



CHIDEOCK PLAYERS

present

Habeas Corpus

A comedy by Alan Bennett

By permission of Samuel French Ltd.

**CHIDEOCK VILLAGE HALL
BRIDPORT ARTS CENTRE**

Spring 2003

Programme 30p



T H E C A S T

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| ARTHUR WICKSTEED | <i>Chris Lambert</i> |
| MURIEL WICKSTEED | <i>Hilary Baker</i> |
| DENNIS WICKSTEED | <i>Leigh Conley</i> |
| CONSTANCE WICKSTEED | <i>Maggie Imber</i> |
| MRS. SWABB | <i>Marilyn Harrison</i> |
| CANON THROBBING | <i>Keith Readings</i> |
| LADY RUMPERS | <i>Bev Clarke</i> |
| FELICITY RUMPERS | <i>Catherine Batten</i> |
| MR. SHANKS | <i>Ally Hughes</i> |
| SIR PERCY SHORTER | <i>Nick Baker</i> |
| MR. PURDUE | <i>Harry Harrison</i> |

DIRECTED BY JIM PETTIFER

The action takes place in and around the Wicksteed's home in Hove.

Time – late 1960s

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between Act I and Act II

Our thanks to:

Chideock Hill Stores & The Spar Stores, Chideock for selling tickets

Creeds the Printers for printing facilities.

Habeas Corpus is a farce written by Alan Bennett whose perceptive and amusing plays have entertained us since the beginning of the 'permissive society' in the 1960s.

Dr. Wicksteed, a prosperous and fashionable G.P., lives in the highly desirable south coast town of Brighton and Hove with his wife and hypochondrical son. His dowdy sister lives with them and is anxious to replace her dull life, revolving around the Brownies, with romantic, wedded bliss. Although she is tentatively engaged to the local vicar, Canon Throbbing, she feels her flat chest limits her choice of partners. She plots with her spotty nephew and Mrs. Swabb, the housekeeper, to obtain an appliance to improve her flat chest. The manufacturers of the 'appliance' send a representative to see that the item is correctly fitted. He has great difficulty in establishing which lady in the household is actually wearing the bust enhancer. The arrival of a colonial 'Grande Dame' with her attractive daughter and a phone call from the President of the B.M.A. who is attending a conference in Brighton, provides the tangled web of the plot of the play, as their past relationships are revealed.

As in all successful farces the curtain falls with happiness and harmony restored.

Habeas Corpus

was produced at the Lyric Theatre in 1973 with Sir Alec Guinness playing Dr. Wicksteed, and opened on Broadway two years later.

During the London run Alan Bennett took over one of the female roles.

It may be of interest to speculate which one.

Production Team

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Stage Manager | Peter Moores |
| Prompt | Moira Lucas |
| Properties | Ruth Wrixton, Diana Dowle |
| Wardrobe | Barbara Whatmore, Jim Pettifer |
| Box Office | Sue Pettifer |
| Front of House & Refreshments | Myrtle Cheeseman and friends |
| Lighting and sound effects | Nick Baker |
| Lighting Operator (Chideock) | Mike McLeod |
| Lighting Operator (Bridport) | Nick Good |
| Make-up | Chloe Pearson-Gee and Tracey Lunt |
| Front of House (Bridport) | Colin Sparkes |

I should like to thank all those who have helped me with this production in any way. Jim Pettifer

CHIDEOCK PLAYERS

always welcome new members, both on and off stage.

Please contact our Secretary: Catherine Batten on 01308 897944.