

CHARING GUILD OF PLAYERS

TWO SISTERS

by Caroline Harding

UNTUCKED

by Teresa Hennessy

TO BE PERFORMED ON 5TH - 7TH NOVEMBER 2020

COME TO A READ THROUGH

4TH MAY 2020 7.30PM

AT THE CHURCH BARN, CHARING TN27 0LP

FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN ACTING, BACKSTAGE,
SOUND, LIGHTING OR HELPING IN ANY WAY.

COME AND SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL DRAMA GROUP – WE NEED YOU!!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PLAYS AND CHARACTERS
VISIT THE CHARING GUILD'S WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK:

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TWO SISTERS

by Caroline Harding

2 WOMEN

Playing age could easily vary between mid-30s to mid to late 50s.

Cast

Anya : 'free with her favours' to men, has a limp, drinks a lot

Sonia : stuck in a loveless marriage

Synopsis

Dark secrets hidden in the grey mists of time are reluctantly revealed in this excellent black comedy. Set in a small village in 1880's Russia, Anya and Sonia are goaded into recollecting some things they'd rather forget from their earlier years, upon the bizarre discovery of an empty coffin in Anya's lodgings.

Anya and Sonia now in their forties have an easy-going relationship with one another. They seem to love each other as sisters should, and are each able to make jokes and poke fun at the other's expense.

This is surprising as twenty-five years before, they both fell in love with the same man, Anya much more so than Sonia, but it was the older Sonia who married him and bore his child. On his untimely death soon afterwards, Anya was so distraught that she tried to end her life, and the pregnant Sonia, was quickly forced to marry again, in order to support her and her new baby.

The coffin acts as a catalyst to Anya as she recounts how, before he died, she tried to protect Sonia from discovering the truth about André when she saw him 'in delicto flagrante' with a girl from the village. She had the idea of getting rid of the problem by feeding the girl cake into which she had mixed ground-up glass. With this girl successfully despatched, their lives returned to normal until some weeks later, quite by chance, she saw André with another village girl. She adopted her successful stratagem again, only to find that both the girl and André had eaten the cake. They both died and she now reveals to Sonia that, given her love for him, it was her involvement in André's death, not the fact that he was dead, that was the reason for her attempted suicide.

Sonia for her part, then informs Anya that she was well aware of his indiscretions, and in due to their cooling relationship, it was she, Sonia, who after they had married, had supplied the girls to him as 'artists models'. Each is amazed at their ability to keep these secrets from each other for nearly a quarter of a century – during which time both have led less than happy lives. Can they remain friends with the memories of Andre returning to haunt them?

And the coffin? Simply left there temporarily by an undertaker friend whose business assets are about to be re-posessed.

'Two Sisters' was first performed in July 2006 at the Buxton Festival followed by a regional tour of the UK. Caroline Harding and Candida Gubbins (both of whom are successful theatre and TV actors) took the roles of Sonia and Anya, and the production was directed by Chris Gascoyne (best known as Peter Barlow in 'Coronation Street'). It was nominated for two Manchester Evening News Awards at the 24/7 New Writing Festival in Manchester that year for Best Play and Best Performances.

UNTUCKED

by Teresa Hennessy

2 MEN

PLAYING AGES 40-55

Characters

- Irma Geddon, 50s, a professional drag artist
- Dee Light, very late 40s, a novice drag artist

Synopsis

'Untucked' is a bitter-sweet comedy of trust and jealousy; frocks and frills. It takes place during the interval of a drag show, somewhere in the outskirts of a major city. It is set in the present day.

'Irma Geddon' is a seasoned - if rather jaded - professional drag artiste, and has been since the 1980's. He's a performer, full of grand gestures and fine oratory, with a penchant for reciting Shakespeare. This is mainly due to his self-proclaimed beautiful speaking voice but also, the enjoyment of intimidating any newcomer who dares to enter 'his' dressing room.

Speaking of newcomers, we are introduced to 'Dee Light' whose proper name David and is a straight man of similar age to Irma but who is treading the boards as a drag artiste for the very first time. A married man with children, David studied costume design at the London College of Fashion in the early eighties. His frequent visits to the gay clubs of the decade introduced him to the style and design of flamboyant costumes; but also to Irma, who he admired from afar.

The curtain opens on Dee checking her gown in a full-length mirror which is in a rather dismal dressing room. You can just see her silhouette. As Irma finishes her 'turn' on stage, we hear her recite the soliloquy from William Shakespeare's 'Richard III' as she makes her way back to the dressing room. She swishes past Dee, who in turn, follows Irma with her eyes to where Irma sits and 'claims' her seat at 'her' dressing table.

Whilst Irma fixes her face, gently patting the sweat off her brow, we see Dee getting more nervous as she is about to go on after the interval. She is 'doing drag' for the very first time. Will the old-timer give her the benefit of his experience, or jeopardise the fledgling's first flight into the unknown?