

# The Man Who Came to Dinner

by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman  
Directed by Denzil Pugh

**30th June - 10th July**  
**7.30pm**

*The great classic Broadway comedy*

## THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER

by MOSS HART and GEORGE S. KAUFMAN  
Directed by DENZIL PUGH  
Lighting Designed by MIKE CRISWELL

### CAST (In order of appearance)

Mrs Ernest W. Stanley	HELEN ASHBOURNE
Miss Preen	ANNE WOOD
Richard Stanley	TIM MEACOCK
John Stanley	KIRSTIE GREAVES
Sarah	TREVOR MURLEY
Mrs Dexter	HELEN WALL
Mrs McCutcheon	AUDREY JACQUES
Mr Stanley	LIZ COMPTON
Maggie Culler	RON WEBB
Dr Bradley	JULIE PARSONS
Sheridan Whiteside	DOUG WATSON
Harriet Stanley	ERIC TAYLOR
Bert Jefferson	JUDY MURDOCH
Professor Metz	RICHARD MOORE
Mr Baker	ERIC F. ABBOTT
Expressman	JOHN WEHNER
Lorraine Sheldon	DAVID BAKER
Sandy	SUE MOORE
Beverly Carlton	DAVID BENNETT
Westcott	NEIL MONRO-DAVIES
Banjo	ERIC F. ABBOTT
	JOHN FENNER

Other parts played by members of company.

### THE SETTING

Set in the home of Mr and Mrs Stanley, in a small town in Ohio. It's 1939.

ACT I Scene 1. A December morning. Scene 2. About a week later  
ACT II Another week has passed. Christmas Eve  
ACT III Christmas morning.

THERE WILL BE AN INTERVAL OF 15 MINUTES AFTER ACT I AND ACT II

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our thanks to: Argos Distributors, Guy Street, Leamington Spa for loan of the telephone. Miss Sheldon's evening gown and accessories by Plumes of Regent Street, Leamington Spa

## Whirlwind comedy in classic vein

THE MAN WHO CAME TO DINNER - Loft Theatre, Leamington, until July 10. Running time 2hr 30min.

### FIRST NIGHT VERDICT

THE LOFT rounds off its season with this famous Broadway comedy by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman, whisking us back to Ohio, in 1939, for some classic farce revolving like a whirlwind around bumptious theatre critic, writer and broadcaster Sheridan Whiteside, played by Eric Taylor.

He's at the eye of the storm, the hub of all the action, and a catalyst for most of it too. And Taylor is commanding as the less than welcome guest in the Stanley household.

Sue Moore positively radiates in her show-stopping performance as famous actress Lor-

raine Sheldon, complete with a gushing array of histrionics and affectations, and Judy Murdoch is appealingly eccentric as the strange sister Harriet Stanley.

Ron Webb and Helen Ashbourne are the bewildered Mr and Mrs Ernest Stanley banished to the rooms of their own home as Whiteside makes his overbearing presence felt.

There's more than a touch of Groucho about Whiteside's friend Banjo, and some perfectly prim, 'spinstery' acting - and one of the best comic lines - from Ann Wood as flustered nurse Miss Preen, driven to her wits' end by her cantankerous patient.

David Bentley

# A dinner guest who stayed on and on...

## Timed to perfection

The Broadway classic, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, graces the boards at the Loft Theatre, Leamington this week. The play follows the chaotic goings on at the Stanley household. The irascible Sheridan Whiteside, all round raconteur come explorer, and played to belligerent perfection by Eric Taylor, descends upon the Stanley's peaceful turf over Christmas - with disastrous consequences. Taylor, playing a character who spits more

tacks than the proverbial boot-maker, has a fine grasp of the acerbic. Sue Moore is also outstanding as the vamped sister, Lorraine Sheldon. Doing her best to enchant journalist Bert Jefferson, she throws herself into the part with just the right mixture of passion and allure and glibness. Also a surprise appearance from John Fenner as Banjo, with a hilarious Marx Brothers take-off. A fine production, brimming with well-timed comedy, and more importantly, that final twist. Jonathan Lee

THIS is a wild and wacky American comedy from the late 1930s, with what seems like a cast of thousands. A quick bit of adding-up reveals the precise number to be 21 - with not a normal person among them. It certainly makes for an entertaining and unpredictable evening! The action takes place in the home of Ernest and Daisy Stanley, in a small town in Ohio. They have been given the honour of hosting a dinner party where the guests include the famous writer, broadcaster and friend of the famous, Sheridan Whiteside, who is played by Eric Taylor. Although not possessing the Falstaffian physique one might have expected, his resonant voice and stage presence more than compensate.

### The Man Who Came to Dinner Loft Theatre

soon changes to despair as Whitehouse turns their ground floor into his living quarters and recording studio, and confines the Stanleys to their bedroom. As their house disintegrates around them, an array of increasingly bizarre house guests start to arrive, with an even more bizarre array of gifts. Meanwhile, Whitehouse's faithful secretary Maggie falls in love with a local journalist, a situation he is determined to rectify... The pivotal role of Sheridan Whitehouse is played by Eric Taylor. Leaving the house and is ordered by the local doctor to remain there, confined to a wheelchair, their initial excitement

## Open weekend at old windmill

CHESTERTON Windmill opens on September 25 and 26. More than 300 years of graffiti record work at the mill. Organisers need volunteers (tel: 612792).

He is arrogant, acerbic and down-right rude - everything one would expect of a theatre critic! There is good support throughout, especially from Julie Parsons as Maggie, although the performances I enjoyed most were those of Anne Wood as the tormented nurse, Miss Preen, Sue Moore as the salacious and upwardly-mobile actress Lorraine Sheldon, and Neil Monro-Davies as the wonderfully plummy English thespian, Beverly Carlton. Oh, and there's also an extremely familiar Hollywood character who appears in the final scene and attempts to resolve things in his own inimitable way. But if you want to find out who it is, you'll have to see the show! The Man Who Came to Dinner runs until Saturday, July 10. Tickets are available from the Box Office (telephone 0926-426341)



Phil Appleby Eric Taylor and Julie Parsons in the Loft's *The Man Who Came to Dinner*.



