson

Ronnie Ian Bennington

Producers Ian Bennington & Colin Boyd

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

Biographies Cyril Sharpe

Backstage and front of house team

Alastair Dickson, Roberta Bennington, Liz Boyd

Lambeg Players would like to thank:

Triplicate

Belvoir Players

Cupid Wore Skirts

biographies



Paul Bennington – Grandad Coulter

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. He has played many roles including 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 delighted our audiences last year playing Sammy McCracken in 'Stop it Nurse!' and this year, has aged somewhat to play Grandad Coulter. The grumpy, hard of hearing, forgetful nature seems to be coming too easy to him so we're not sure if he's acting or if he's just reached that stage! Paul was also on stage with Colin, Ian, Laura and Liz Ross in the 'Sublime & the Ridiculous' concert for the Mark Pollock Trust in early May.



Amy Bennington – Daphne Dunlop

Amy is finding it weird that her dad is her grandad in this play, especially as he's become very trendy lately! Amy has been in the Lambeg pantomimes and plays over the years and sang a couple of memorable numbers in our 'Once Upon a Time' show in 2009. At Banbridge Academy she played Alice in 'Seven Brides for Seven Brothers', Cecily Cardew in 'The Importance of Being Earnest', Lady Macduff in 'Macbeth' and Sgt. Sarah Brown in 'Guys & Dolls'. She has also had roles in productions with Queen's Musical Society. Amy is studying marketing at the University of Ulster and is currently on her placement year with Power NI. Anything you need to know about energy, just ask Amy – she's full of it! To be honest, she's exhausted dusting that lounge on set after a hard day at the office and just wishes the others would chip in now and again!



Chris Cherry – Brian Coulter

Hard as it may be to believe, this is the first production Chris has done with Lambeg Players! He has come a long way from the school productions of Willie Wonka and Mary Poppins to become a global superstar with Lambeg – at least that's what he's hoping when he starts strumming on that guitar. He was cajoled along by his auntie Gillian when we needed someone to play the part of Brian. After a lengthy audition process and several screen tests, he landed the role and has done his auntie proud. His attention to detail in learning his lines and taking direction has been an absolute delight for the producers. This is definitely the start of something big for Chris!

Cupid Wore Skirts



Laura Kerr – Harriet Courtney

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 playing a bossy role in this production as it comes so naturally to her. Last year she was exhausted playing two roles in 'Stop it Nurse!' - Miss Cherry and Martha! Already this year, Laura has played the part of Alice Beane in the fabulous 'Titanic the Musical' with Belfast Operatic Company during the Easter week. She was also involved in the equally fabulous 'Sublime & the Ridiculous' concert in aid of the Mark Pollock Trust in early May in the Island Hall, Lisburn. And now Auntie Harriet! 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.



Colin Boyd – Andrew Coulter

Firstly, Colin is just delighted with the lounge the set team have created for his character, Andrew Coulter, an antique dealer. The set is so plush, we all want to move in!!! Colin has worked tirelessly with Ian to co-produce 'Cupid Wore Skirts'. He has been with Lambeg Players for over 30 years, 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 70s and 80s. He then returned there in guest appearances with Belfast Operatic Company in "Kiss Me Kate", "Annie Get Your Gun," "Titanic" and "Hello! Dolly". He has also made guest appearances with Bangor Operatic Society, Dunmurry Dramatic Society and played Wild Bill Hickock in Lisnagarvey Operatic Society's 2003 production of "Calamity Jane." He has also guested with Lisnagarvey in their production of the musical "Anything Goes" and played their Dame in panto in 2010. Colin also played to great acclaim in 'Titanic the Musical' with Belfast Operatic Company during Easter as Henry Etches and was instrumental in putting together the 'Sublime & the Ridiculous' concert in early May in aid of the Mark Pollock Trust. The concert ran over two nights and raised £7500 for the charity!



Anna Nelson - Monique Le Blanc

Colin, Laura and Ian over the last number of years have been involved in productions with Belfast Operatic Company. However, we are fortunate to have Anna from BOC join us this year! Now that she is aware of our professionalism and tight operation, it is debatable whether she will return to BOC!!! To be truthful, we were stuck for someone who could really play the part with a good French accent. Catherine, seeing an opportunity, was immediately rejected by the producers and told to 'concentrate on the sound and lighting'! In walked Anna and we all thought she was from France! Chris still thinks she's French and he definitely wants her to be in his group. I should mention that Anna was superb in 'Titanic' as Kate Magowan during Easter and we are delighted to have her in this production. Anna was formerly in Phoenix Players in her native Portadown where she played in several musicals.

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Gillian Cherry – Gladys Gilmore

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. She still manages to keep in training though for the annual football match in Portrush during our run at the summer theatre. After playing the part of Gladys, she'll need a personal trainer this year by the look of her! Gillian loved playing the nosy neighbour, Emily Beattie in 'Family Fever' and was a complete natural as Freda Ferguson, (the young nurse who was always charming the male patients) in last year's production of 'Stop it Nurse!'. She's at it again in this year's production, trying to charm Andrew Coulter in her softly spoken voice and generally under a cloud of smoke! It's hard to believe that she's really mild mannered and gentle in real life as she throws her weight about on stage in more ways than one!



Fiona Dickson – Isobel Stanfield

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'. Last year she was 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 achieving a personal best in the Runher event at Stormont. She's going to be elected next, she's that near the top! This year Fiona gets the chance to compete for the affections of the charming Andrew Coulter, and boy is she competitive. Even her husband Alastair was alarmed during rehearsals when she threw herself into the role! Never mind Alastair, Colin and Ian, the producers, were delighted to see Fiona step out of her comfort zone. Definitely a part she will remember for some time to come. Remember last year, I mentioned Fiona should carry the Olympic Torch? Well, her dad is going to be doing that soon – how great is that?



Ian Bennington – Ronnie

Firstly, it's definite that Ian will NOT be carrying the Olympic Torch – he was ruled out because of his sciatica, nothing to do with his fitness, I might add! 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. Tickles 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 'Family Fever' and last year, Frank Devlin in 'Stop it Nurse!'. Ian also performed in the 'Sublime & Ridiculous' concert in early May for the Mark Pollock Trust. 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'. This year Ian has taken on the role of Ronnie and although he's only on for a short time, it's worth waiting for – you'll see what I mean....

Cupid Wore Skirts

Lambeg Players & 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 £90,000 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
NI Kidney Research	Meningitis Research
Oasis Village Orphanage in Zambia	

Marie Curie

At our show in Lisburn's Island Theatre hall, "Once Upon a Time" in 2009 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

Mark Pollock

In May 2012 members of Lambeg Players put on a variety show in Lisburn's Lagan Valley Island Theatre which raised £7.5K to help with well known adventurer and motivational speaker Mark Pollock's determined quest to overcome the challenges of blindness and lower body paralysis.

You can read about Mark at www.markpollocktrust.org



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present

CUPID WORE SKIRTS

A 3 Act Comedy
by Sam Cree



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Courtyard Theatre Ballyearl
Portrush Summer Theatre

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