

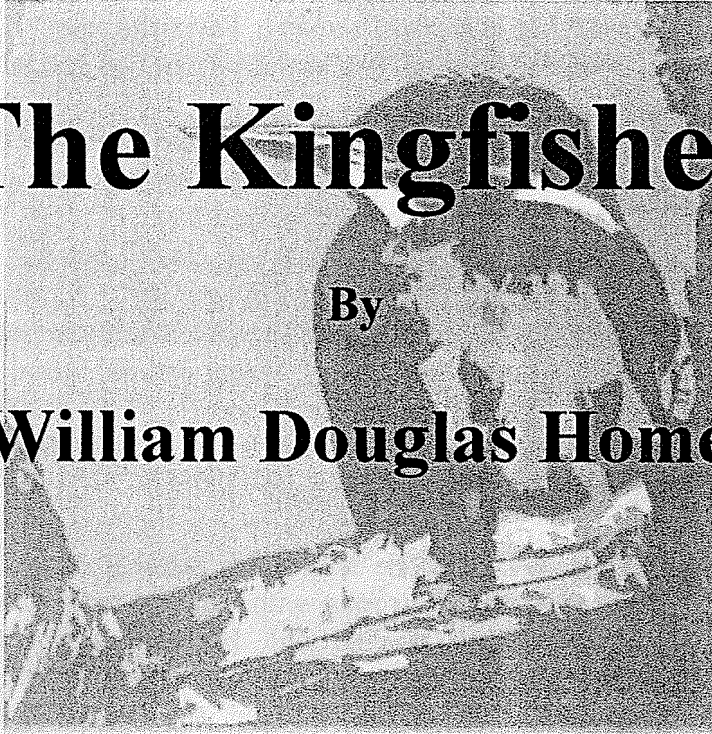
**St Michael's Players**

**in**

# **The Kingfisher**

**By**

**William Douglas Home**



**18 to 20 October, 2001**

**St Michael's Centre, Elmwood Road**

**SUE DARRIEULAT:** her first stage appearance was in 1960 with the Ashley Players in Walton-on-Thames in *The Eyes of Youth* by Ted Willis. She stayed with the Company until 1964, when she moved to London, and did not surface again on stage until 1991, when she joined St Michael's Players to play opposite Peter Woods for the first (but not the last) time in *Mixed Doubles*. Favourite role? "Difficult, but Hester Collyer in *The Deep Blue Sea* was special."

**MERVYN JUPE:** he joined Stanhope Theatre Company (Euston) in 1973, just as Alan Rickman left to go to RADA... Mervyn played in a wide range of plays, from *The Cherry Orchard* to *The National Health* but his favourite part was Harvey Duff in *The Shaughraun*. Since 1984, he has appeared in 15 Strand-on-the-Green pantomimes, playing many parts, male and female, young and old, good and bad, human and otherwise. He joined St Michael's Players in 1994 to appear with Sue and Peter in *Love Affair*. Favourite role with Players? "Bob in *Pack of Lies*."

**PETER WOODS:** he started his amateur stage career in 1943, singing to the troops, with the band of the Royal Tank Regiment as his backing group! He has tried most theatrical forms from revue (with the Cambridge Footlights) to Shakespeare. Peter has enjoyed the camaraderie of St Michael's Players for 17 years. Favourite role? "I'll cop out and say that I enjoy whatever I am doing at the moment – but I am tickled that Sue and Mervyn chose plays that I directed."



## **CAST**

(in order of appearance)

Hawkins	<b>Mervyn Jupe</b>
Cecil	<b>Peter Woods</b>
Evelyn	<b>Sue Darriulat</b>

The play is set throughout in Cecil's garden

<b>Scene One</b>	Afternoon
<b>Scene Two</b>	Early Evening

Interval (15 minutes)

<b>Scene Three</b>	Late Evening
<b>Scene Four</b>	The Next Morning

## **PRODUCTION TEAM**

Director	Peter Woods
Business & Publicity	Linda Woods
	Jeffrey Smith
Costume Adviser	Jennie Yates
Front of House	Margaret Collier
Prompt	Fran Fox
Props & Stage Management	Kathy Davey
	Vikki Glover
	Diana Robinette
Setting	David Lye
Sound & Lighting	Philip Lye
	Ben Garside

Special thanks to the **Ginkgo Garden Centre** in Ravenscourt Park (Telephone 8563 7112) who generously loaned us the beautiful furniture.

## WILLIAM DOUGLAS HOME

Born in 1912, William Douglas Home was on stage for a time in the 1930's but, after wartime military service, he concentrated on playwriting, with only occasional appearances in his own works. His first big successes were political comedies – *The Chiltern Hundreds* (1947) and its sequel *The Manor of Northstead* (1954) -and the social comedy *The Reluctant Debutante* (1955). Thereafter his plays were less well received until, in 1968, Kenneth More scored a huge success in *The Secretary Bird*. Later plays included *The Jockey Club Stakes*, *The Kingfisher* and *Lloyd George Knew My Father*. William Douglas Home died in 1992.

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### DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The original London cast of *The Kingfisher* was Ralph Richardson, Celia Johnson and Frank Farley, while on Broadway the play featured Rex Harrison, Claudette Colbert and George Rose. Since then there have been several national tour revivals.

*The Kingfisher* is a play I have been attracted to since I saw the first production in 1977 but I never expected to direct or appear in it because – for obvious reasons – 3-handers are not very popular with amateur companies. However, when our first choice of Autumn production had to be deferred unexpectedly, we needed a replacement quickly and no one had time to argue. I am more than usually grateful to the group of people, named and unnamed, who rallied to the cause and worked so hard to ensure that, in a very short time, the cast of three has had all the support it could wish for. We hope you enjoy the evening.

### RED RIDING HOOD

Following the sell-out successes of *Cinderella* and *Aladdin* we have gone creative with our own version (definitive, of course) of *Red Riding Hood*, written by Kathy Davey and Philip Lye and set in the quaint old village of Chiswickia. All the familiar characters are there, plus a few who have wandered in from other pantomimes. The show will run from 12 to 16 December, with matinees and evening performances on Friday & Saturday. Ring Peter Woods (8749 0633) if you would like to know more or would like to take part. Rehearsals start on Monday next, 22 October.



If you would like information about joining St Michael's Players, please contact the Membership Secretary, Carine Williams, on 7731 5937