

From the Director...

The story of *Ladies in Lavender* is of two elderly sisters, both spinsters, who live together in an isolated seaside cottage in Cornwall. They live a quiet life together in the home that they inherited from their father many years previously. Their life is embedded in their routine; they rarely argue or disagree with each other. The few distractions to their routine consist of events such as a change of weather, something special for lunch or the occasional visitor. This does not immediately appear to be the basis of a love story

As the play develops we see how one incident can change this and the characters experience various emotions with varying degrees of success which affects their relationship. Competitiveness, envy, jealousy and love in its many guises, are emotions of which they have little experience.

Love manifests itself in many ways and we naturally imagine that this is a wonderful joyous state to be in. But there is a love that is far from being wonderful. Unrequited love!

It is the feeling of being completely, hopelessly, desperately in love with someone yet unable to say anything, often clinging on to a romantic fairy tale idea of the situation, hoping that the feelings will never end but knowing that there is no hope of fulfilment.

MEET THE CAST



Chris Lockett (Ursula)



Tom Waldron (Andrea)



Beverley Richardson (Janet)



Dawn Birks (Dorcas)



Gabrielle Ashmore (Olga)



Ian Birkin (Dr Mead)

We are indebted to the Music Department of Newcastle High School for assistance with the recordings used in this production.

THE CAST

Ursula Chris Lockett

Janet Beverley Richardson

Dorcas Dawn Birks

Andrea Tom Waldron

Dr Mead Ian Birkin

Olga Gabrielle Ashmore

DIRECTOR: ALAN CLARKE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: CHRIS LOCKETT

The action takes place in and around a cottage in a Cornish fishing village in 1936.

Act I: Scenes 1 to 4 and 5 to 6 are in and around the cottage. Scene 5 is on the beach. Scene 1 is night time, scene 2 is early next morning, scene 6 is night time.

Act II: Scenes 1, 3, 5, 6 and 7 are in and around the cottage. Scene 4 is on the beach. Scene 1 is night time. Scenes 3 and 7 are in the evening.

CREDITS

Stage Director Terry Wright

Stage Manager Ray Vernon

Set construction Rep Players Construction Team

Set Design RP Design

Lighting design Malcolm Rushton

Lighting operation Janet Clarke

Sound design Keith Ragdale

Sound operation Stuart Campbell

Props Kath Vernon

Set dressing Margo Bloor

Set décor Dawn Birks, Tina Campbell and Team

Wardrobe Co-ordinator Sylvia Wright

Costumes Lichfield Costume Hire

Wigs John Cumberlidge

Front of House Manager Nick Bailey

Programme compiler Brian Rawlins

Publicity design and artwork John Stone

Company Photographer Peter Croft

Acknowledgements

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Thanks also to the North Staffs Operatic Society.