



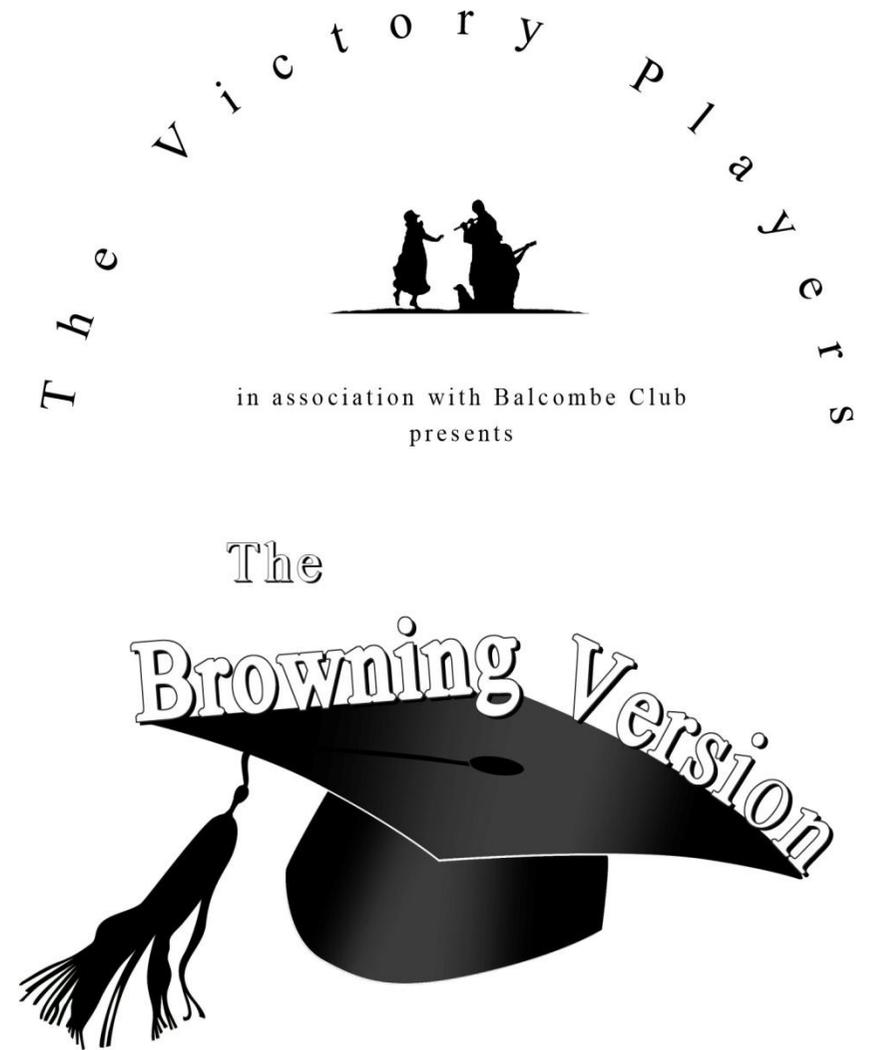
The Blockheads are coming to the club

26th April 2014

Book early to secure your tickets • £18 per ticket



www.balcombeclub.co.uk



by Terence Rattigan

10 – 12 APRIL · THE VICTORY HALL · BALCOMBE



This is an amateur performance
licensed by Samuel French Ltd,
presented in association with
the Balcombe Club.

The draw for the lucky programme number
to win a bottle of champagne
will take place immediately after the performance.

If you have enjoyed this evening's performance of *The Browning Version* you might like to consider becoming a member of The Victory Players. We are always delighted to welcome new faces.

The company was formed 10 years ago following an enormously successful production of *Oh! What a Lovely War*, and is committed to promoting drama in Balcombe. Since its formation productions have included *Confusions* (2013), *A Man For All Seasons* (2011), *The Importance of Being Ernest* (2010), *My Fair Lady* (2009), two Gilbert & Sullivan operettas (2005 & 2008) and three pantomimes (2005, 2010 & 2012).

The next production in November 2014 will be Gilbert & Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore*, followed in the spring of 2015 by Michael Frayn's award winning farce *Noises Off*.

While we are pleased to welcome anyone, with or without previous experience, who is interested in performing on stage, we are always on the look out for people interested in the backstage roles that are vital to our productions. These include directing, stage management, the design & production of sets, stage lighting & sound, costumes, props, graphic design, front of house duties etc.

Membership is open to anyone who lives in the parish of Balcombe, and anyone else if proposed by an existing member who lives in Balcombe.

The subscription for members is £10 per year, and for friends (who support The Victory Players without wishing to be actively involved in productions, and enjoy preferential booking) it is £7.50 per year.

Further information about the group can be found at www.victoryplayers.co.uk and www.facebook.com/thevictoryplayers.

Membership application forms may be obtained from our Membership Officer, Robin Williamson, tel: 01444 811519, email: robin@thewilliamsons.org.uk.

THE SUPPER

(Following the Friday & Saturday performances)

Coronation Chicken

(or vegetarian alternative if booked at time of ticket purchase)

Baked Potato

Salads

*

Bakewell Tart

Custard

*

Tea or Coffee

Wine and a full range of other drinks are available from the Balcombe Club, which adjoins the Victory Hall, to members of the audience before and after each performance.

THE PLAY

Terence Rattigan, born in London in 1911, was the most successful playwright of plays produced in the West End after World War Two.

The Browning Version is one of his best known plays. It is set, as is his other most popular drama, *The Winslow Boy*, within one of the English public schools Rattigan clearly knew well. It tells the story of a disappointed teacher of classics (Andrew Crocker-Harris) and his equally disappointed, disillusioned and socially frustrated wife (Millie). Like all Rattigan's plays it explores the constraining effect of English middle class assumptions and their associated behaviours.

Relieved only by a few moments of humour and pathos occasioned mostly by the schoolboy Taplow the text of the play exposes and underlines the damage to the emotional side of human relationships which can be caused by behaviours driven by the curiously perverted assumptions which underlie them.

Nevertheless those of us who listen hard to the sometimes demanding and always intense text of the play (written at a time when such discourse was far more common in English society than in an age based on instant and immediate electronic communication) can discover that values of greater depth and permanence can survive some of the worst effects of the perversion referred to above. We are able to see that even the most emotionally constrained person can perceive and express these deeper values when finally moved to recognise them.

Every character, like every word Rattigan writes, is important in his exploration of these fundamentally 'everyday' situations. So as well as the three roles mentioned earlier we meet Frank, Millie's temporary and eventually dismayed and disgusted lover and Frobisher, a headmaster who is the clearest example we see of someone who is skilled at deploying the behaviours required to maintain the false world the middle class has imposed on itself. Finally the entry of Peter Gilbert who is to be Crocker-Harris' replacement, and his new wife provides the catalyst for Crocker-Harris to begin his re-exploration of himself.

Rattigan was knighted in 1971 and died, in Bermuda, of bone cancer in 1973.

Jim Knight
Director

THE CAST

(in the order of their appearance)

John Taplow — *Tom Clark*

Frank Hunter — *Michael Mergler*

Millie Crocker-Harris — *Nicola Preston Bell*

Andrew Crocker-Harris — *Philip Robinson*

Dr Frobisher — *Douglas Wragg*

Peter Gilbert — *Jack Holland*

Mrs Gilbert — *Emily Holland*

THE SCENE

The sitting-room of the Crocker-Harris' flat
within an English Public School.

THE TIME

About 6.30 pm
on a day in July during the 1950's

THE CREW

Director — *Jim Knight*

Stage manager — *Ronnie Whitehead*

Catering managers — *Chris & Julie Walker*

Lighting engineer — *Keith Major*

Design & construction of set — *John Randall*

Wardrobe — *Colette Randall*

Properties — *Ronnie Whitehead*

Make-up — *Penny Blake & Chloe Holland*

Graphic designer — *Robert Saunders*

Font of House team — *Caroline Carpenter, Adrienne Cotton,
Sue Etheridge, Justine Gillen,
Eileen Knight, Anthony & Jany Phillips
Rodney & Barbara Saunders
Manuela Warburton
Robin & Priscilla Williamson*

Box office — *Isabel Gordon*

Producer — *Rodney Saunders*