

NEXT REHEARSED READING.....

SPRING and PORT WINE

by

Bill Naughton

Directed by Diana Nesbitt

**Sunday 1st December, 1991
7.45pm in the Foyer**

Rehearsed Readings at Questors

Spring and Port Wine is one of three plays of Bill Naughton's that had a West End run, the other two being *All in Good Time* and *Alfie*.

Naughton was rather nudged into theatre by the success of certain radio and television plays, which brought demands from amateur companies for stage versions. Although he enjoys writing for the theatre he goes to plays but rarely, for he believes the best experience comes from working at rehearsals. Neither has he owned a television set nor had handy access to one and he has watched most of his own plays looking through a shop window. He belongs to no group, has never been fashionable, avoids all publicity and prefers not to talk about his work.

He started writing over a long period when he was a coal heaver and later a lorry driver. A journal, setting down real happenings and every day life generally, has been his favourite form of writing. From this he has gleaned material for such plays as *Alfie* and also for his short stories and novels.

He is married to an Austrian nurse and they now live in the Isle of Man, somewhere between Bolton, where he was brought up and the West of Ireland, where he was born.

There is one thing in *Spring and Port Wine* about which most people who have seen or read it appear to be in disagreement-and that is the character Rafe, the father. Reactions to him are swift and usually intense. They vary considerably and probably have to do with how one feels about fathers in general and one's own in particular. Some respect and admire him and others simply detest him and the impression got from so many differing viewpoints is that each member of the audience creates a Rafe very much from his or her own memory. What will you make of him?

Can father remain the unchallenged head of the house?

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Daisy Crompton.....Ffrangcon Whelan
 Florence Crompton.....Fiona Nicholson
 Betsy Jane.....Anne Sawbridge
 Wilfred Crompton.....Roland Bearne
 Harold Crompton.....Chris Waldock
 Hilda Crompton.....Lisa Day
 Rafe Crompton.....John Turner
 Arthur.....Paul Botly

Act One	The Living Room, kitchen and scullery of the Crompton home Early Friday Evening
Interval 15 minutes	
Act Two Scene 1	The same. Sunday, teatime.
Act Two Scene 2	The Same. Monday morning
Act Two Scene 3	The same. Monday evening

Port wine will be served during the interval

Thanks to David Wheatley and Kelvin West

For details of the next rehearsed reading see over.....