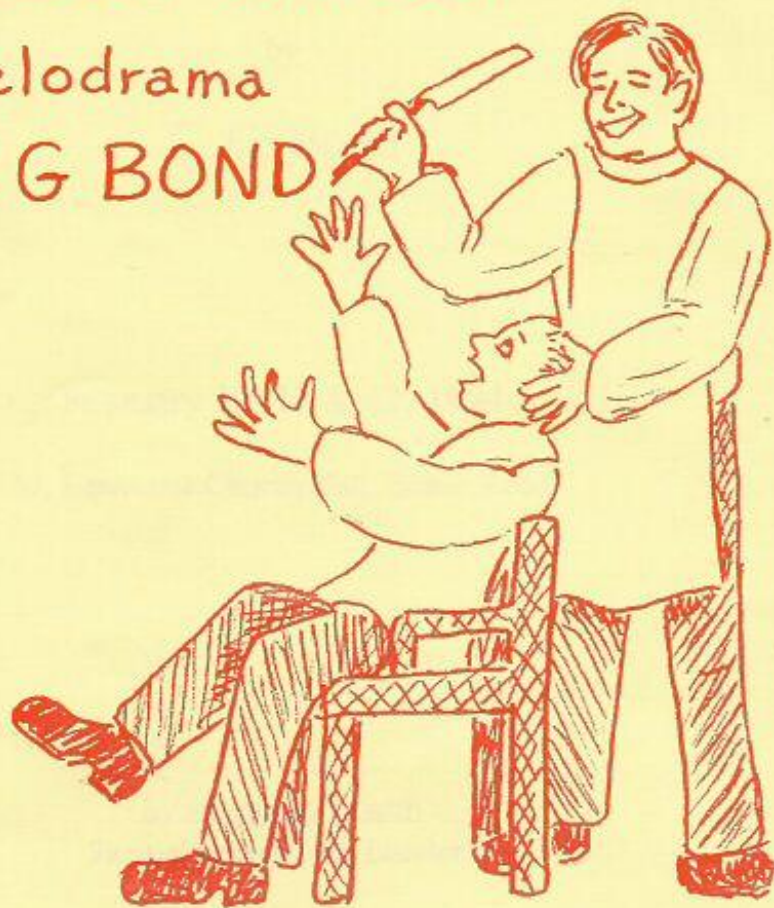


SWEENEY TODD

THE DEMON BARBER
OF FLEET STREET

A Melodrama
by C G BOND



St. Lawrence Players Theatre Club

proudly present

SWEENEY TODD
The Demon Barber of Fleet Street

A Melodrama

by

C. G. Bond

February 10, 11 & 12, 1994

St. Lawrence Church Hall, Bridle Road

by arrangement with
Samuel French Ltd, London.

SWEENEY TODD

There have been at least six versions of *Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street* since George Dibdin-Pitt's original melodrama was first performed at The Britannia in 1847. However, Pitt's play was not entirely original. It was based on a "penny dreadful", a newsheet containing sensational descriptions of depravity, violence and grotesque murder. Where a "penny dreadful" obtained its "facts" nobody knows, although there was a Jacobin barber in Paris during the French Revolution who achieved the difficult feat (under the circumstances) of shocking the public by committing a series of bizarre murders. However, there the similarity stops; no trick chair and no Mrs Lovett's meat pies.

Melodrama is always written to provide audiences with thrills, horror and shock. However, in recent years, the endless stream of horror films have explored every means of doing this, with far greater realism and impact that can ever be achieved on stage. The Theatre's answer to this was to present plays with the cast "hamming" the passion and sending up the romance. Snarling, leering villains and behind-the-hand asides merely resulted, in most cases, with superficial and crudely constructed plays about one-dimensional characters.

C. G. Bond's *Sweeney Todd* has characters that are large but real and situations that, given a mad world like are own, are believable. Having "borrowed" characters from amongst others, *The Count of Monte Christo*, *The Spanish Tragedy* and Shakespeare, Bond has achieved a melodrama far from the Theatre's original answer. In this version Todd has some grounds for his nefarious activities, in that his wife was abducted and raped by the same Judge who deports him for a crime he has not committed. He returns to England to avenge his family accompanied by Anthony, who has saved his life. Anthony falls in love with the Judge's ward while Todd sets up with Mrs Lovett and provides her with fillings for her pies. He proceeds with his vengeful plans, but the outcome is bitterly ironic.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The action of the play passes in the City of London, in the early nineteenth century.

ACT ONE

Scene 1	Fleet Street, at night.
Scene 2	Mrs Lovett's Pie Shop
Scene 3	St Dunstan's Market Place
Scene 4	Judge Turpin's House
Scene 5	The Barber Shop
Scene 6	The Judge's House
Scene 7	The Courtroom
Scene 8	The Barber Shop

ACT TWO

Scene 1	Fleet Street
Scene 2	The Barber Shop
Scene 3	Outside Jonas Fogg's Asylum
Scene 4	Mrs Lovett's Pie Shop
Scene 5	The Cellar
Scene 6	The Pie Shop
Scene 7	The Barber Shop
Scene 8	A Room In The Lunatic Asylum
Scene 9	The Judge's House
Scene 10.....	The Barber Shop
Scene 11.....	The Cellar

There will be an interval between the acts during which drinks and sausage rolls (the price of which is included in your ticket) will be available. Music will be provided by the ladies of Players after which tea & coffee will be served.
(Tickets should be purchased before the performance.)

SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED IN THE HALL

THE CAST

(in order of appearance)

Anthony Hope Mark Kimsey
Sweeney Todd Malcolm Bentote
A Beggar Woman Dorothy Bentote
Mrs Lovett Estelle Dunham
A Beadle Derek Allcock
Judge Turpin Brian Beeston
Tobias Ragg David Higgs
A Balding Man Stephen Kimsey
Alfredo Pirelli Tag
Johanna Emma Kimsey
Jonas Fogg Richard Holt
The Watch Arthur Plummer

THE CREW

Director	Stephen Kimsey
Stage Manager.....	Ric Dunham
Set Design & Construction.....	The Players
Lighting.....	Geoff Higgs
Costumes.....	Pat Harper Janet Ford
Properties	Barbara Higgs
Prompt.....	Beryl Orders
Pianist.....	Duncan Sykes
Box Office.....	Brian Howe
Front Of House.....	The Players
Programme Cover.....	Beryl Orders
Programme Notes	David Higgs

Programmes reproduced by

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258 Field End Rd, Eastcote

ST LAWRENCE PLAYERS THEATRE CLUB

In 1948, in the days of Father Godwin, Miss Angel organised a dramatic group for young people. With the success of this junior group, a senior group was formed and soon the two merged.

In these early days, subscription to *The Players* was 3d, there was four productions a year, including entertainment after the Summer Fete, and scenery was made from kitchen linoleum!

Founder members of *Players* remember Fr. Godwin helping them in any way he could. Not only did rehearsals sometimes last until four in the morning but stage hands, on one occasion, borrowed the carpet from Fr. Godwin's bedroom while he was sick in bed!

Father Hitchinson came to St. Lawrence in 1956 and with him came stricter rules. Membership of *Players* was open only to communicants. In one performance when a stage bird failed to appear, the actor was heard to mutter "where's the bloody robin?". As they left, Father Hitchinson apologised to every member of the audience. Had this occurred at the October '78 production of *A Voyage Round My Father* he would only have had to apologise to twelve people!

Since then some things have changed, others have remained unaltered (and probably always will). One of the most recent changes is this - the new style programme. We hope it has provided an insight to Mr Todd and told you a little about ourselves. How long it will last we can't say but at least on this occasion it filled the time waiting for the performance to begin!

Enjoy the show.

PAST PRODUCTIONS

1993	60 Glorious Years Darling, I'm Home! Pickwick	1980	Music Hall The Shop At Sly Corner Alice In Wonderland
1992	Lord Arthur Saville's Crime Table Manners Dick Whittington	1979	When We Are Married The Same Sky Story Of Cinderella
1991	Pride & Prejudice My Fair Lady Edwardian Supper Party	1978	A Voyage Round My Father Letter From The General Heartless Princess
1990	Stepping Out Murder At Deem House Hans Anderson	1977	Music Hall Man Alive Wizard Of Oz
1989	Music Hall Miscellany Brush With A Body Finian's Rainbow	1976	Triple Bill Off The Hook Where The Rainbow Ends
1988	Pack Of Lies Murder Mistaken Camelot	1975	Music Hall Orchard Walls Babes In The Wood
1987	Outside Edge The Railway Children	1974	Dear Octopus Midsummer Mink Where's Charlie
1986	Three Into One Will Go How The Other Half Loves Scrooge	1973	Quiet Wedding Ladies In Retirement Oliver!
1985	Olde Tyme Music Hall A Murder Is Announced Half A Sixpence	1972	House By The Lake Soiree Musicale Happiest Days Of Your Life
1984	Playing For Time A Monday Next Oliver!	1971	Salad Days Bride And The Bachelor Bonaventure
1983	Dear Octopus Viva Mexico	1970	Sinbad The Sailor A Murder Has Been Arranged Mystery At Blackwater
1982	Confusions Pygmalion Salad Days	1969	A Revue For You A Lady Mismaid Blythe Spirit
1981	Suddenly At Home Celebration Toad Of Toad Hall		Haul For The Shore

The next production will be on

May 13 & 14, 1994,

the title of which is unknown.