

## CARDS ON THE TABLE



What begins as a civilised evening of Bridge soon turns into a murderous mystery, as the enigmatic host is killed while all four Bridge players are in the room.

A professional detective and an amateur sleuth must work together to determine who the culprit is.

Will the Cards on the Table give the game away?

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November  
@ 7:30pm**

**Havant Arts Centre  
Box Office: 023 9247 2700**

## THE DIRECTOR SPEAKS ... WELL ... WRITES

I have always had an itch to direct, despite knowing exactly how much hard work I was letting myself in for! *Cards on the Table* is proving to be an excellent and challenging play to work on, and I am lucky to have a strong cast who are all bringing the characters to life just as I imagined them.

The biggest challenge I am faced with is walking that fine line between keeping with the much-savoured Agatha Christie convention, whilst breathing my own interpretation into it and creating something fresh. Originally a Poirot novel, the sleuth in the stage version is Superintendent Battle, ably assisted by eccentric crime writer, Ariadne Oliver.

It's an excellent *whodunnit* of the finest tradition, full of twists, turns and red herrings (or are they...?), and I guarantee it will keep you guessing right to the end!

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

More information about everything covered in this newsletter may be found on our revamped website [www.humdrum.org.uk](http://www.humdrum.org.uk).

If you have any suggestions or comments about this newsletter please send them to...  
[info@humdrum.org.uk](mailto:info@humdrum.org.uk)

## HUMDRUM VOICES CHRISTMAS CONCERT



**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December  
Havant Arts Centre Gallery  
8.00pm  
Tickets: £6.00**

Come and join us for an evening of Christmas song and festive cheer, as HumDrum Voices host a celebration to put you in the Christmas mood.

The choir will be singing Christmas favourites, old and new, and of course the traditional carols will be included.

Also during the evening there will be a chance to win a prize at our Santa's Lucky Dip and a chance to test yourself with our Quick Quiz.

Book now as tickets are limited! You can book through a HumDrum member or by calling the Havant Arts Centre box office on 023 9247 2700.

## HABEAS CORPUS

**By Alan Bennett  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

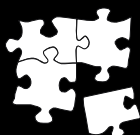
**Havant Arts Centre**

It's 1970 - or thereabouts - and life has begun its fast, downward spiral into middle-age for Dr Arthur Wicksteed of Hove – but no-one's bothered to tell his roving eye for the ladies.

That's not to say life's a bed of roses for his nearest and dearest, either.

His wife, Muriel, is feeling ignored and unloved; his son, Dennis, appears to have several terminal illnesses (including a bad case of acne), and his sister, Constance, feels insignificant and unattractive, not having been blessed with the large bosom she feels she deserves.

So – when Constance sets out to do something about her bust-size at around the same time as Dr



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Wicksteed sets out to do something about his libido at around the same time as Dennis finds love for the first time at around the same time as Muriel comes face-to-face with an ex-lover, things can (and do) only get worse...

A fantastic blend of riotous seaside-postcard humour along with darker moments of humanity.

## THE FULL MONTY – THE REVIEW

### It's not just the clothing that's stripped away

Predictably, we chaps were heavily outnumbered by women in the first-night audience for HumDrum's latest production.

And that's a shame because the American musical, like the British film on which it is based, is about much more than whether an unlikely bunch of male strippers will go 'all the way'.

It is about the emotionally crippling effects of long-term unemployment, the impact on families and relationships and the possibility of recovery.

It derives its special quality from its mixture of broad comedy with deep pathos, and although David Yazbek's music is not the sort to send the audience out singing the tunes, it reflects those moods effectively.

Caz Gilmore's directing does likewise, but considerable tightening could and should be achieved - and the band is sometimes too loud and the dialogue too quiet.

In the key role of Jerry, Darren Gilmore catches the duality of a man who has never quite grown up but desperately wants to be a father to his son (maturely played by Ben Swanson).

Peter Colley and Sheila Elsdon beautifully portray a couple where the husband says 'I used to be somebody', and Jeanette Broad is sensationally, punchily quirky as the strippers' pianist.

The lighting has magical touches, and not only at the point where we discover whether the men actually do the full monty.

Do they? I'm saying, only that it's worth finding out.

Mike Allen - *The News*

**...well, now that the performance has finished I suppose we can tell you...yes we did!**

## WESSEX CANCER TRUST



HumDrum is extremely proud to announce that *The Full Monty* Charity Night raised **£534.00** for the Wessex Cancer Trust, and we would like to thank everyone who paid that little bit extra for their Thursday night ticket.

HumDrum supports a local charity each year with a designated Charity Night during our summer musicals. A proportion of all ticket sales of the Thursday night performances goes to the chosen charity, and we simultaneously try to raise awareness for them through our advertising, our programmes, and their presence on Charity Night itself.

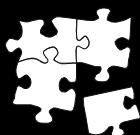
This year, we supported the Wessex Cancer Trust during *The Full Monty*, and this tied in nicely with their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Trust raises money for a multitude of projects across the South, and is the home of the Skin Cancer Information Network, the UK's only specialist Skin Cancer helpline and advice centre. It has also recently launched an appeal for funds to provide a new chemotherapy unit at St. Mary's Hospital at Newport on the Isle of Wight.

See [www.wessexcancer.org](http://www.wessexcancer.org) for more information on the charity.

## THE FULL MONTY PRIZE DRAW

Many congratulations to the following people, who were randomly selected from the completed questionnaires during *The Full Monty*. Each winner receives two tickets to *Cards on the Table* in November, including interval drink and programme:

M. Edwards  
William Dawson  
Mrs B. Hitches



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## KINGS 99<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY GALA



This year saw HumDrum's fourth appearance at the Kings Birthday Gala in September. Previous years saw us performing extracts from *Children of Eden*, *Titanic* and *Rent*, so this year James Cross thought we might branch out a bit, in case we might be perceived to be taking ourselves a bit too seriously.

To that end it was decided we would do a medley of numbers from the musical *Saucy Jack and The Space Vixens*.

'What' I hear the majority of you cry 'the hell is that?'

It's (obviously!) a relatively unknown musical that was first performed at the Edinburgh Festival some years ago and that – from there – found its way into a national tour that ended with a brief run in the West End, where it returned for an even briefer run earlier this year. It tells the story of a serial killer on the planet Frottage III who is murdering the cabaret acts at Saucy Jack's sleazy nightclub. Due to the nature of the murder weapon found embedded in the chest of each victim the murderer has become known as 'The Slingback Killer'. Clearly only one group of people can solve the mystery – a group of women, descended from ancient goddesses who drew their power from the throb of a disco beat – *The Space Vixens!*

That's all you need to know to give you a flavour of the show (although the titles of the three numbers we performed might add a further taste: 'Saucy Jack's', 'All I Need Is Disco' and 'Glitter Boots Saved My Life'!!!) and so – armed with glitter and ray guns and slash curtains and disco – we made our way to the Kings for the performance.

Our first run-through was greeted with mild applause from the dim auditorium. A couple of hours later we reached the dress rehearsal and – satisfyingly! – many a jaw could be heard dropping when we set foot on stage in our costumes.

I think it's true to say that much the same reaction was obtained during the performance.

We're already planning next year's contribution – something much more traditional this time but, rest assured, we've already come up with a massive 'HumDrum Twist' to put on it. We will, of course, let you know more nearer the time.

## MEMBERSHIP PROFILE



**And you are?**  
Caz Gilmore

**Where are you from originally?**  
Sunny Gosport

**What do you do for a living?**

I work in the criminal department at Warner Goodman & Streat solicitors. They are always changing my job title – currently they call me a Paralegal.

**How long have you been involved with HumDrum?**

Since it began, up to my neck in it!

**First HumDrum show?**

*Godspell*.

**Favourite HumDrum show ever (even if you weren't in it)?**

For sheer pant-filling fear and wow-I-can't-believe-I-did-that-ness, it has to be playing Rita in *Educating Rita*. (Got my own Paddy to marry into the bargain – hoorah!)

**Least favourite and why?**

Mavis in *Stepping Out*: the show itself was great and the tap was fun but as a character actor, it was so hard being the "straight guy" as everybody else had such big characters to play with.

**What is your most memorable HumDrum moment?**

The last night of *Children of Eden*, our ten-year anniversary show: very emotional. I couldn't believe how far we had come and thought I might spontaneously combust with pride.

**Most embarrassing onstage/backstage moment?**

The "costume" I had to wear as the cannibal in *Moby Dick*. I say costume, I mean "tiny amount of material". Not quite naked, but to the cast of *The Full Monty*, I share your pain my boys.

**What's your tippie?**

A big bucket of red wine.



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**What is the last book you read?**

*The Hotel New Hampshire* by John Irvine.

**What are your pet hates?**

In no special order, tomatoes, doctors, thunder, rudeness, unkindness and the litigious direction our world is taking (if yours is people who use poncy words for no reason, I apologise!)

**First record you ever bought?**

Oh dear .... A Showaddywaddy album when I was ten I'm afraid.

**Who should play you in the film of your life story?**

Felicity Kendall - since I have played several roles with HumDrum that were originally hers, I think it's time she returned the favour!

**Describe yourself in three words?**

Shy, creative, caring.

**What do you think is your best quality?**

The urge to try to see the best in someone.

**And your worst?**

Laziness.

**If you had to compare yourself to a cake, which would you be and why?**

A jam doughnut – a bit round on the outside but with a yummy filling.

**Poirot or Miss Marple?**

Noooo! Can't choose. They are both legends.

**And finally, candy floss - Love it or hate it?**

Love it – never buy it. How strange.

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## SAVING THE TREES

As with all things, there comes a time when change will happen. We have reached that time. So, we would like to do our bit to save a few trees...

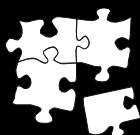
After much consideration we have decided that from now on this lovely newsletter will wing its way to you via email. Obviously, there are some of you whom we don't have email addresses for, so for the next couple of newsletters we will send to those who don't have email.

However, if you have received this newsletter via the post, we would ask that you contact us by returning this slip or through our website (go to the Mailing List page from our homepage and select "*Please amend my details*") and let us know your email address, so you can carry on receiving the newsletters (please also include your name and address, so we can match your email with your current details in our records).

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*Please return completed forms to:*

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