

Rustington Players

Spring 2025 Newsletter

Agatha Christie's *Spider's Web*



This was another incredibly well attended production. Clearly Rustington loves a Christie whodunit! Here is the NODA review from Keith Smithers:

“Spider’s Web” by the prolific author “Agatha Mary Clarissa Christie”, is her second most successful play after the renowned “The Mousetrap”. She wrote the play that we saw this evening in 1956 and it is no wonder that it is so popular. The action of the plot keeps you guessing right up to the end despite the cleverly hidden revealed facts throughout the two and a half hours of dialogue.

The three main characters inveigled into the scenario of hiding a dead body because of an important government meeting were Sir Rowland (Richard Tyrrell), Hugo Birch (David Griffin), and Jeremy Warrender (Craig Parker). Clarissa Hailsham-Brown (Clarice Ryan) was the lady trying to use these delaying tactics to her guardian, Sir Rowland and her two friends. She and the three gentlemen had masses of dialogue and coped with it absolutely superbly for the whole time frame. Their individual characteristics were well defined and we were able to understand what they were doing and why.

Oliver Costello (Jay Griffiths) was the murder victim - an unpleasant person who was out to get all that he could by fair means or foul. This was convincingly enacted. Pippa Hailsham-Brown (Hattie Bennett) was the step-daughter of Clarissa and played the part of the child beautifully. Her father, Henry Hailsham-Brown (Gordon Keys) had two appearances in the action of the tale and had little to do the main theme of the storyline. Mildred Peak (Julie Cleasby) is the odd-ball lady who appears to be a nobody but in fact is integral and vitally essential to the plot. She was a happy person who kept the rest of the cast and audience amused and in a state of light-heartedness and merriment. When the police arrived to deal with the murder enquiry, the matter-of-fact Inspector Lord (Rhys Bloy) took main-stage with the possible suspects for the crime. This was another amount of busy dialogue extremely well rehearsed and suitably portrayed.

The set was a lounge with appropriate furniture and fixtures with four entries/exits used to great effect. Costumes were all very much in keeping with the period.

Thank you and congratulations to the director, cast and production team for a brilliant evening, trying to spot the clues and attempting to solve the crime before the constabulary did.

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The committee would like to give huge thanks to the cast, the crew and all the FOH and bar-staff who made this such a success.

Though the general feedback from the audience of Spiders Web was positive, some members of the audience struggled to hear and the Rustington Players committee are looking into investing in a new sound system in conjunction with the Woodlands Centre. It was also mentioned that some people at the back had restricted view, but this could be down to the fact that we squeezed extra seats in due to the demand on all

4 nights. We had our maximum seating of 130 on Friday & Saturday night and had to turn some people away! The committee feel that until the sound is sorted it might be wise not to book more than our standard full house of 110.

June '25 Production

Rehearsals for 'Steel Magnolias' show at the Woodlands Centre, Rustington from Wednesday 11th to Saturday 14th June at 7.30, are in full swing and the ladies are practising their hairdressing skills! We welcome Clarice Ryan into the cast, who replaces Lucy Davies who has had to pull out for personal reasons. Clarice is fresh from taking the lead in 'Spiders Web' in March with great success.

Tickets are now on sale through www.ticketsource.co.uk/rustingtonplayers or call **07546 306 438** if you want to avoid the admin fee.

This funny and touching play is set in a small-town beauty parlour in Louisiana and spans 3 years, where the staff and customers engage in small town gossip but we also see the sisterhood between the women and shows how each of them copes with their own conflicts while still being a support system for each other in the face of tragedy. The ladies can be 'as delicate as magnolias and as tough as steel'.

COULD YOU HELP US WITH SOME OF THE PROPS NEEDED?

The play is set in the 80's and we could do with the following if you think you could help, please contact Vinny Shepherd (director) vinnysshepherd@hotmail.co.uk or call 07863698552:

A bamboo chair – 1980's strings of tinsel or Xmas decs – 2 handled hairdressers hand mirror – old magazines – and by some miracle, a couple of hairdressers salon chairs which could be loaned for one week!

The Cast

Annelle **Clarice Ryan**

Truvy **Claire Cossins**

Shelby..... **Tash Mills**

M'Lynn **Karen Haslam**

Ouiser..... **Veryan Jennings**

Clairee..... **Andrea White**

Rustington Players present

Steel MAGNOLIAS

A play
by **Robert Harling**
Directed by **Vinny Shepherd**

"the funniest play ever to make you cry"

Wednesday 11th - Saturday 14th June 2025
at 7.30pm Doors and bar open at 7.00pm

Woodlands Centre, Rustington. BN16 3HB.
Tickets £12 from www.ticketsource.co.uk/rustingtonplayers
or call 07546 306 438 (also available on the door)

This amateur production of Steel Magnolias is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd.
On behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk
Registered Charity No. 1173735

Upcoming Socials

Sat 17th May – Skittles Evening with a basket meal 7.30pm at Black Horse, Findon @ £12 per head. Members & partners welcome. Choose from:

- **Chicken thigh with chips**
- **Fish goujons & chips**
- **Sausage & chips**
- **Fried halloumi & chips**
- **Vegan spring roll with chilli & chips**

Call **Jenny** on **07986 090283** to book and choose meal and pay the Players by BACS – An email will be sent with further details in very near future. See poster at the end of the newsletter.

Helpers Needed

Is anyone willing (or perhaps recommend someone who may not be a member) to help us put the hall chairs out in rows for a couple of evenings during our play run Weds 11th and Sat 14th June?

The task takes 2 helpers approx. 45mins and we would like to offer you a complementary ticket as a thank you.

Please contact **Jill** on **07747 846768** asap if you are interested.

Thank You!

Youth Theatre

Jenny & Wendy are running eight weeks of Youth Theatre which started on 3rd April. 12 children between the ages of 8 and 12 are attending. The Youth Theatre will include games that teach drama techniques and improvisation.

The children are full of enthusiasm and it's shaping up to be an exciting time for both children and leaders!

Potted Pride & Prejudice

We are delighted to promote the success of Nadya Henwood's adaptation of 'Pride & Prejudice' which comes in a 'potted' form and was performed in last year's Worthing Theatre Trail to full houses. She is now taking it 'on tour' culminating in performances at **The Jane Austen Festival in Bath** on Tuesday 16th September at 5.30pm and 8.30pm at The Mission Theatre, (tickets from www.janeausten.co.uk/pages/festival-2025-250th-anniversary-year).

If you can't make Bath, then there are also performances in the **Chichester Fringe Festival** on Wednesday 4th June at 7.45pm at the **Chichester City Arts Centre** (tickets from www.chichesterfringe.co.uk/what's-on) or the **Worthing Brewhouse & Kitchen** on Sunday 7th September at 5.30pm (tickets from www.ticketsource.co.uk/potted-pride-and-prejudice).

Break a leg to all the cast and congratulations to Nadya!

Stage-Door Theatre Company
Production

Our friends over in Littlehampton are about to tread the boards with Cheshire Cats 30th April – 3rd May at the Windmill Theatre. Why not go along and support them. It's a moving but funny play and there are some very well-known Rustington faces in this production.

Book here: https://www.stage-door.org.uk/?page_id=343



✦✦✦ *Rustington Players* ✦✦✦

SKITTLES

SAT 17 May

7:30pm

✦✦✦

A photograph of a wooden skittles frame containing several wooden skittles. The skittles are arranged in a row, and the frame is made of light-colored wood. The background is a dark blue or black cloth.

THE BLACK HORSE FINDON

Call Jenny
to book
07986 090283

£12 EACH
with
basket meal