

A gloriously funny examination of the chaotic world of love

BY PETER QUILTER



Tues Oct 12th - Sat Oct 16th

StokeRepPlayers.co.uk

£

# From the Director

Welcome to the Rep's first post-lockdown production. We are all so happy to return to the theatre we love, albeit with changes and restrictions and the constant awareness of staying safe.

Although I have been a member of the Rep for 42 years, I have always avoided directing because I know how much work it entails. This production has been especially tricky with having to observe social distancing and Covid regulations. I agreed to take on the task this time, because I feel it is time to explore the challenge of achieving some degree of normality, while keeping our audience, front-of-house and backstage crew and actors safe.

*Duets* by Peter Quilter is an ideal choice for our return to the theatre, as each of the four separate plays has only two cast members, making social distancing easy.

We have taken the decision to work on a streamlined set depicting four different apartments, each with a very different décor. Doors have been replaced with arches to avoid door handles being touched by different performers. A mirror is suggested by looking at "the fourth wall"—you the audience.

The four plays explore crucial moments in four very different relationships. I am sure that each one of us will recognise many of the characters and their situations from our own experiences.

Peter Quilter's stye is contemporary and very funny, but there is also a compassionate understanding of human quirks and foibles. The common thread that ties these duets together is that companionship is the or most important ingredient of our relationships.

I have been fortunate to work with a very gifted cast and an exceptionally experienced assistant director and stage crew. I hope you enjoy the evening.

Rosemary Gresty

# **Meet the Cast**

### **Blind Date**



Derek Yeomans



Chris Lockett

# Secretarial Skills



Philip Jackson



Sarah Stockdale

# The Holiday



Rob Lawton



Dawn Huxley

The Brideto-Be



Simon Bland



Emma Stanway

## THE CAST

#### **Blind Date**

Jonathan's apartment

Jonathan Derek Yeomans

Wendy Chris Lockett

Secretarial Skills

Barrie's apartment

Barrie Philip Jackson

Janet Sarah Stockdale

The Holiday

A Spanish villa

Bobby Rob Lawton

Shelley Dawn Huxley

Bride-to Be

A neighbour's house

Toby Simon Bland

Angela Emma Stanway

**Director: Rosemary Gresty** 

Assistant Director: Ann McArdle

## CREDITS

Stage Director	Terry Wright
Stage Manager	Ray Vernon
Set construction	Rep Players Construction Team
Set design	RP Design
Lighting design	Malcolm Rushton
Lighting operation	Stuart Campbell
Sound operation	Tina Campbell
Properties	Kath Vernon
Set dressing	Margo Bloor
Set décor	Ken Mills and Team
Costumes	Rep Players
Front-of-House Manager	Nick Bailey
Programme design	Brian Rawlins
Poster and advertising design	John Stone
Company Photographer	Peter Croft

# **Acknowledgements**

We are indebted to the St John Ambulance Brigade whose members attend all our performances.

Our grateful thanks to Jane Cronin and the North Staffs Operatic Society for the fitting and loan of a wedding dress for Emma Stanway in *The Bride to Be.* 

Thanks also to Five Towns Theatre