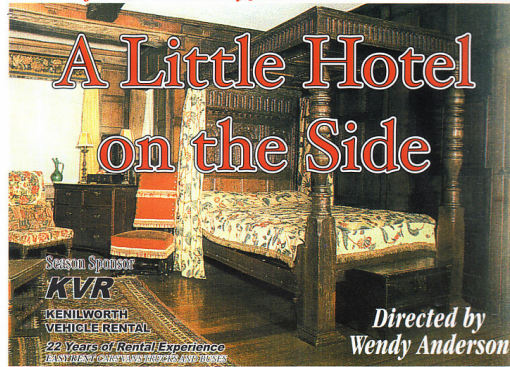


Theatre & Arts Centre
Talisman
 Barrow Road Kenilworth
 Monday 12th to Saturday 17th April
 at 7.30 p.m.

Georges Feydeau and Maurice Desvallières'
 hilarious farce, translated by John Mortimer



Box Office Telephone: (01926) 856548

www.talismantheatre.co.uk

Founded October, 1942 601st Production
 Monday 12th to Saturday 17th April, 2004, at 7.30 p.m.

Talisman Theatre Company
 presents

**A Little Hotel
 on the Side**

by Georges Feydeau and Maurice Desvallières
 translated by John Mortimer

Cast:
 Benoit Pinglet, a building contractor
 Angélique Pinglet, Pinglet's wife
 Marcelle Paillardin, their next-door neighbour
 Henri Paillardin, her husband, an architect
 Maxine, Paillardin's nephew
 Victoire, the Pinglet's maid
 Mathieu, the Pinglet's friend
 Boulot, the hotel porter
 Porters, of the Pinglet household
 Violette)
 Marguerite) Mathieu's daughters
 Paquerette)
 Persenchie)
 Madame Bastien, the hotel manageress
 Earnest, an actor
 Chervet, a schoolmaster
 Inspector Bourcard, of the Dept. of Public Morality
 Constables
 Lady
 Guests
 Mr. John Fenner
 Miss Anne Bennett
 Miss Vicki Hollings
 Mr. David Charlton
 Mr. Daniel Gough
 Miss Gillian Halford
 Mr. Geoffrey Brooke-Taylor
 Mr. Andrew Bayliss
 Mr. Ronald Austin
 Mr. John Francis
 Mr. David Graham
 Mr. André Jutel
 Mr. Geoffrey Mountford
 Miss Charly Cook
 Miss Sarah Dickson
 Miss Millic Salisbury
 Miss Gally Palmer
 Miss Susan Howell
 Mr. Geoffrey Mountford
 Mr. John Francis
 Mr. Ronald Austin
 Mr. John Francis
 Mr. André Jutel
 Mr. Geoffrey Mountford
 Miss Laura Power
 Miss Margaret Curtis
 Miss Hannah Dickson
 Mr. David Graham
 Miss Laura Power

The action of the play takes place in Paris in the early 1900s.

Act I The Pinglet's house. An afternoon in Spring.
 Act II The Free Trade Hotel. That night.
 Act III The Pinglet's house. The following morning.

There will be a fifteen minute interval between the Acts.

Production Team

Director Wendy Anderson
 Set Designer John Ellam
 Lighting Designer Ian Roberts

Sound Colin Thomas
 Wardrobe Wendy Anderson & Vicki Hollings
 Properties Brenda Bingham, Laura Power & Maggie Curtis

Stage Manager Dik Thacker
 Assistant Stage Manager Maureen Jones
 Stage Crew Jo Eisy, John Ellam, Steve Sanday, Rob Smith & Emily Woodward

Set constructed by Mark Bown, Maggie Curtis, John Ellam, Chris Nelson, Paul Reeve, Steve Roberts, Steve Sheepsey and Bob Teers.

The Talisman Theatre thanks the following for their help with this production:-

Pat Austin as dresser
 Juliet Jenkins for Miss Anne Bennett's costume
 Keith Murphy Opticians, Warwick Road, Kenilworth for the loan of spectacles
 The Clarendon House Hotel, High Street, Kenilworth for the venue for press photographs
 Antiques in a Barn, Kenilworth Road, Balsall Common, for the loan of antique furniture
 Barn Antiques, Long Marston, for the loan of antique furniture
 Loft Theatre, Leamington Spa, for the loan of furniture

This translation of *A Little Hotel on the Side* was first presented in the Olivier Theatre, at the National Theatre, on 9th August, 1984.

Production photographs by Zoë Jolley



Patrons are reminded that the hard-of-hearing are invited to switch their hearing aids to "T" in order to benefit from the theatre's induction loop.

THEATRE REVIEWS

Riotously funny side show

A LITTLE HOTEL ON THE SIDE - Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth, until Saturday. Running time: 3hrs approx.
 THIS is a rip-roaring French farce, riotously funny in many parts and boasting more twists and turns than the Monaco race track.

At close to three hours long it needs to be good to maintain your attention and does so with something to spare - a terrific night's entertainment.

Set in Paris in the early 1900s and written by playwrights Georges Feydeau and Maurice Desvallières, it has been translated into English.

Marcelle Paillardin (Vicki Hollings) agrees to an affair with her husband's best friend, Benoit Pinglet (John Fenner), despite admitting she finds him "unattractive".

But their erstwhile attempts at intimacy in a bawdy hotel are doomed to slapstick failure as a succession of close friends, not to mention spouses, turn up at the establishment.



D18898. 2
OOPS! Lovers (from front) Vicki Hollings and John Fenner are caught out by spouses Anne Bennett and David Charlton

Bayliss) is extremely funny, while the whole cast deserve a pat on the back for a superbly crafted, and well acted performance.
 Dean Valler

Anything but a quiet hotel

A Little Hotel on the Side - Talisman Theatre

Classic French farce was never a more apt description than of this tale of public morality masking a private undercurrent of lasciviousness.

Interrupted tristes, mistaken identities, characters on the oddball side of eccentric and even a screaming group of schoolgirl banishes - all the ingredients are here.

The cast throw themselves energetically into the fray. John Fenner and Vicki Hollings as the would-be lovers trying to get a moment's privacy both turn in excellent performances.
 Geoff Brooke-Taylor

Andy Bayliss and Susan Howell all provide moments of high comedy in a supporting cast that shows strength from top to bottom.

For modern audiences pacing is always going to be a problem. Even John Mortimer's crisp translation drags at times and, at a shade under three hours total running time, there's plenty in Wendy Anderson's atmospheric production that could be trimmed without disturbing the flow.

Like the hotel it features, the service may be slow in places, but the stay should certainly be memorable. A Little Hotel on the Side runs until Saturday.
 Matthew Salisbury

Plenty to titter about in naughty French farce

REVIEW

A Little Hotel on the Side, The Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth, until tomorrow (Saturday).

THE Talisman Theatre's *A Little Hotel on the Side* is a sort of Carry On up the Eiffel Tower.

The play is John Mortimer of *Rumpole* fame's translation of Feydeau's *L'Hotel du Libre Echange*, and has jokes about sex and marriage that would make Frankie Howerd titter.

Benoit Pinglet is desperate to get into bed with his best friend Henri Paillardin's wife, who is frustrated at the lack of attention he is giving her.

John Fenner is appropriately unctious and grotesque as Pinglet, whose thwarted lust is matched only by his unattractiveness.

He persuades Mme Paillardin, played with wounded pride and virtue by Vicki Holling, to have a rendez-vous at the seedy Free Trade Hotel.

David Charlton's portrayal of bemused architect Henri Paillardin is the most sympathetic in the play, of a man who got married mostly to avoid having sex.

He is commissioned to stay at the hotel to investigate the "knocking ghosts," which he puts down to



John Fenner and Vicki Hollings in *A Little Hotel on the Side*. Picture: Zoe Jelley

faulty central heating.

His prudish nephew Maxine, well played by Daniel Gough, has also been lured there by the Pinglets' maid Victoire, along with Mathieu, a friend of the Pinglets' with his four model daughters.

Add to this a porter who drills holes in walls to look at naked ladies, and a bungling Inspector

from the Department of Public Morality and you have a farce carried along by lust and fear of discovery.

With the breakneck pace, and a mix of verbal humour and pratfalls, it could all go horribly wrong; but somehow the cast negotiate the lines, the plot clicks into place, and everybody goes home happy. **Robert Collins 7/10**

