



The Dunham Thespians

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## CREDITS

**Lighting & Effects**  
David Davies,  
Louise Burgess

**Prompt**  
Carol Davies

**Design & Artwork**  
Martin Clare

**Tickets**  
Olwen Ferrans,  
Brian Capper

**Bar Tender**  
Bill Craig

**Raffle & Refreshments**  
Elizabeth Craig

**Stage Building**  
Ron Hutchinson, John Wagner, John Brooks  
David Davies, Mark Hutchinson, Joseph Hutchinson

**Set Dressing**  
The Company

**Props**  
Stefanie Knight, Louise Burgess,  
Philippa Cameron

**Backstage**  
Elizabeth Craig, Bernadette Smallwood

If you're interested in joining the society in any capacity, please contact us:  
Gina Hutchinson – 0161 928 2176  
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[www.dunhamthespians.org.uk](http://www.dunhamthespians.org.uk)

# The Dunham Thespians Present



by Brian Clemens & Dennis Spooner  
produced/direct by Sandra Capper

21<sup>st</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> April 2010  
Dunham Massey Village Hall

# A Sting In The Tale

*Max Goodman and Nigel Forbes have a long-standing collaboration, but despite some early success, their creative partnership is in stagnation and they are close to financial ruin. As they desperately seek inspiration for a hit, Nigel's vindictive wife Ann enters the fray, and the men soon realise she represents the perfect victim for their play. As they plan the intricacies of the 'murder' in increasing detail, the boundaries between fiction and reality soon become somewhat blurred. As Max and Nigel draw on all of their experience to plot the perfect murder, they must contend with the watchful eye of a local police inspector (who just happens to be an amateur dramatic and an avid fan of their work), as well as keeping it secret from their sassy secretary Jill. Twists and turns abound in this farcical and highly enjoyable thriller.*

## CAST

(in order of appearance)

**Nigel Forbes** ..... *Martin Clare*  
**Max Goodman** ..... *Jon Barton*  
**Jill Prentice** ..... *Laura Kinsella*  
**Ann Forbes**..... *Joan Jones*  
**Det. Inspector Berry**..... *Chris Matthews*

The action takes place in Nigel Forbes' study in his country house in Oxfordshire, over one weekend.

## Act I

Scene 1 - Saturday morning  
Scene 2 - Some time later  
Scene 3 - That night

## Act II

Scene 1 - Sunday morning  
Scene 2 - That night

- The interval will take place at the end of Act I
- Raffle tickets will be on sale before the play and during the interval. There's always a healthy selection of prizes, so make sure you don't miss out on tickets. The raffle will be drawn in between scenes in Act II.
- A bar will be available in the foyer selling wine and lager, along with a small selection of sweets and chocolate.
- Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served during the interval free of charge.

## Producer's Notes

Like all good murder mysteries, our play this week has an ending which is not quite as straightforward as might first appear. Whilst we do not have the luxury of a number of endings to choose from, unlike the final episodes of "A Touch of Frost", we do hope you will enjoy trying to solve our mystery before the final denouement.

This story centres around a thriller play writing partnership which, after enjoying great success, is now struggling and suddenly identifies an opportunity to solve its financial problems. Brian Clemens has written many murder plays of which I have previously been involved in two. A piece from "Shock" was chosen for a festival held at Crewe theatre, and "Edge of Darkness" certainly kept our audiences on the edge of their seats. For this play Brian Clemens has collaborated with Dennis Spooner.

We do hope you enjoy trying to unravel our mystery.

***Sandra Capper***

## About The Writers

Brian Clemens was born in 1931, and is probably best known for his work on the hit television series 'The Avengers'. He wrote the original pilot episode in 1961, and was the main scriptwriter for the series (as well as co-producing). His production company went on to produce the series 'The Professionals', and Clemens also wrote for series such as 'Bergerac' and, more recently, the hit BBC drama 'Bugs'.

Dennis Spooner was born in 1932, and is best known for his work in children's television, script writing for the likes of 'Thunderbirds', 'Stingray', and 'Fireball XL5'. He was also a major contributor to the formative William Hartnell era of 'Doctor Who'. In later years he collaborated with Clemens on 'The Professionals' and 'Bergerac', as well as 'The New Avengers'. Spooner passed away on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1986.