



The  
Dunham Thespians  
Present...

A THRILLER BY Robert Thomas

ADAPTED FROM  
THE FRENCH BY Tudor Gates

DIRECTED  
BY Laura Kinsella



# AURELIA

**26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> - Apr 2017**

**Dunham Massey Village Hall  
7.45pm curtain**

# A Word from the Chairman

Greetings as always to our patrons - we hope to find you all in good health.

Tonight's production is a return to something a little more conventional, after two grueling productions last year - namely "Jane Eyre" and "The Thrill Of Love". This admittedly slightly fanciful thriller by Robert Thomas (see page opposite) has been good fun to be involved in, and has felt relatively effortless compared to recent offerings. That's not to say it hasn't required a lot of hard work, as no play goes on without that, and for various reasons we've been short of helpers back stage so everyone has had to muck in. But one way or another we have pulled it together, as we always do, and I hope you'll allow yourselves to be immersed in a twisty thriller that doesn't take itself too seriously.



The society invested a significant amount of its limited funds into purchasing new lighting equipment last year, including some impressive second hand equipment after some lengthy eBay searching. The new equipment was used extensively in both the productions last year, and I think added a real depth and atmosphere to the shows. Modern LED lighting is very versatile for stage application, and has opened up a realm of new possibilities for us. Needless to say, it is also decidedly less power-hungry than the old battens of 60w bulbs, and the lower heat output makes things rather more comfortable for the actors on stage!

The successful trials meant it was time to remove most of the old lighting rig. Whilst it was certainly time, I confess to feeling a twinge of sadness, as it was evident that a lot of care and hard work had gone into wiring up the old rig. The first installation dates back to 1938 when electricity was introduced to the village, and the serving stage manager, Mr Bill Bromage, made the first switchboard. Prior to that the stage was lit by a single gaslight! Following the extensive renovation works to Little Heath School, it subsequently opened as the village hall in the mid-60s. After a few successful plays to build up funds, the society invested the then princely sum of £60 for Mr Bromage to install a new rig in 1969, and it's likely some of that was still in service. It has been added to and tweaked down the years, with the most recent works being an extensive rewire that was undertaken by Mr David Davies in 2000. I have to say though, I appreciated the many years of service it has provided the society rather more than I appreciated the accumulated dust that came down with it. C'est la vie.

Don't forget to purchase yourself some raffle tickets if you haven't already. There's usually a healthy selection of prizes. For the November production, I finally got round to putting the purple lavender incense into the raffle prizes one night after it had been cluttering up my sideboard since being used as a prop in Hummingbird House the year before. It would make for a nice little prize for someone, but I was glad to see the back of it. The Sunday after the final night of a production is always a chore, taking down the set and packing everything away, particularly as everyone is exhausted. So I was well and truly ready for the traditional family Sunday roast when I called by my parents house later that day. "Excellent play last night," said my mum. "Oooh, and look what I won on the raffle..."

**Martin Clare**

# About The Author

**R**obert Thomas is a bit of a forgotten man, but he was a prominent figure in French film and theatre throughout the 60s and 70s, not just as a writer but as an actor and director.

He is at least partly credited in creating an entire genre - what you would call *comedy thriller* (or *comédie policière* in his native French). His first major hit was in 1960 with a play called 'Piege Pour un Homme Seul' (or 'Trap For A Solitary Man'), a humourous murder-mystery which became an overnight success in Paris. Alfred Hitchcock bought the rights and planned to make it into a big budget film, but sadly it never made it past pre-production. It eventually did make it into film, albeit a made-for-TV movie in an adaptation called 'Vanishing Act' in 1986. The cast included Elliot Gould (a regular in TV series such as E.R. and Friends, and a long film career that includes American History X and Ocean's Eleven), and Margot Kidder, who also has a long film and TV career, but is best known as Lois Lane in the original Superman films. Both are still working to this day.

Robert Thomas' most celebrated work is '8 Femmes' (or '8 Women'), another dark comedy thriller which won the *Hachette Prix du Quai des Orfevres* for Best Play in 1961. Its fame however, is mostly down to the big budget screen adaptation from 2002 - a musical that plays like a who's who of French talent, including Virginie Ledoyen (*The Beach*, 2000) and Emmanuelle Béart (*Mission: Impossible*, 1996). Although the songs don't translate too well if you're relying on subtitles, it is well worth a watch as a bit of an unconventional Christmas film.

Although '8 Femmes' has never had a proper English translation, 'Piege Pour un Homme Seul', which was entitled 'Trap For A Lonely Man' in English, is a play The Dunham Thespians have performed twice, most recently in 2013. Below is a still from the earlier 1975 production, which I was able to scan from an old 35mm slide.

**Martin Clare**





## The Cast

# AURELIA



Louise Burgess - ***Aurelia***



Rebecca Buckley - ***Isabel***



Sylvia Rose - ***Vera***



Joan Jones - ***Lady Chalmont***



Bill Craig - ***Mercer***



Martin Clare - ***A visitor***

# Running Order

## ACT 1

- Scene 1      An afternoon in March
- Scene 2      About noon, four days later
- Scene 3      Night, four days later
- Scene 4      Morning, several days later

## ACT 2

- Scene 1      Immediately following
- Scene 2      Several nights later
- Scene 3      One hour later

The action of the play takes place in the drawing-room of Lady Chalmont's house on the edge of a Cotswold village

Time - mid-twentieth century

The interval will take place at the end of Act 1.

The raffle will be drawn after Act 2, Scene 1.

*(This is relatively soon after the interval,  
but is in order to facilitate costume changes.)*

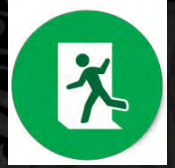
**Please be advised that tonight's performance  
contains flashing lights.**

# Announcements

# AURELIA

In the highly unlikely event of a fire, emergency exits are located as follows:

- The main entrance where you came in
- Behind the curtain next to the folding doors
- Through the kitchen
- Immediately behind the stage



Please ensure you turn your mobile phone off (or onto silent or flight mode) for the duration of the performance. If you turn your phone on during the interval, please remember to switch it off again before the play resumes.

You are welcome to take photographs, but we kindly ask that you refrain from using flash photography.



Drinks are available both before the show and during the interval. You are welcome to bring drinks into the hall, but please exercise caution. Complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits will be served during the interval.

If you aren't already on our mailing list, please make sure you sign up to receive advance notification of our future productions. You can add yourself directly to our email list by visiting the [www.dunhamthespians.org.uk](http://www.dunhamthespians.org.uk) home page. You can also complete a form available at the bar to receive our postal mail shot.



Raffle tickets are available both before the play and during the interval. We always have a healthy selection of prizes, so please make sure you get some tickets. The raffle will be drawn after Act 2, Scene 1.



# Behind The Scenes



# A Word from the Director

This is my second time venturing into Directing rather than treading the boards, but I must say this was a different challenge to Jane Eyre. Whereby with Jane Eyre I had a clear vision on where I wanted it to go, Aurelia was an unknown and very new challenge. Hopefully it has been a successful one and everyone enjoys the show. As is always the case (even when organised and the play was chosen last September) time seems to get away from you.

As ever the list of acknowledgments is too long to fit here, but I have to give a huge thank you to all the cast for their continued dedication. Lindsay and Trevor as always rise to any challenge we present them and somehow manage to fit all required on our little stage. A personal thank you to Helen Western; always great when you have talented friends that can produce works of art to decorate the set. I would also like to thank Peter who stepped up when I was in desperation for a prompt but then due to his health was unable to prompt for the play. We all wish him a speedy recovery and a huge thank you for his continued support since joining.

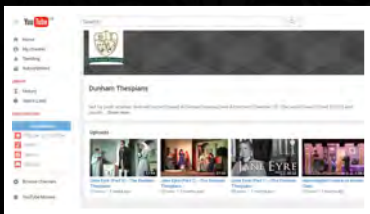
We are really struggling for support back stage so if anyone would be interested in joining the society please get in touch. We always need help to prompt, props, set build, lighting and sound; and the most important job of all - making the tea! So there are many ways you can get involved without being forced on stage; though every time a play comes around we may try to twist your arm.

I hope you enjoy the show; so many hours of dedication go into putting on a play and with such a small society it is a lot of work on a few people. Your continued support is very appreciated.

**Laura Kinsella**



## Re-Watch



For those of you who missed a couple of our recent productions, Jane Eyre and Hummingbird House, they are available to watch in their entirety on YouTube. You can find them via our website - just go to: [www.dunhamthespians.org.uk](http://www.dunhamthespians.org.uk) and click the YouTube icon at the top right.



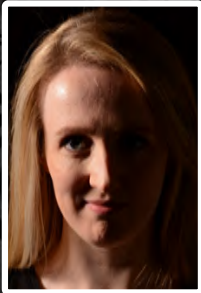
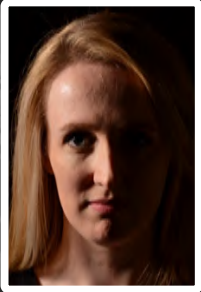
# AURELIA

Credits

## Cast

Aurelia  
Isabel  
Vera  
Lady Chalmont  
Mercer  
A visitor

Louise Burgess  
Rebecca Buckley  
Sylvia Rose  
Joan Jones  
Bill Craig  
Martin Clare



## Credits

Writer  
Adaptation  
Original Novel  
Director / Producer  
Stage Building

Prompt  
Props

Lighting / Sound

Photography  
Special Effects  
Raffle & Refreshments

Programmes / Publicity  
Stage Artwork  
Set Dressing  
Front of House / Bar

Tickets

Robert Thomas  
Tudor Gates  
Jean Pierre Ferriere  
Laura Kinsella  
Lindsay Park  
Trevor Wells  
Laura Kinsella  
Martin Clare  
Chris Matthews  
Bella Pratten  
Martin Clare  
Sally-Marianne Hatton  
Sylvia Rose  
Chris Matthews  
Martin Clare  
Vanessa Lozano  
Martin Clare  
Elizabeth Craig  
Sue Kinsella  
Martin Clare  
Helen Weston  
The company  
Elizabeth Craig  
Sue Kinsella  
Philippa Cameron  
Vanessa Lozano  
Martin Clare

## With Thanks To

The Rope & Anchor Public House  
Red House Farm  
Andrew Bushell & Peter White  
Joan Pendlebury  
Altrincham Little Theatre

The Rope  
&  
Anchor.  
Dunham Massey



Tucked away in the country lanes near Dunham Massey, the Rope and Anchor is in the perfect location for you to enjoy a family meal after exploring the surrounding countryside, or the ideal venue for a romantic dinner, away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

We have a relaxing bar area where you can enjoy our selection of JW Lees ales, fine wine, spirits and soft drinks. Enjoy our comfortable surroundings, whatever the weather with a modern fire place where you can cosy up for a chat, or you can relax and dine al fresco in our fully waited, extensive, comfortable outdoor seating area in beautiful surroundings.

Not forgetting our younger visitors, we offer an excellent children's menu & a great play area. So, whether you're celebrating an event or just taking a relaxing break, we look forward to welcoming you soon.



If you would like to book a table or enquire about hiring out our amazing function spaces we have provided all the contact details below:

[www.theropeandanchor.co.uk](http://www.theropeandanchor.co.uk)

Tel: 0161 927 7901

Twitter : @Rope\_Anchor



From The Archives

## "Dead Ringer" (1993)



A mere 25 years ago. This photo features four long-standing popular thespians. Centre-left is Mr David White who, along with his wife Madeleine, were prominent members from the late 80s through to late 00s.

Far right is Mr Clive Alford, who was a regular lead actor throughout the 90s, and served for several years as Chairman, taking over from Mr Frank Duckworth in 1999.

Far left, of course, is Mr Bill Craig - still performing for us (as tonight's production will testify!) Sat down centre-right is Mr Barney Horne, who recently moved back to the area, and we are delighted to have join us in the audience for the Friday night production.

## Joining The Society



We are always keen to recruit new members to the society, both on stage and behind the scenes.

If you have ever fancied trying your hand at being on stage, or feel like you have something to contribute behind the curtain (as it were), then get in touch. We're a friendly bunch!

Contact Martin on 07789 171 337, or email [info@dunhamthespians.org.uk](mailto:info@dunhamthespians.org.uk)



*We'd like to thank all our patrons for your continued support.*

*The Thespians will be on our summer break following this production, but we continue to meet up regularly and read through plays. If you are interested in getting involved, please do get in touch and you will be welcome to join us. There is no charge for membership, and no previous experience is required.*

## Committee Officials

Chairman  
Vice Chairlady  
Treasurer  
Secretary  
Assistant Secretary  
Stage Manager  
Assistant Stage Manager

Martin Clare  
Sylvia Rose  
Bill Craig  
Philippa Cameron  
Laura Kinsella  
Lindsay Park  
Trevor Wells



*The Dunham Thespians*

**The Dunham Thespians**

Dunham Massey Village Hall, School Lane, Dunham Massey, Cheshire. WA14 4SE.

Martin Clare - Chairman  
07789 171 337

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[www.dunhamthespians.org.uk](http://www.dunhamthespians.org.uk)