

BART PLAYERS are delighted to present
for the 2009 Festival Season

BORN IN THE GARDENS

By Peter Nichols



St Bartholomew's Parish Church
Canon Lindsay hall

programme £1



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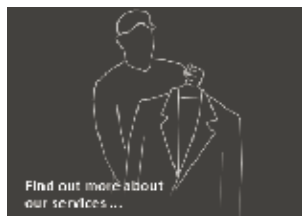
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Britain in The Sixties and Seventies

Britain seemed to lead the world in the 'Swinging Sixties' in pop music and fashion not to mention with "Y-fronts". However economic problems caused by Middle East wars and high oil prices, were exacerbated by Trade Union demands. These combined to produce wage and price inflation.



Harold Wilson's Labour government hoped to use the 'white heat of technology' together with improved educational and managerial skills to pave the way for new prosperity and a more equitable society. Decimalisation, planned for many years came into effect on 15 February 1971 and meant an end to shillings and 'old pence'. No longer twelve pence to the shilling and twenty shillings to the pound – now like most other currencies we had one hundred pence or 'new p's' to the pound.

The Wilson government suffered the indignity of devaluation and even though inflation was running at 12% Labour were expected to win the 1970 general election but it



was Edward Heath's Conservative Party which won. Heath like Wilson believed in modernisation, managerialism and compromise and he led Britain into the European Economic Community in 1973. He too battled with industrial action and

inflation culminating in the miner's strike and the 3-day week due to power shortages. Two election defeats in 1974 led to his replacement by Margaret Thatcher in 1975.



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Born in The Gardens

by
Peter Nichols

directed by
Gillian Porter

Vic is recently deceased. The action takes place in ‘Tudor Manor’ the family home in Bristol of Maud, Vic and their son Maurice as they gather for Vic’s funeral. They are joined by Maurice’s twin sister Queen from America and his elder brother, Hedley a Labour MP who lives in London but has something important to say

Act I

Tudor Manor, late afternoon, the day before the funeral

INTERVAL 15 min

Act II

Scene 1 – Morning, day of the funeral

Scene2 – Later that day

Born In The Gardens

CAST

<i>Maud</i>	Barbara Jeffers
<i>Maurice</i>	Kevin Murray
<i>Hedley</i>	Barney Gadd
<i>Queen</i>	Lynne Taylor

PRODUCTION TEAM

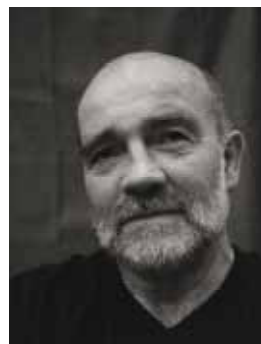
Director	Gillian Porter
Setting and Décor	Alan Marshall
Stage Manager	Caroline Mercer
Set Building	Ian Hastings
Set Painting	James Burns
Props	Lorna-Jayne Fletcher, Jean Watts
Costumes	Carmen O'Hagan
Lighting	Ivor Agnew, John Little
Sound	Michael Patterson
Make-up	David Sloan
Front of House	June Silcock, Emma Townsend
Publicity	James Burns
Poster Design	Mike Fee

Barbara Jeffers (Maud) needs little or no introduction to Barts regulars as she has been as happy to play bit minor parts such as the ‘Fairly Queen’ in *Mother Goose* as her many leading roles such as Cass in *The Loves of Cass Maguire* or the revolting Miss Shepherd in *The Lady in The Van* both of which won her several Best Actress Awards at many and various festivals



Kevin Murray (Mo), a native of Co. Meath, joins Barts on-loan from his company of 12 years, the Belvoir Players. for whom he has appeared in many productions, playing both straight and comedic roles, and has directed a number of one-act plays for the festival circuit. He cites his most successful characterisation as that of the Englishman in *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*, which won the Ulster and British All-Winners finals in 2006.

Barney Gadd (Hedley) -is the only member of the cast **not** to have won an acting award but he **did** captain the winning team in the Ballyclare Over-35's rugby tournament a wheen of years ago. He directed *Watch It Sailor* (2006) and *Sailor Beware* (2007) for Barts and played Rev. Henry Brown in last years' AUDF overall winner *The Big House*.



Lynne Taylor (Queenie) – started her Barts career 12 years ago working behind the scenes before taking to the stage. Since then, she has appeared in such productions as *Number One* and *Lady and the Van*. She has twice won the trophy for Best Actress at the AUDF finals for her roles as Annie Wilkes in *Misery* (2007) and as Kate in *The Big House* (2008)

Peter Nichols – The Author

Peter Nichols was born in Bristol in 1927 and educated at Bristol Grammar School, Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and Trent Park Teacher Training College Herts.

His first television play, A Walk on the Grass, was produced in 1959 by the BBC and among many others which followed were Promenade, Ben Spray, The Hooded Terror, The Gorge, Hearts and Flowers and The Common.

His first play for the stage, produced in 1967, was A Day in the Death of Joe Egg, which was roughly based on the life of his firstborn, Abigail, who lived only until she was eleven. Joe Egg was followed by The National Health (RNT), Forget-Me-Not-Lane (Apollo and Greenwich) Chez Nous (Globe), The Freeway (RNT), Harding's Luck from E Nesbit (Greenwich). Privates on Parade (RSC), Born in the Gardens (Bristol Old Vic and the Globe), Passion Play (RSC 1981, revived 2000 at the Donmar and the Comedy), Poppy (RSC), A Piece of My Mind (Apollo) and Blue Murder (Show of Strength and national tour). His play, So Long Life, was broadcast on Radio 4 in spring 2000 and was staged in Bristol by Show of Strength in the autumn of that year.

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St. Bartholomew's Church

Welcome to St. Bartholomew's Church Hall this evening! I do hope you enjoy this production of 'Born in the Garden' and perhaps be made to think about life and relationships as well.

Here's a church-based Drama Society putting on a play like this during *Lent*, of all seasons! So forget gloomy Christians and dreary Sunday services - at the heart of being a Christian is something quite serious, but always to be tempered with joy, and therefore open to plenty of humour.

So: enjoy yourselves this evening!

And if what I have said above prompts you to want more info about St. Bartholomew's and what makes us tick, then you can log onto our web site at:

<http://www.stbartholomew.connor.anglican.org>

or come along and join us one Sunday!

We're also doing a series of short Wednesday evening services (beginning at 1930) with a sermon series entitled 'Credit Crunch Christianity'.

Yours (with a slight grin)

Ron Elsdon (Rector)

P.S. The web site info is slightly out-of-date: it is currently under reconstruction

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The Bart Players - THANKS

The Bart Players wish to register their grateful thanks to those people, named and unnamed who assisted us with this production including:

James Brown & Sons, Funeral Directors, 533 Lisburn Road, Belfast

The Alexandra (Florists)

Alan & Sylvia McCormick – for loan of radiogram

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The Rector and Select Vestry of St. Bartholomew's Church
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Play it Again Sam

We hope you have enjoyed this production and will advise your friends that as our entry to local Drama Festivals it will be playing again at the following venues:

Born in The Gardens – Festival Dates

Ballymoney Arts Centre	8.00 pm	Fri. 13 th March
McNeill Theatre, Larne	8.00 pm	Fri. 20 th March
Courtyard Theatre, N'abbey	8.00 pm	Fri. 21 st March
Newry Town Hall	8.00 pm	Mon. 30 th March

Summer Theatre

Bart Players are planning to produce **'Running Riot'** – a hilarious comedy – for Summer Theatre shows. Producer Brendan Fegan will be holding a first reading of this play on Tuesday 10th March. Anyone including new faces who would like to be involved in this show in any way either onstage or backstage would be most welcome and if possible should come along next Tuesday at 7.30pm or contact Brendan at b.fegan@ntlworld.com