

After Shakespeare, Alan Ayckbourn is the most performed writer in the English-speaking theatre. In 'Confusions', an early work from 1976, we can see why he has, over the years, captivated his huge audiences. His work is funny but poignant, farcical but truthful and, above all, he creates characters who we like because of, not despite of, their faults. We know all the characters in these five short plays; they are in our families, our communities, our workplaces and, you may find with one or more of the characters, in you. We do not laugh at them but rather in recognition of the frailties we all share and the inevitability of failure in human relationships. Even so the human spirit is alive in all of them and they will all survive and keep trying. We have set the play very firmly in the mid-1970's which is reflected in the décor, costumes and music.

As always the group has worked very hard to put this production together. The cast have risen to the challenge of mastering Ayckbourn's dialogue which is characterised by the pauses, repetitions and false starts of human speech. All of them are playing at least two roles across the five plays which is also hugely demanding. I could have not have asked for more from such a talented group of actors.

The technical challenge of staging the five plays is huge; to ensure a smooth transition between the five very different settings [living-room, hotel bar, restaurant, canvas marquee, town park] I am hugely indebted, as ever, to Charlotte, Kevin, Andy and Ian for working so hard on the set and handling the other technical elements of the production so effectively.

I am confident you will enjoy the production.

*Steve Smith* - Director

## Plays

### Act 1

Mother Figure  
Drinking Companion  
Between Mouthfuls

### Act 2

Gosforth's Fete  
A Talk In The Park

## The Cast

### Mother Figure

Lucy	Teresa Hudd
Rosemary	Margaret Skuse
Terry	Paul Taylor

### Drinking Companion

Harry	Brian Paterson
Paula	Kirsty Johnstone
Bernice	Teresa Hudd
Waiter	Jack Bailey

### Between Mouthfuls

Waiter	John Blackwood
Mr Pearce	Dave Pascoe-Clark
Mrs Pearce	Margaret Skuse
Martin	Martin Whittaker
Polly	Kirsty Johnstone

### Gosforth's Fete

Mrs Pearce	Margaret Skuse
Milly	Teresa Hudd
Gosforth	John Blackwood
Vicar	Brian Paterson
Stewart	Martin Whittaker

### A Talk In The Park

Arthur	Dave Pascoe-Clark
Beryl	Kirsty Johnstone
Charles	Paul Taylor
Doreen	Teresa Hudd
Ernest	Jack Bailey

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between parts 1 & 2

Please switch off your mobile phone

Unauthorised photography and filming is prohibited throughout this performance

### Production Team

Director	Steve Smith
Stage Manager	Charlotte Lawrence
Stage Crew	Ria Hodson-Walker, Ian Fell-Palmer, Andy Stowe, Charlotte
Lighting & Sound	Kevin Lawrence, Jess Lawrence & Charlotte Lawrence
Set Design	Kevin Lawrence
Set Construction	Charlotte, Andrew, Ian & Kevin
Prompt	Ralph Tilton
Props & Costumes	The company
Box Office	Community Centre Staff

*With thanks to Phil Alderman for the loan of the scout uniform and East Bristol Auctions.*

**Don't miss out on our future productions...**

**September 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> 2013, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. Adult auditions on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 8pm!**

**January 8<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> 2014, our pantomime Aladdin. Look out for audition details on our website and facebook!**

Why not join Hanham Players? Visit the web site at [www.hanhamplayers.org](http://www.hanhamplayers.org) to see what we're about! There are plenty of opportunities to join us both on stage and off; whether you're a perfect performer or handy with a hammer you'll be bound to find something to suit, plus you can meet new people...



# Confusions

by

**Alan Ayckbourn**

Directed by

**Steve Smith**



[www.hanhamplayers.org](http://www.hanhamplayers.org)