

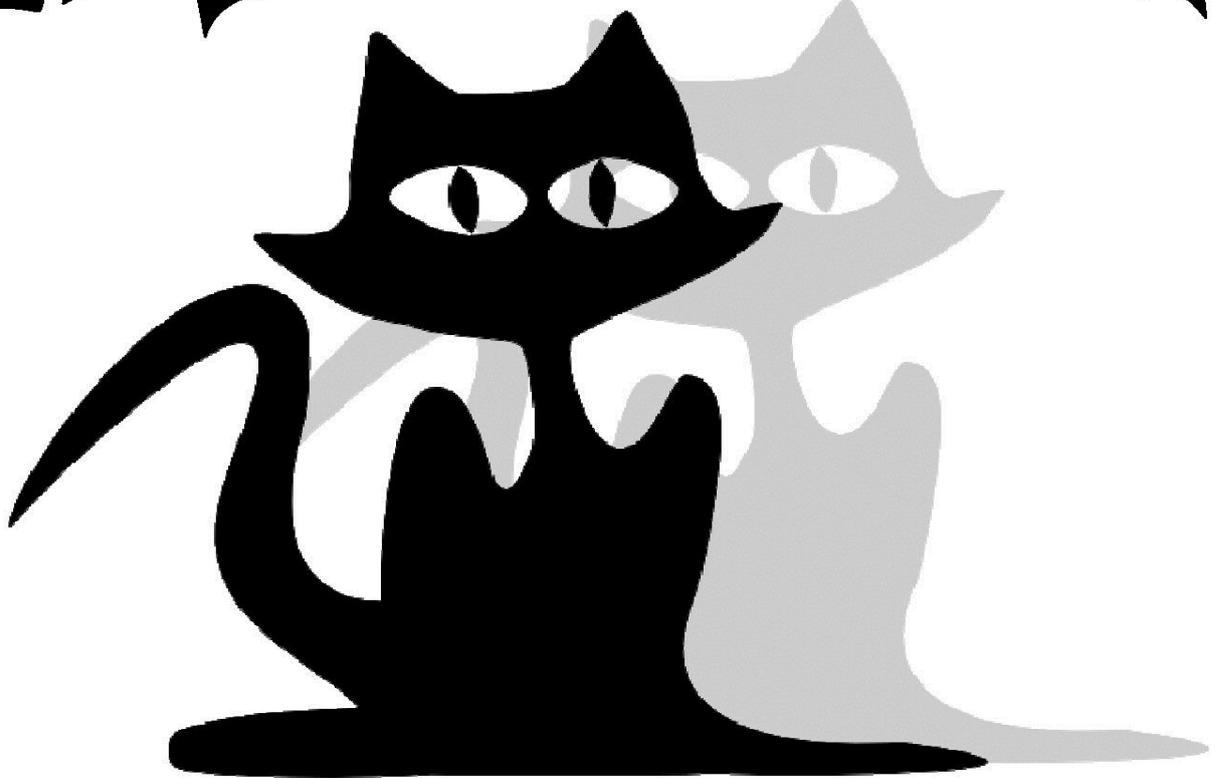


May 10th, 11th, 12th at 8pm
MOOT HOUSE PLAYERS
www.moothouseplayers.com



present

Life and Beth



by Alan Ayckbourn

directed by Jon Macnamara

At Moot Hall, The Stow, Harlow CM20 3AG



This production is proud to be
part of the Harlow Festival 2012

Life & Beth

by Alan Ayckbourn

Cast

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Beth Timms | Jenny Southwell |
| Connie Bunting | Angela Hodgson |
| Rev. David Grinseed | Alan Hodgson |
| Martin Timms | Dan Powell |
| Ella Packer | Stacey Ward |
| Gordon Timms | Robbie Chittick |
| Policeman 1 | Jon McNamara |
| Policeman 2 | Alan Hodgson |

Directed by Jon McNamara

Lighting by Phil Waite

Production Manager - Anne Farr

Prompt - Anne Farr

Set design & special effects -

Jon McNamara & Paul Regeli

Props - Mick and Rosie Caswell

Stage crew - Bridget McAlpine

Act 1 - Christmas Eve

Interval

Act 2 Scene 1 - Early hours of Christmas Day

Scene 2 - Later Christmas morning

Moot House Players would like to dedicate this production to the memory of Phil Lloyd who was, for a number of years, Stage Manager for the Players.

Life & Beth is notable for being the first play written by Alan Ayckbourn since his stroke in February 2006. *Life & Beth*, as well being Alan's 71st play is also the third in a trilogy of "supernatural" plays including *Snake in the Grass* which was performed by the Players in 2007. It is lighter than the other two plays, but still clearly features the idea of how children are affected by their parents. Set in the aftermath of Gordon's death, it becomes clear that his sister, Connie, suffered as a result of their parents' doting on Gordon. Similarly, Gordon's son Martin is struggling to live in the shadow of a man perceived to be an ideal husband and father; the reality being somewhat different.

The play opens on Christmas Eve some six weeks after Beth buried her husband, Gordon. The family are gathering, having decided, between themselves, that Beth is to have a relaxing time over the holiday! The play hardly opens before "home truths" are flying around the stage - exacerbated by the appearance of the Rev. David Grinseed and a short while later by Beth's son Martin and his attractive but sullen girlfriend Ella. David prevails upon the family to be allowed to say a prayer for Beth to sustain her in her time of loss - a prayer that is answered all too quickly and in a most unexpected way! I think this play works on a number of different levels - it is funny (we hope) and entertaining while exposing and expressing some of the problems of family life and even the "unseen" problems of a perfect marriage. There are little touches within the script that I didn't really notice when I first read it through, which, as they have been rehearsed, have served to remind me that even the happiest relationship can have its tragic elements.

I do hope you enjoy our production as much as we have enjoyed working on it

Jon McNamara (Director)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

June 9th : Moot House Players visit the Ware Arts Centre with a revival of “The Booty”, before taking it to the “Abtenau ist Bühne” Festival in Salzburg Austria. If you missed this powerful and moving play, which got, arguably, the best write up of any play ever done by the players, come over to Ware and see it! Tickets, price £5.00, from the usual Box Office number or on the door from 7.30. The performance will start at 8.00 p.m.

12th - 14th July : “**The New M.P.**”. Michael Branwell has written a political “who’s doing it” (as opposed to a “who done it”). Known internationally for his excellent and workable translations and adaptations including last season’s “Booty”, Michael is turning his talents to a wholly original full length play which takes its inspiration from recent political events.

ADULTS’ DRAMA CLASSES

every Wednesday evening
(except the first week of every month)
in the Moot House Small Hall
from 8.00 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Price £4.00 per class*

**plus one-off annual membership of Moot House C.A.
if not already a member*

For more information phone 01279 639170

Moot House Players can be contacted at
moothouse.players@ntlworld.com

Details of past productions can be found on our website
www.moothouseplayers.com

If you have an e-mail address we can use, please let us have it, as we can, more easily, reach everyone by e-mail in advance of each production.

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