



Moot House Players  
Present

# **Private Fears in Public Places**



by  
Alan Ayckbourn



# Private Fears in Public Places

by Sir Alan Ayckbourn

Cast in order of appearance:

Nicola

Stewart

Dan

Ambrose

Charlotte

Imogen

Arthur

Claire Quley

Tony Edwards

Dan Powell

Robbie Chittick

Biddy McAlpine

Elsbeth Morrish

Jon McNamara

Written in 54 scenes the set represents many different places - various flats, an estate agents office, an up market bar, a slightly down market "rock" cafe and a number of different homes! To add to your confusion the Prompt is also providing the voice of Arthur - mainly because he wanted to!

Directed by Jon McNamara

Set Design and painting by Paul Regeli, Bett Hewlett and the cast.

Set construction - Tony Edwards & Neil Baker

Production manager & Lighting - Phil Waite

Stage Manager - Phil Lloyd

Lighting and sound operated by Nick Woodfine

Sounds - Jon McNamara

Props - Rosemary and Michael Caswell

**Private Fears in Public Places** is the 67th play from the pen of the prolific British playwright Sir Alan Ayckbourn, having premiered in England in August 2004. In something of a departure from the author's usual style, the play is rather more filmic in structure than his previous work, being made up as it is of 54 scenes.

Telling as it does the story of six ordinary individuals whose lives of quite lonely desperation intersect in very ordinary places such as homes, offices and bars, this play speaks to the heart and serves as a reminder of the tragic-comedy that is often at the root of all our lives.

## **Alan Ayckbourn**

Alan Ayckbourn was born in London in 1939 and has worked in theatre all his life. Before establishing himself as a writer and director, Alan worked in roles as various as stage manager, sound technician, lighting technician, scene painter, prop maker and actor. He always claims that most of these talents he developed with the help of Stephen Joseph, his mentor and founder of the Theatre in Scarborough who first encouraged him to write. One of Alan's greatest achievements has been the establishment of a permanent home for the company of which he has been artistic director since 1972 – the Stephen Joseph Theatre. This splendid two-auditoria arts complex opened in 1996.

Probably one of the nation's most performed living playwrights, Alan Ayckbourn has written 71 plays, almost all receiving their first performance in Scarborough. Among his successes are plays such as: *How The Other Half Loves*, *Absurd Person Singular*, *The Norman Conquests*, *Bedroom Farce*, *Just Between Ourselves*, *A Chorus of Disapproval*, *Woman in Mind*, *A Small Family Business* and *Comic Potential*. More than 25 have been produced in the West End or at the National Theatre since his first hit, *Relatively Speaking*, opened at the Duke of York's Theatre in 1967.

His plays have been translated into 35 languages, have won numerous national and international awards and are performed on stage and television throughout the world. They have been filmed in English and French, the most recent, *Coeurs*, Alain Resnais' adaptation of *Private Fears in Public Places* winning that great film director the Silver Lion Award at the 2007 Venice Film Festival.

Alan's book, *The Crafty Art of Playmaking*, published by Faber in 2002 has, to date, been published in Germany, Spain, Sweden and the US.

The holder of a number of honorary degrees, he is also the recipient of a Montblanc de la Culture Award for Europe and a Sunday Times Award for Literary Excellence. A Fellow of the RSA, he was appointed a CBE in 1987 and in 1997, was knighted for services to the theatre.

Biography supplied by Alan Ayckbourn's official website  
[www.alanayckbourn.net](http://www.alanayckbourn.net).

## **OUR NEXT PRODUCTIONS:**

In a change from the published show -

May 15th, 16th and 17th at 8.00pm

**THE GIN GAME** By D.L. Coburn

The play is directed by Tony Edwards

A Tragi – Comedy in two Acts

Weller Martin and Fonsia Dorsey, two elderly residents at a nursing home for senior citizens, strike up an acquaintance. Neither seems to have any other friends, and they start to enjoy each other's company. Weller offers to teach Fonsia how to play gin rummy, and they begin playing a series of games that Fonsia always wins. Weller's inability to win a single hand becomes increasingly frustrating to him, while Fonsia becomes increasingly confident.

While playing their games of gin, they engage in lengthy conversations about their families and their lives in the outside world. Gradually, each conversation becomes a battle, much like the ongoing gin games, as each player tries to expose the other's weaknesses.

July 10th, 11th and 12th at 8.00pm

**ARMS AND THE MAN** by George Bernard Shaw

Directed by Rosemary Caswell

All's fair in love and war and, certainly, the Balkan States have seen their share of both - nothing changes except the colour of the uniforms! The story of the Chocolate Soldier is as new and fresh as spring flowers and yet as old as the hills.

Details of past (and future) productions can be found on the company web site: **[www.moothouseplayers.com](http://www.moothouseplayers.com)**

Please visit and bookmark the site.

Moot House Players acknowledges with thanks  
the help of their parent organisation  
the Mark Hall and Netteswell Community Association

All ticket holders are invited to make use of  
the facilities of the Moot House Social Club bar  
before, during and after the performance