

WISH YOU WERE HERE!



5 men, 5 women, one cramped caravan...

Lambeg | players
PRESENTS

WIDOW'S PARADISE

A hilarious 3 act comedy
by **Sam Cree**

a message from our chairman



Fiona Dickson
CHAIRMAN

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

In 2006 we celebrated our 50th Anniversary and in 2007 for the first time in many years, we took our show, Married Bliss on tour, playing in Lambeg, Lisburn, Portadown and ending in the summer theatre in Portrush at the end of August.

This year we are returning to Christ Church, Portadown and Portrush so please sit back, relax and enjoy the show, and maybe we will see you again at one of the other venues!

FIONA DICKSON
CHAIRMAN

Lambeg Players go on tour

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

Lisburn	Christ Church	7 th - 8 th May
Portadown	Town Hall	23 rd - 24 th May
Portrush	Summer Theatre, Town Hall	27 th - 30 th August



the play

Set in the sixties, the action of the play takes place in a caravan in portrush.

Widower Harry Bradshaw, his mate Ernie and son Alan are enjoying a quiet fishing break at their caravan in Portrush, when their peace is shattered by the arrival of five women who are on an “escape from men” holiday weekend.

Add to this cocktail, the long estranged husband of one of the women and a rampant widowed farmer and the action rattles along with all the great Cree ingredients of hilarious Ulster comedy and some unexpected romance!!!

ACT ONE

Scene 1... A Friday evening, early September

Scene 2... Immediately following

ACT TWO

Scene 1... Fifteen minutes later

Scene 2... A few moments later

ACT THREE

Two hours later

the cast & crew

Ruby Dempsey Laura Kerr

Lucy McGarry Paula Brown

Rachel Cathcart Jacqueline Clarke

Vanessa Burton Fiona Dickson

Sylvia Dempsey Emma Pollock

Harry Bradshaw Colin Boyd

Ernest Gillespie Paul Bennington

Alan Bradshaw Jon Paul Bruce

Wilfred McNeilly Ian Bennington

John McGonigle Moore Brown

Producer Ian Bennington

Production Assistant Paul Bennington

Business Manager Henry Brown

Stage Manager Alastair Dickson

Set Construction Phil Grimes

Set Team . . Alastair Dickson, Colin Agar, Matthew Grimes

Lighting Set-up Dermott McCurdy

Sound & Lighting Catherine Bennington

Props Roberta Bennington, Karen Webb

Programme and publicity Ian Bennington

Backstage and Front of House Team:

Colin Agar, Jackie Brown, Roberta Bennington, John Clarke

Lambeg Players would like to thank:

Tim Webb and Triplicate.

biographies



Colin Boyd - Harry Bradshaw

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." He has also guested 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 Frank McIlroy in Sam Cree's "Second Honeymoon". Last year Colin revived the part of Andrew Calvin Knox in "Married Bliss" by Sam Cree.



Laura Kerr - Ruby Dempsey

Laura has a wide and varied experience of musical theatre, acting and singing. She has been performing since the age of seven in various settings but most recently has been spending her time with The Belfast Operatic Company and The Lambeg Players. In recent years with the BOC at the Grand Opera House in Belfast she has played the parts of Dolly Levi, in "Hello Dolly", Annie Oakley in "Annie Get your Gun", Alice in "Titanic the Musical" and Hattie in "Kiss me Kate". Laura is thrilled to be in "Widow's Paradise", one of her favourite Sam Cree comedies, following her involvement in Belfast Operatic Company's recent production of "Orpheus in the Underworld" in the Grand Opera House.



Emma Pollock - Sylvia Dempsey

Emma Pollock has been with Lambeg Players for many years and has played a range of roles in plays including being regularly type cast as the "young love interest" and stretching her acting skills with a number of female character parts. As her mother, Barbara makes the tea at rehearsals she obviously is loved by all the cast.



Paul Bennington - Ernest Gillespie

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", Sidney Gillespie in "The Mating Season" and Donald McDonald in "Married Bliss". Once again he is the lovestruck Ernie in this play - he just loves all these romantic roles!



Paula Brown - Lucy McGarry

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 the Court Service have helped her with wordy lines – especially last year when she took on the huge role of Grace Ramsey in "Married Bliss". 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. In this play she is Lucy McGarry who takes a shine to Ernie Gillespie and falls under his spell!



Jacqueline Clarke - Rachel Cathcart

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 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". This year she takes on the role of Rachel Cathcart, who, let's say, is very nervous of men generally!



Moore Brown - John McGonigle

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 "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 Victor Bruce in "Second Honeymoon", Harold, he of the weak bladder, in "Stop it Nurse", Uncle Fred in "The Mating Season", Albert McCartney in "Strictly for the Birds" and Ernie Ramsey in "Married Bliss".



Fiona Dickson - Vanessa Burton

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 has been a vital member the Costume Team ever since! 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 the panto 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.



Jon Paul Bruce - Alan Bradshaw

Jon Paul is a relatively new member to Lambeg Players compared to the old hands, however, he has already played a leading role as the Beast in last year's panto "Beauty and the Beast" and the Genie in "Aladdin" the previous year.

He has also recently spread his wings and joined Belfast Operatic Company, having just taken part in their recent production of "Orpheus in the Underworld" in the Grand Opera House.



Ian Bennington - Wilfred McNeilly

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



Ziso and Nicki Moyo who work for Oasis Village Trust as missionaries in Zambia, building homes for Orphans, receive a cheque from Lambeg Players' chairman Fiona Dickson.

Continuing our annual donations to charity, we supported a range of causes from the proceeds of our Pantomime "Beauty and the Beast" which we performed in Lisburn's Island Hall theatre in January 2008.

Among the organizations to benefit were Oasis Village Trust which builds homes for orphans in Zambia and the Brazilian Street Children's Fund (this is a charity which one of our own members Wilnor Tennant is involved in).

We had collections at the end of some of our shows and the generosity of our panto audiences resulted in Oasis Village Trust being awarded a cheque for £1,100 and the Brazilian Street Children's Fund being awarded £750.

This has brought Lambeg's fund raising efforts to nearly £65,000.

Oasis Village Trust recently sent us this message:

Oasis Village, Ndola

"The pantomime in January 2008 was our fifth "sponsored" event with Lambeg Players. To date over £4,600 has been raised from plays/pantomimes.

This money has so far contributed to children's work in Zambia including educating village children to give them a hope for the future.

The latest project is called Oasis Village. The initial vision of Oasis Village is to build 10 chalets in Ndola, Zambia which will house six orphans in each one. There are plans to build an administration block, library, canteen and playground. House mums will also be employed to look after the children on a 24 hour basis. The estimated total cost of the initial vision is £40,000.

Thanks to the fantastic response of last year's pantomime and play, four chalets have been constructed – A chalet can be built for £1000.

A big thank you to the Lambeg Players for providing such a wonderful opportunity to fundraise and to everyone who continues to support the Oasis Village Project".

Anyone who would like information on the orphanage project or who feels they could help in any way, please contact: oasisvillagendola@yahoo.co.uk

Lambeg players

PRESENTS



SINBAD THE SAILOR

A SPECTACULAR PANTOMIME

Mon 5th - Sat 10th Jan 2009 at 7.30pm (matinee on Sat at 2.30pm)
Island Hall Theatre Lisburn

Tickets on release early November 2008