

Charing Guild of Players Present

'Are You Being Served?'

By Jeremy Lloyd and David Croft



**In the Church Barn, Charing
May 2014**

*This Production is dedicated to the memories of
Michael Cowdry and Rayner Missing*

£1.00

CHARING GUILD OF PLAYERS

Patron	The Rev Sheila Cox
Chairman	Marian White
Deputy Chairman	Carolyn Banham
Honorary Secretary	Valerie Parsons
Honorary Treasurer	Michael Headley
Committee	Anton Banham, John Easun, Nick Hawley, Karen Wright, Jean Latter, Gill Magson
Honorary Life Members	Bert Banham

This Production..

...was initially planned for last November (you may recall) but as the saying goes, 'the best laid plans of mice and men ...' etc etc!!

Practically all the credit must go to our wonderful Producer/Director *Gill Magson*, for her great determination and perseverance, in finally getting this production cast, built and on-stage, with the help, *obviously*, of our tremendous back stage crew, who have once again excelled themselves!! Particularly with the wonderful 'Pentehouses' by Jean Latter and Anne Winograd!

I don't think many people appreciate just how exhausting and stressful it can be wearing the Producer's hat!!

However, despite the many bumps along the way, I'm sure Gill will agree, that we have also managed to have 'such fun' in rehearsals with lots of laughs!!

We certainly hope that the fun we have had rehearsing, shines through in the performances!! Enjoy! - *CAB*

(Thanks also to Willow Farm of Long Length, Ashford for the loan of the green chairs.)

'Are You Being Served?' - a potted History

The idea for the show came from Jeremy Lloyd's brief period in the early 1950s working at Simpsons of Piccadilly, a clothing store which traded for over 60 years until 1999. The inspiration for the store has also been credited to Rossiters of Paignton, a department store from the time Lloyd and Croft spent there, and the former Clements of Watford.

The series was penned under the Comedy Playhouse series, but the BBC disliked it and refused to air it. The episode ended up being aired as a filler due to the Munich massacre during the 1972 Summer Olympics on 8 September 1972, which led to a full series being produced. The pilot was reshown at the beginning of the first series on 14 March 1973. That first series was aired in the same timeslot as Coronation Street on ITV, and consequently received relatively little attention. However, repeats shown later in the year were much more successful.

The show went on to receive huge audiences, with later episodes attracting up to 22 million viewers. After 10 series, 69 episodes and a 13-year run, Are You Being Served? came to an end on 1 April 1985.

Of the original cast, only Frank Thornton, Mollie Sugden, John Inman, Wendy Richard and Nicholas Smith appeared in all 69 episodes of the programme's 13-year run.

THE CAST—in order of appearance

<i>Mr Mash</i>	John Roberts
<i>Mr Rumbold</i>	John West
<i>Miss Brahms</i>	Karina Hymers
<i>Mr Lucas</i>	Nick Hawley
<i>Mr Grainger</i>	Michael Headley
<i>Captain Peacock</i>	John Easun
<i>Mrs Slocombe</i>	Marian White
<i>Mr Humphries</i>	Mark Woods
<i>Nurse</i>	Emma Peters
<i>Lady Customer</i>	Valerie Parsons
<i>Gentleman Customer</i>	Martin Harvey
<i>Young Mr Grace</i>	Marvin Reathy
<i>Don Bernardo</i>	Peter Lilley
<i>Conchita</i>	Pam Stroom
<i>Cesar Rodriguez</i>	Rob St.Johner
<i>Taeresa</i>	Sonia Parreslev

Production Team

<i>Produced and Directed by</i>	Gill Magson
<i>Set Designed by</i>	Allan Bone
<i>Set built by</i>	Allan Bone, Brian White, Anton Banham, Anne Winograd, Jean Latter
<i>Set painted by</i>	Allan Bone, Jean Latter, Anne Winograd, Brian White, Ann Blandford
<i>Stage Manager</i>	Allan Bone
<i>Assistant Stage Manager</i>	Valerie Parsons
<i>Sound by</i>	Michael Headley and Carolyn Banham
<i>Lighting by</i>	Anton Banham
<i>Properties by</i>	Gill Magson, Valerie Parsons, Carolyn Banham, Allan Bone, Brian White, Jean Latter, The Cast
<i>Costumes by</i>	Gill Magson, Valerie Parsons, The Cast
<i>Publicity</i>	Gill Magson
<i>Front of House</i>	Jean Latter, Brian White
<i>Box Office</i>	Charing Stores
<i>Poster and Programme Design</i>	Carolyn Banham

Charing Guild of Players are always pleased to welcome new active Members and supportive Friends!

Please contact our Hon Secretary

Valerie Parsons for details.

Act 1—Grace Brothers' Clothing Department, England

Act 2—The Don Bernardo Palace Hotel, Spain

There will be a 10 minute Interval between Acts



Pictures By Melanie Hymers

Some very sad news to report

Since our last main production of 'Blithe Spirit' in November 2012, we have suffered the loss of not one member of the Guild, but two.

First, in April 2013, the completely unexpected loss of the lovely Michael Cowdry. Regulars will remember being greeted by the elegant smiling figure of Michael at the box office. He had been a member of the Guild for many years and appeared in numerous plays with us. His forte, though was pantomime and some may remember him as an ugly sister in 'Cinderella', 'Mother Hubbard' in Red Riding Hood, and Benn Gunn in 'Treasure Island'. He was also prominent in pantomimes at Pluckley, sometimes appearing in two in the same season.

We were still reeling from the shock of losing Michael, when in September, we were all devastated to hear of the death of Rayner Missing on September 30th. He had been suffering from Prion's disease, a genetic disorder which had killed his father and his grandfather. Ironically recent medical research may lead to a cure in a few years, though sadly not soon enough for him. Rayner joined Charing in 2004 when he played the title role in 'Lord Arthur Savile's Crime' and since then he has delighted audiences with his portrayal of many different parts, notably Edward Jones in 'Bolt from the Blue', Winston in 'The Village Fete', Shanks, the bra salesman, in 'Habeus Corpus' and, in his final appearance for us, Felix in 'The Odd Couple'. He was an exceptional actor.

The Guild has lost two very popular, warm, funny and utterly charming, men. They will be missed by all of us who knew them, however briefly. Testament to this can be seen in the condolence messages received from members and friends, on the website and in the Guild Photo album, on display at the back of the Barn.

Our condolences to their families.

This Production is dedicated to the memories of



Michael Cowdry 6th Nov 1935—10th April 2013



Rayner Missing 10th Dec 1970— 30th Sep 2013

Members

Mr D Abson
Mr I Avery
Mr and Mrs Anton Banham
Mrs A Blandford
Mr A Bone
Mr G Brown
Mr C Burdick
Mrs J Burgess
Mrs J Campailla
Rev and Mrs B Chalmers
Mr & Mrs Da Silva-Hill
Mr and Mrs J Easun
Mr A Evans
Ms N Gudge
Mrs C Hamlet-Smith
Mr and Mrs Harris
Mr N Hawley
Mr M Headley
Ms A Howe

Mrs L Jones
Ms A Knight
Mrs J Latter
Mr P Lilley
Mrs G Lopato
Mrs G Magson
Mrs M Morris
Mr K Oram
Mrs V Parsons
Mr MH Pym
Mr & Mrs P Reed
Mr P Seggery
Mr J West
Mr B White
Mrs M White
Mr C Woodward
Mr M Woods
Ms Karen Wright

Friends

Mr HC Air
Mr and Mrs AW Archibold
Mr and Mrs M Barton
Mrs Beveridge & Mr Taylor
Mrs V Bowler
Mr and Mrs GJ Cavell
Mrs J Cutler & Mr P Fletcher
Mr & Mrs JM Davies
Air Com and Mrs B Easton
Miss EB Edmed
Mr and Mrs M Evans
Mr and Mrs J Finn-Kelcey
Mr E Godden
Mrs J Goldsmith
Mr & Mrs G Holloway

Mr & Mrs D Hopkins
Mr & Mrs JE Hosking
Mrs Hummerson
Lt Col A Jolley
Mrs M Leather
Mr & Mrs E Leppard
Mr and Mrs A Nash
Mrs G Payne
Mrs L D Pearson
Mr and Mrs HC Pitt
Miss CE Shaw
Mrs S Solly
Mr and Mrs G Stanborough
Mr and Mrs Wiseman