

Beyond a Joke!

by Derek Benfield



Theatr Twm o'r Nant
Denbigh
3-5 April 2025

an amateur production from ABC Dramatics
under licence from Concord Theatricals

ABCDRAMA.CO.UK


ABC Dramatics is an amateur dramatics society based in Caerwys. Established in 1991 we have been bringing theatre to the local community for over three decades. We typically stage two productions annually at Caerwys Town Hall, with rehearsals commencing months in advance. We welcome members of all experience levels and are always open to new members.

In recent times, ABC Dramatics has been rebuilding following the challenges posed by lockdowns. The society has demonstrated resilience by regrouping and planning new performances. "Beyond a Joke," is the third play in recent years and follows two sellout plays; Fairway to Heaven and The Lady Vanishes. This is the first time we have performed in the wonderful Theatr Twm o'r Nant and the society are grateful for this opportunity and for the generous support of Denbigh Phoenix Players in making this possible.

We usually meet once a week in Caerwys and are keen to involve the community in various capacities; not only acting, but crucially, set design, sound, lighting, costume, stage hands and front of house (ushers, programme sellers, bar staff etc). We also organise skill sharing and development so that you can practice and gain skills in your areas of interest.

For more information about joining you can visit our website or follow us on Facebook.






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A word from our Chairperson.....

I am so proud of what the production team has achieved over the past few months. It has been challenging for us in very many ways, with 'life' throwing its usual spanners in the spokes on more than one occasion. So, to finally be 'in theatre' is a testament to the determination of this small and very dedicated bunch of actors and backstage crew.

I really hope you enjoy the play as much as we have enjoyed putting it together, and that you continue to show your support in future both to ABC Dramatics and local Arts.

Keeeeeeep Waaaaatchin

Sharon

ABC Dramatics is a not for profit society governed by a constitution.

The current management committee is:

Chairperson: Sharon Stubbs

Secretary: Nigel Skinner

Treasurer: John Wylde

email us at: abccaerwys@gmail.com

Do you have barn space or an outbuilding that you would rent to ABC? We need more dry storage for our sets. If you can help, drop us an email: abccaerwys@gmail.com



"Acting is half discovery, half creation."
Laurence Olivier:

Robin Johnsen-Malone (CeMAP)

Mortgage & Protection Adviser, The Money Group

07359 556 170

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BEYOND A JOKE

BY DEREK BENFIELD

Andrew

Jane

Geoff

Sally

Sarah

Vicar

Audrey

Edgar

TV Repair Man

Nigel Skinner

Steph Scott

Martin Hughes

Sharon Stubbs

Robin Johnsen-Malone

Denise O'Brien

Pauline Marden

Ian Gardner-Long

Michael Berry

Directed by John Wylde



"Acting is a kind of 'becoming,' it's not an intellectual thing."

Helen Mirren



The action takes place in the drawing room and part of the garden in Andrew and Jane's detached house in the country.

Its summertime and the living is easy.....

Act 1

Scene 1 ~ Friday evening

Scene 2 ~ Saturday morning

THERE WILL BE A 15 MINUTE INTERVAL AFTER ACT 1.
DRINKS MAY BE PURCHASED
FROM THE BAR AND THE RAFFLE WILL BE DRAWN.

Act 2

Scene 1 ~ a few seconds later

Scene 2 ~ after lunch the same day

Robin Johnsen-Malone (CeMAP)
Mortgage & Protection Adviser, The Money Group

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NO JOB TOO BIG; NO JOB TOO SMALL!



ANDREW - played by Nigel Skinner This is Nigels first play, having spent the past few years singing and dancing in musicals, from Anything Goes (Theatr Clwyd), The Wedding Singer (Northwich), Calendar Girls (Runcorn) & most recently Ghost (Chester Playhouse) Nigel sings with Trelawnyd Male Voice Choir and the 120 strong NEW Voices mixed ensemble. Nigel has really enjoyed working with the cast and hopes the audience have a fun night.



JANE - Steph Scott has been involved in local community theatre for some time, both acting and directing. Recent work in Anger Management with Suitcase Theatre, Dirty Dusting with Chester Little Theatre, and directed and produced Le Grand Return with Centre Stage..



GEOFF - played by Martin Hughes: acted in "The Right Honourable Lady" as part of a drama festival at Theatre Clwyd, "The Death of Sherlock Holmes" & "Anger Management" with Suitcase Theatre and most recently 'Allo, "Allo with Denbigh Phoenix. More at home directing & backstage he has directed plays including "Side Effects", "Edge of Darkness" and "Blue Remembered Hills".



SALLY - Sharon Stubbs, having always wanted to do a play Sharon has finally taken the plunge and is chuffed to play the slightly dipsey and easily excitable Sally.



SARAH - Robin Johnsen-Malone, hails from Canada and has always had a passion for acting. She's worked as an extra in movies and tv programs and also has experience on stage in musicals. Her most recent being a Hot Box Girl in Helen Stairs Theatre Production of Guys and Dolls. She is looking forward to bringing a few laughs and shudders from the audience performing as Sarah.

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EDGAR - Ian Gardner-Long, was a late arrival within the Am Dram circle, only joining it's ranks back in 2022. But he's making up for lost time and has already appeared in 5 shows locally. Three under the Phoenix players banner, in a one act play at Mold Theatre Clywd with Liberty players and in ABC's most recent production of The Lady Vanishes. He's stepping out again in Beyond a Joke, playing Edgar, an elderly military type. Damn good show what!



AUDREY - Pauline Marsden, is making her debut appearance with ABC Dramatics, having already performed in £ around the Mold area. Her most recent acting roles were in The Winter's Tale (Julia, Dorcas); Anger Management (Ford), both with Suitcase Theatre. Pauline enjoys a joke very much £ says that rehearsing for this play has been good fun £ 'Beyond a Joke'. She hopes that you too will enjoy the fun.



Vicar - Denise O'Brien, has been involved in amateur theatre sinse she was at school and has belonged to several different societies both here in Wales and also abroad, in many different roles from acting to stage management, props and costume and is enjoying being part of ABC Dramatics, she has taken part in the last three plays , and this time she is playing the part of the vicar and says she is loving every minute.



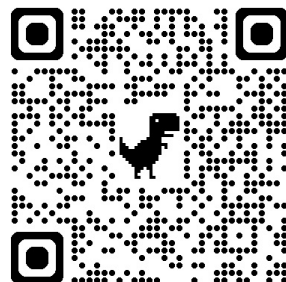
SPARKY the CORPSE - Michael Berry, is our longest serving member and has been involved in a variety of roles. He says that having reached the age where his brain cells don't mop up "lines" the way they once did, that he is happy to stick to small roles these days. Michael hopes you will be blown away by incredible portrayal of a dead TV repairman in todays play ;)



OUR DIRECTOR - John Wylde, has been involved in community theatre for some years John and has appeared in productions with Mold Players, Limelight (Wrexham) and more recently with Suitcase Theatre and Denbigh Pheonix. This is John's second outing with ABC having appeared in The Lady Vanishes. Beyond a Joke is the first time he has directed with them. He hopes you enjoy the evening.

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This production would not be possible without these amazing folks who all give their time & expertise for free:

<u>Producer</u>	Nigel Skinner
<u>Stage Layout Design/ H&S</u>	Gordon (Flash) Peterson
<u>Stage Construction</u>	Gordon Peterson, Bryn Jones, Nigel Skinner, Jack Skinner, AnnMaria Jones, John Wylde
<u>Set Dress Design/Costume/Props</u>	Joy Hughes
<u>Lighting</u>	John Owen
<u>Sound</u>	Ellie Wylde
<u>Stage Hand/Runner</u>	Jack Skinner
<u>Bar Team</u>	Chris & Lindsay Wood

We also extend a special thank you to

Denbigh Phoenix Players

without whom this production would not have happened



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