

STOKE-ON-TRENT REPERTORY PLAYERS

College Road, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent

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59th Season 1979-80



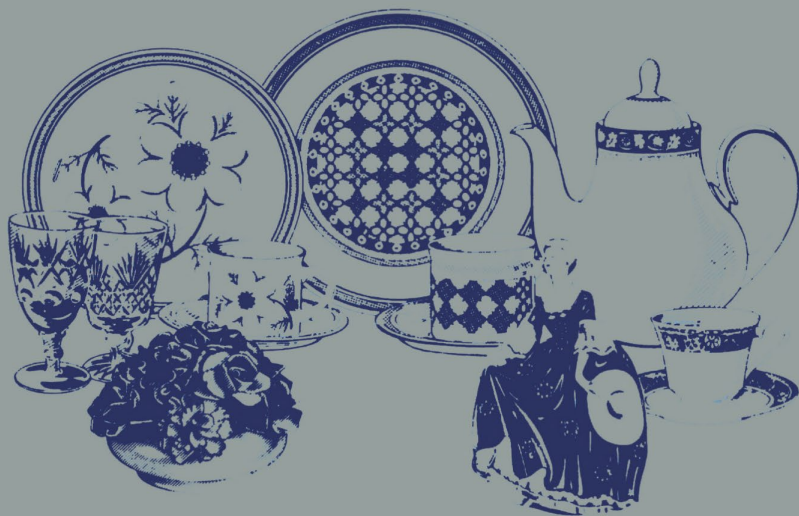
THE BOY FRIEND

by
Sandy Wilson



JULY 18 — JULY 26, 1980

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sandy Wilson was born in 1924 and educated at Harrow and Oxford. He began his career as a writer of revue sketches for shows such as 'Slings and Arrows' (1948) and 'Oranges and Lemons' (1949).

'The Boy Friend' (1953) was written for The Players' Theatre where it was first performed. Very much a small-scale, small-budget enterprise; no-one could have predicted its enormous success. The relatively-unknown Anne Rodgers was a last-minute choice as Polly and Joan Sterndale Bennett was Madame Dubonnet. On transfer to the West End it ran for five years.

Success on Broadway followed where Julie Andrews played Polly and Millicent Martin, Nancy. Transferred at last to celluloid it was directed by Ken Russell with Twiggy a rather unlikely Polly Browne.

Sadly, Sandy Wilson never equalled his 1953 triumph. 'The Buccaneer' (1956), a fantasy set in the office of a boys' magazine and 'Valmouth' (1958) are now almost completely forgotten. 'Divorce Me Darling' (1965) tried to do for the 1930's what 'The Boy Friend' did for the 1920's but not to such great effect.

It is difficult to say why 'The Boy Friend' remains so popular. Perhaps Sandy Wilson in his attempt to satirise 1920's musical comedy had borrowed from something essentially winning. Winning in its dizzy charm, its frantic optimism and its unashamed sentimentality. Just the sort of tonic for the 1950's and perhaps for the 1980's.

THE BOY FRIEND

by Sandy Wilson

CAST

Hortense	...	...	...	...	Jacqueline Allen
Nancy	...	...	...	...	Ann Tunnicliffe
Maisie	...	...	...	...	Judith V. Tweedale
Fay	...	...	...	...	Alexandra Green
Dulcie	...	...	...	...	Rosemary Hulme
Marcel	...	...	...	...	Donal Thompson
Pierre	...	...	...	...	Tony O'Rourke
Alphonse	...	...	...	...	David Finn
Polly Browne	...	...	...	...	Catharine Goodall
Madame Dubonnet	...	...	...	...	Joan Bennett
Bobby Van Husen	...	...	...	...	Brian Hadley
Percival Browne	...	...	...	...	Ken Lowe
Tony	...	...	...	...	Greg Walker
Lord Brockhurst	...	...	...	...	Richard Masters
Lady Brockhurst	...	...	...	...	Shelley Riddell
Gendarme	...	...	...	...	Bill Hancock
Pepe	...	...	...	...	Himself
Lolita	...	...	...	...	Diane Holmes

PRODUCTION

Director	...	...	...	...	Peter Legge
Designer	...	...	...	...	Brian Hadley
Choreographer	...	...	...	...	Veronica Tweedale
Musical Director	...	...	...	...	Jeanette Barron
General Manager	...	...	...	...	Richard Masters
Stage Manager	...	...	...	...	Bill Hancock
Lighting Design	...	...	...	...	Tim Seaton
Properties	...	...	...	...	Verity Haddow
Wardrobe	...	...	...	...	Cath Allan Gay Pennell
Stage Assistants	...	...	...	...	David Hemmings Jill Chesworth Pat Copeland
Technicians	...	...	...	...	Ian Buckley Carl Fichardson Adrian Myatt
Rehearsal Pianists	...	...	...	...	Angela Alcock Lesley Jones
Costumes by S. B. Watts and Co. Ltd.					
Additional Lighting by Playlight Hire					
Champagne by Moët and Chandon					
Cigarettes by Abdulla					
Wardrobe Care by Daz					

CAR PARK

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No responsibility is accepted by the Repertory Theatre. No charge is made for parking.

REFRESHMENTS

Confectionery is always on sale and coffee will be served during the interval. Coffee tickets available from attendants.

SMOKING IS PERMITTED DURING INTERVALS ONLY.

DIAMOND JUBILEE SEASON

THE REPERTORY THEATRE ORCHESTRA

Piano	...	...	...	...	Jeanette Barron
Violins	...	...	...	...	Margaret Legge Alan Cotton Elizabeth Pepper Jennifer Harding
'Cellos	...	...	...	...	Isobel Massey Irene Bartley
Bass	...	...	...	...	Helen Farell
Trumpets	...	...	...	...	Michael Simpson David Brown
Clarinet/Saxophone	...	...	...	...	Cyril Rayson Cliff Hulme
Trombone	...	...	...	...	Steve Rockie
Drums	...	...	...	...	Pierino Gamba

The company wishes to thank all the musicians for their kindness and generosity.

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Lillian Hellman's fascinating story of the changing fortunes of a Southern American family

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