# Wilstead Players Productions 1971 – 2000

1971-72 Revue 71 1987-88 Pack of Lies

Rape of the Belt Absurd Person Singular

* 1. Revue 72 1988-89 Twice Weekly

For Pete’s Sake Three One Act Plays

* 1. Revue 73 1989-90 And a Nightingale Sang

Big Bad Mouse Outside Edge

* 1. Revue 74 1990-91 Larkrise

No Time for Fig Leaves Bedroom Farce

* 1. Revue 75 1991-92 Those were the Days

Boeing-Boeing The Sneeze

* 1. Revue 76 1992-93 Seasons Greetings

Not Now Darling The Diary of Anne Frank

Look Back in Anger

Old Time Music Hall

* 1. Revue 77 1993-94 Shakespeare Country

Spring and Port Wine Two for One (One Act plays)

* 1. Blithe Spirit 1994-95 How the Other Half Loves

Revue 79 Double Bill (One Act plays)

Gosforth’s Fete Groping for Words

* 1. Shadow in the Sun 1995-96 Nasty Neighbours

Old Time Music Hall Hat Trick (three One Act plays)

* 1. Sailor Beware 1996-97 Habeas Corpus

Old Time Music Hall A Nightmare of Coarse

* 1. The Crucible 1997-98 Breezeblock Park

Review of Revues Between Coarses (three One Acts)

Two of the Best One Act plays

* 1. See How They Run 1998-99 Absent Friends

Old Time Music Hall

* 1. Separate Tables 1999-2000 Rumours

Musical Memories Theft

* 1. Ten Times Table 2000-2001 Sand Castles

Three One Act plays 2 One Act Plays: No Why

Play the Game

* 1. Forty Years Ago 2001-02 Out of Focus

An Evening of Comedy Barbecues ‘R’ Murder

Relatively Speaking

2003-04 Billy Liar

* 1. Abigail’s Party

2004-05 Olde Tyme Music Hall

Visiting Hour

* 1. Whatever Happened to Coarse Acting

2006-07 A Music Hall

## Wilstead Players Pantomimes and Youth Productions

* 1. The Pied Piper 1993-94 Santa in Space
  2. Polly Flinders 1994-95 Santa and the Vikings

Dream Jobs (YT)

* 1. Ali Baba 1995-96 Our Day Out

The Wild Bunch (YT)

* 1. The Owl and the Pussycat 1996-97
  2. Cinderella 1997-98 Cinderella
  3. Toad of Toad Hall 1998-99 King Arthur
  4. The Wizard of Oz 1999-2000 After the Beanstalk (YT)
  5. Alice in Wonderland 2000-01 Snow White
  6. Babes in the Magic Wood 2001-02 Dick Whittington
  7. Aladdin & his Wonderful Lamp 2002-03 Aladdin
  8. Dick Whittington Teechers (YT)
  9. Jack and Jill 2003-04
  10. Sinbad & the Eye of Kar 2004-05 Sins a Song of Sixpence
  11. Goody Two Shoes

On Dark Night in Wilstead (YT) 2005-06 Sleeping Beauty

* 1. Babes in the Wood 2006-07 The Lion, the Witch & the

Wardrobe

* 1. Cinderella

Jaws (YT)

* 1. Where the Rainbow Ends

In Need of Care (YT)

* 1. The Enchanted Toyshop

Dracula (YT)

* 1. Puss in Boots

Trevor the Revue (YT)

* 1. Toad of Toad Hall
  2. Telling Wilde Tales (YT)

## Wilstead Players

## One Act play Productions

* 1. Spring and Port Wine Act1
  2. Gosforth’s Fete
  3. Table No. 7
  4. Knightsbridge

Between Mouthfuls

* 1. The Waiting Room

Sparrows

Mother Figure

1985-86 Womberang 1999-2000 Porch

* 1. Albert 2000-01 No Why

Mortmain Play the Game (YT)

What Happened to Friday

A Kind of Alaska

* 1. From Here to the Library 2001-02 The American Dream

The Trouble with Money

* 1. Absurd Person Singular Act1 2002-03 Billy Liar Act 2

Rest Easy Darling Teechers (YT)

In Need of Care (YT)

* 1. Words of Advice 2003-04 Patio
  2. Secrets 2004-05
  3. Interior Designs 2005-06 The Allotment
  4. Diary of Anne Frank Act 1 2006-07 Cato’s Daughter

(2nd in Beds Festival)

* 1. Zoo Story
  2. Hero

Dream Jobs (YT)

* 1. The Donahue Sisters

The Wild Bunch (YT)

* 1. The Actor’s Nightmare

1997-98 Effie’s Burning

* 1. Something Unspoken

Years in blue indicate the occasions when Wilstead

Players won the Bedfordshire Festival and went on

to represent Bedfordshire in the next round of the

ALL ENGLAND ONE ACT FESTIVAL.

The Wilstead Players were founded in 1971 when there was an influx of young families to the village, principally on the Whitworth Way estate. The guiding light from the start was Derek Smith who led by example in both acting and in directing productions, as well as lending his expertise on all aspects of stagecraft. Early productions were mainly revues and pantomimes, and we charged our audiences 30p!

We quickly gained experience and with it the desire to tackle more ambitious plays such as "The Crucible" by Arthur Miller and John Osborne’s “Look Back In Anger”, as well as farces and comedies.

The eighties and nineties saw us presenting many of Alan Ayckbourn’s plays, most notably “Relatively Speaking”, “Bedroom Farce” and “Season’s Greetings”.

In the last seven years we have become increasingly well-known in Am-Dram circles for our One-Act play Festival entries, entering and winning trophies from Cambridge, Welwyn, Letchworth and Luton as well as our local Bedfordshire Round One Festival held annually at nearby Haynes. In this Millennium year we have achieved no fewer than 9 awards from various festivals embracing all aspects of the production, including Best Direction, Best Actress and Best Backstage Team, with our play “Porch” by Jack Heifner. To cap it all, we achieved a “first” in being selected to perform in the National All-Winners’ Festival at Felixstowe against seven other groups, and were runners-up, missing top spot by just one mark.

We have also been keen to look to the future, and to this end we have run a series of Drama workshops on Saturday mornings. These are for youngsters from 8 to 16 and are led by a professional Drama teacher, for which we have been fortunate enough to receive some funding to help with the costs.

In the early 1980’s we introduced a Patrons’ Membership Scheme whereby, for an annual donation, villagers who were interested in the performing arts but who lacked the time or the confidence to take a more active role, could still support us. We greatly value their contribution and include them in social events as well as reserving seats for them at our productions.(Current price: £15)

At the time of writing we are in final rehearsals for the comedy “Deadlier Still” by Claire Jones. This a Murder Mystery play with a largely female cast. It will be performed later this month and audiences will be served a hot supper and be involved in guessing the culprit.

Peter Tanswell