



The Guild Players are part of Finchley Methodist Church but we also have many people connected with us from the surrounding community. New members are always welcome, whether you are interested in acting or backstage roles.

If you would like further details of the Players, or would like to join, please contact our membership secretary Betty Robertson on 020 xxxx xxxx

If you would like details of our forthcoming productions, please phone the Box Office on 020 xxxx xxxx and ask to be added to the Guild Players Mailing List.

For more information about us, visit the Guild Players web site at [www.guildplayers.org.uk](http://www.guildplayers.org.uk)

### Recent Guild Players Productions

1994	See How They Run	Alphabetical Order
1995	The Vigil	Jack And The Beanstalk
1996	Rebecca	The Marry-Go-Round
1997	Four Plays For Coarse Actors	Aladdin
1998	A Murder Is Announced	Trelawney Of The Wells
1999	Barefoot In The Park	Robinson Crusoe
2000	Lord Arthur Savile's Crime	It Runs In The Family
2001	The Importance Of Being Earnest	Cinderella

As is our usual custom, The Guild Players do not charge for programmes. However there are some collecting boxes for 'The Friends of Finchley Memorial Hospital' in the foyer and we would be grateful if you would make a contribution to this good cause.

Your generosity at our last three productions raised over £400 to support our local hospital.

Please be generous again.

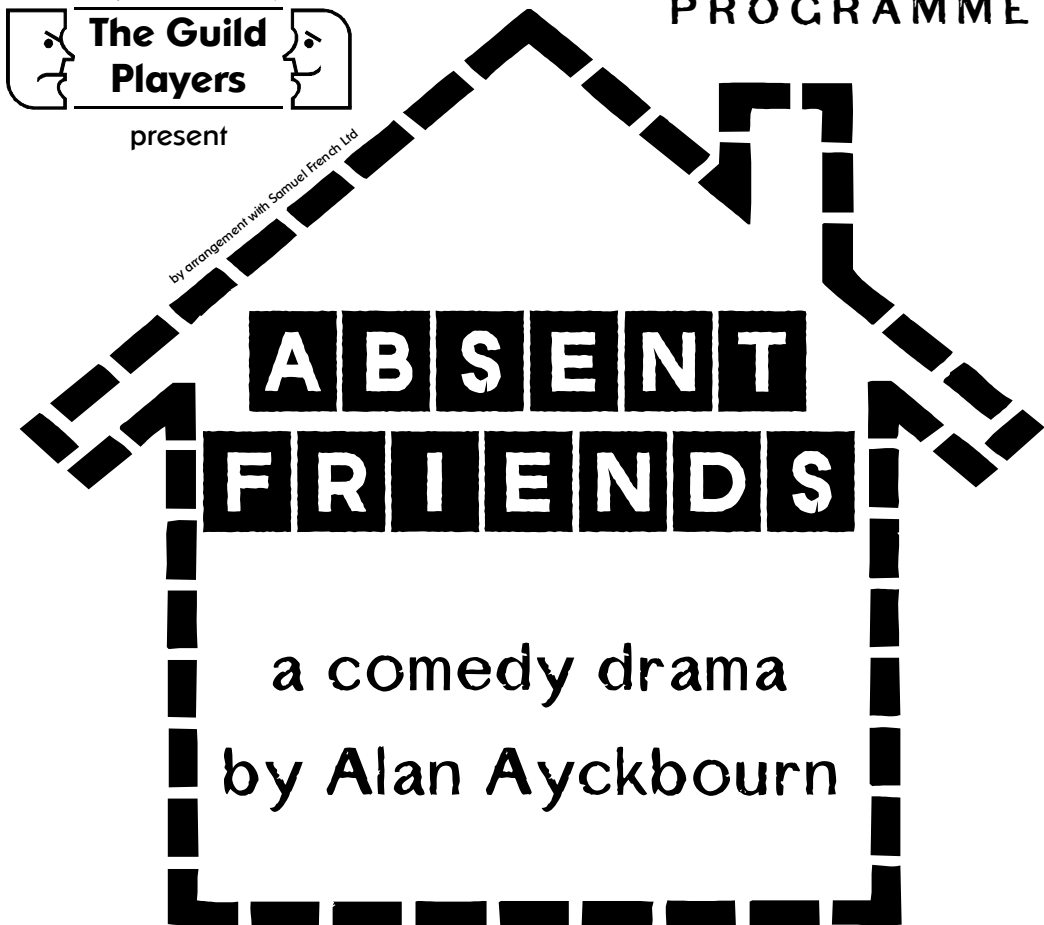
Thank you



present

by arrangement with Samuel French Ltd

PROGRAMME



Directed by Alan Jobson

Finchley Methodist Church Hall  
Ballards Lane Finchley N3

Performances at 7:45 pm on  
Thursday 18th April 2002  
Friday 19th April 2002  
Saturday 20th April 2002

## Cast in order of appearance

Diana	Judith Shrank
Evelyn	Jennifer Lewis
Marge	Victoria Harris
Paul	David Constable
John	Nick Johnson
Colin	Spencer Clayton

## Setting

The living room of Paul & Diana's suburban home, mid 1970s

Act 1      Saturday, 3pm

Interval - Refreshments will be served in the foyer

Act 2      Immediately following

## Production Team

Director	Alan Jobson
Stage Manager	Siobhán O'Neill
Set Design & Construction	David Constable Mike Sparks Mari l'Anson
Costumes	Jenny Sparks
Props	Vera Mitchell
Lighting	Brian Clayfield
Prompt	Sally Martin
Front of House Manager	Mike Sparks
Box Office	Betty Burgess Norman Burgess
Programme & Publicity	David Constable

## Absent Friends

by Alan Ayckbourn

Colin has lost his fiancée in a tragic accident. His friends, who had never met the girl, arrange a tea party to offer him comfort. Understandably they are on edge wondering what to say to him. But there is more to their unease than that, for Diana & Paul, John & Evelyn, and Marge - whose husband is perpetually out of circulation with various illnesses - are kept together by a mixture of business and cross marital emotional ties. By the time Colin arrives, their tension contrasts with his cheerfully relaxed air . . . .

. . . . and so we have the familiar ingredients of an Ayckbourn play. Many people see Alan Ayckbourn as a writer of domestic comedy. However, the interpretation of the word 'comedy' is personal. The play is described in its title as simply that - a play. The comedy is derived out of the human condition - we humans live lives where our treatment of each other can cause embarrassment, hurt and domestic upheaval which is interpreted by some as the divine comedy of life. The domestic situations presented to us are uncomfortable for us, the audience, because Ayckbourn's characters are so much like ourselves. Ayckbourn does not preach, he observes. In comparison, the characters in Chekov comedies are more complex and less than ordinary.

Alan Jobson

## Jottings . . . .

Alan Jobson is a retired teacher with over 50 years experience of the amateur stage and a hint of professional experience. The director of 10 musicals and 11 plays, he boasts of appearing in 31 plays but now seems obsessed with dressing in female pantomime attire. In his youth he wanted to play Hamlet but has now changed his wish to King Lear!

Judith Shrank studied speech and drama some years ago and has been a member of the Guild Players for over 6 years. She has appeared in 'Jack and the Beanstalk', 'Rebecca', 'The Marry-Go-Round', 'Aladdin', 'A Murder is Announced', 'Trelawny of the Wells' and 'Cinderella'.

Jennifer Lewis has always had a passion for drama and the theatre and enjoyed being part of 'The Importance of Being Earnest' (her first production with the Guild Players), and the contrasting nature of the current play. She is keen to explore all areas of the dramatic arts in the future.

Victoria Harris has always had an interest in drama and spent some time travelling the north of France performing in a Tom Stoppard play. Last year she joined the Guild Players and enjoyed playing Prince Charming in the recent panto. This is her first role as a woman!

David Constable first took part in a Guild Players production in 1995 when he helped out with pantomime sound effects. He has been involved with every production since, either backstage or acting, and quite often both. His most recent appearance was as Buttons in the production of 'Cinderella'.

Nick Johnson has been involved with the Guild Players for 15 years, acting and other things such as publicity, lighting, sound and stage management. Recently he has mainly acted and his most recent appearances have been in 'Barefoot in the Park', 'Lord Arthur Savile's Crime' and 'The Importance of Being Earnest'.

Spencer Clayton has appeared in a number of Guild Players productions and has also directed two plays, one of which ('Barefoot in the Park') received the award for 'Best Theatrical Production' in the Barnet Drama Festival. He enjoys acting and would love to do more.

Please SWITCH OFF all mobile phones whilst in the auditorium

NO flash photography or video cameras may be used during the performance