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**Additional Members** Ian Brown, Julia Gibbs,  
Alex Greenslade, Charles Marriott, Joe Pepper, Anna Warnock

### Additional Contacts

**Theatre Club Organiser** Colin Warnock  
**Membership Secretary** Julia Ascott  
**Box Office Number** 07914 763422 or 0845 2255799

The Mitre Players is the dramatic society of the Old Boys of Trinity School (The Trinity Mid Whitgiftian Association). We are a very friendly and sociable society, presenting 4 or 5 productions a year in a wide variety of venues. Putting on a show not only requires people on stage, but also involves a great deal of hard work behind the scenes. We design, build and paint our own sets, find and make our own props, make many of our own costumes and use "in house" musicians whenever possible.

We would welcome any new members, so if you have any aspirations to act, sing, dance or play a musical instrument, we would like to hear from you. If you prefer to

remain out of the spotlight, building scenery, lighting, painting, making costumes, making props, doing 'Front of House' or simply would like to make tea for the team, we would still like to hear from you.

Most of our rehearsals take place at the TMWA Clubhouse in Sanderstead. The bar facilities at the clubhouse lend a social and convivial atmosphere to our rehearsals and all members are encouraged to use the facilities at Sanderstead as often as possible.

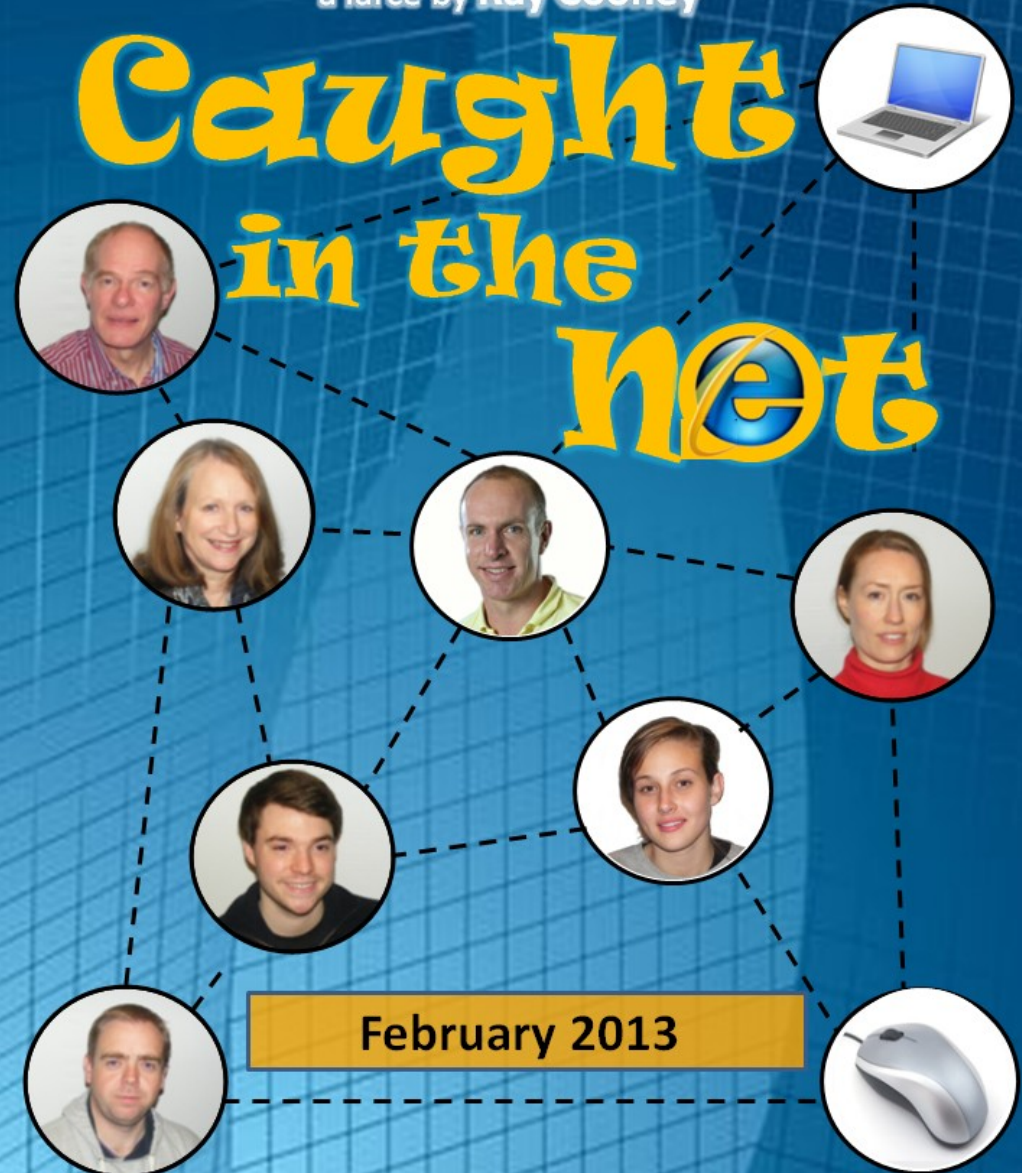
If you would like more information, please contact our Membership Secretary: Julia Ascott on: 020 8239 1010 or visit our website at [www.mitreplayers.org.uk](http://www.mitreplayers.org.uk)

# The Mitre Players

present

a farce by Ray Cooney

# Caught in the Net



**Subject:** Chairman's Blog  
**Date:** February 2013  
**From:** Alan Merricks  
**Job Title:** Chairman, The Mitre Players  
**To:** All "Bums on Seats"



And I mean that in a caring, loving way – thank you for parting with your ‘hard earned’ to come to Trinity to support our show tonight, **Caught in the Net**.

Should you be here for the first time, thank you even more; and may you be so entertained that you wish to see us again.

It has been a long, long time since we have presented a farce – so long ago that I can't remember the last time, although I know there was one! Tonight we have one which is out of the top drawer, written by the master - Ray Cooney, and perhaps the only internet-themed farce around.

I had the pleasure of being at the read through of this play, and I can say with confidence that never have I been present at such an event when the potential cast was falling off their seats (in one instance literally) with laughter.

So – we hope that you enjoy tonight's show and leave us with a happy heart. The plot, you will not be surprised to learn, in true farce tradition, is ludicrous – but in true farce tradition – fast moving and full of laughs.

At this juncture, may I put in a word for the cast and directorial team. We have done some shows over recent years which have been on the energetic side – but this one takes the cake as you will shortly see. Just watch it.

Welcome to Wayne Trice, a Mitre first timer and a man who we want to see again. Ian ‘oh my God this is the most difficult thing I have ever done’ Brown is our Director and a massive welcome back to him. He has been accompanied by the lovely Julie Cumbo in her first role as Assistant Director and her attempts to stop Ian laughing all the way through rehearsals appear to have been successful.

The Mitre Players have a milestone this year; in our second incarnation, we are 40 years old. Through the years, we have had the privilege of some true legends passing across our stages: Tyrrell, Warnock, Britten, Garnett, Bartle ... the names go on and on....

So please wish us luck for our 40<sup>th</sup> (who knows what the next 40 years hold in store for us) and thank you again for supporting.

Alan Merricks

**Rachel Walker**  
*Vicki Smith*



At the age of 15, I am the youngest member of tonight's cast and am really annoyed that I need to have a chaperone here at Trinity!

This is my first production with Mitre Players, although I have played the leading role of Robin Hood in my School's year 6 production.

I am currently working towards my Drama GCSE and am constantly having short performances. I also attend classes at The Helen O'Grady Academy, run by Ian Brown, which is how I have come to be involved in tonight's production.

Unlike some of the very much older members of the cast(!) I have always thought computers were fantastic, easy to use and good for keeping in contact.

In common with most of my generation, I'm pretty good at using computers and, I have to confess, I'm constantly on the internet, talking with people and making new friends via Twitter.

**Colin Warnock**  
*Dad*



40 years ago, I was in rehearsals for The Mitre Players' first production, **Charley's Aunt**, in which I played Lord Fancourt Babberley, a teenage undergraduate. Little did I, along with my Trinity school-friends, suspect that it would all still be happening in 2013. Well, the writing is on the wall: I am now cast as an 80-year-old, “fluctuating between senility, alertness and cussedness!”

In between, there have been some marvellous parts, such as The Scarlet Pimpernel, Cervantes, Abelard's dad, Sir Robert Morton, The Bellman, Drake & Bullfrog, Eldest Magician, Lord Brockhurst, The Mikado, Mary Sunshine, Frolo, Emcee, several panto dames... And occasionally I have been Musical Director and composer.

The Mitre Players has been a huge part of my life always. So here I am, forty years on, back where it all started, on the stage at Trinity School. And do you know what? I love it, I love it all!

**Neil O'Gorman**  
*Stanley Gardner*



Although I had acting experience elsewhere, I was first tempted onto the Mitre stage in 1993 - 20 years ago - for the first touring production to Dawlish. I performed in **Cabaret** there, as well as an impromptu strip-o-gram in the bar after one performance – I was young and thrusting back then! Hey-ho, here we are in 2013...

In most other productions of late, I usually have a thick and lustrous head of hair. Unfortunately, none of this actually belongs to me. LOL. With **Caught in the Net** I have seized my opportunity with both hands (for mine is a very large opportunity- LOL) to go 'au naturelle' (ROTFL) in order to make the world believe that Colin Warnock, rather like Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader, is, indeed, my father. LMAO.

In my next production, I look forward to 'wiggling up' once again so that the world can finally appreciate the uncanny resemblance I bear to the Timotei girl. LOL.'

**Wayne Trice**  
*John Smith*



I have been involved in Amateur Dramatics for over 20 years, acting in numerous plays, pantomimes and musicals - including playing the role of Stanley Gardner in **Run For Your Wife** (the prequel to **Caught in the Net**) 3 times for different companies. I even named one of my cats after him!

Other roles have ranged from a retired Army Major, a dancing Cowboy to a stuttering Solicitor and a cowardly lion. My most recent major musical role was as Billy Crocker in **Anything Goes**.

Although being new to the Mitre Players, I have worked with members of the company previously. Colin Warnock was Musical Director when I played Nicely Nicely in **Guys and Dolls**, and Ian Brown directed **The Happiest Days of**

**Your Life** in which I appeared.

Outside of theatre I am a professional Hypnotist and Magician (available for hire at reasonable rates) and am also much more comfortable with technology than John is. I am an Apple fan (that's the computer company not the fruit) and wonder just how long John could have kept up the deceit if his kids had had access to iPhones and the like!

# The Mitre Players

Present

## Caught in the Net

A Farce by Ray Cooney

Directed by Ian Brown

The Mitre Theatre,  
Trinity School, Croydon

21st to 23rd February 2013

An amateur production, by arrangement with Samuel French Ltd

Patrons are reminded that the taking of photographs and the use of recording equipment is not allowed.

You are also reminded to switch off all mobile phones. Thank you.

### The Mitre Players would like to thank:

The Governors and Headmaster of Trinity School for permission to perform **Caught in the Net** in The Mitre Theatre. Jeremy Covell, Robin McKinlay, Janet Dean, Mario Sammut, Phil Jupp, Dean Sammut, all the staff at Trinity and everyone else who has helped with this production

**Subject:** Ray Cooney  
**Date:** February 2013  
**From:** His Internet Biography  
**Job Title:** Master of Farce  
**To:** All interested Parties



Ray Cooney is today recognised theatrically and publicly as ‘The Master of Farce’ and a most worthy successor as an author to the great Ben Travers, and as a director/actor to Brian Rix. A most prolific writer of stage farces/comedies of high standards which have not only graced the stages of English speaking countries for more than 40 years, but have been staged worldwide and translated into more than 40 foreign languages including Chinese, Japanese and Russian. Television broadcasts in English and foreign languages have also been widespread. Thus has Ray Cooney earned an international reputation as the finest living writer of this form of theatre, and professional and amateur artists have benefited from his writing genius and influence as well as an actor/director. Charles Spencer, the doyen of theatre critics wrote of **Funny Money!**: ‘Ray Cooney is a national treasure’.

He began his theatrical career as a boy actor in **Song Of Norway** at the Palace Theatre, London and then served his apprenticeship playing with various repertory companies before graduating to Brian Rix’s company at the Whitehall theatre in 1956, appearing in **Dry Rot** and **Simple Spymen**. It was during this period he began his writing career that, so far, has produced 20 plays all presented, not only in London, but also worldwide. They include **My Giddy Aunt**, **Not Now Darling**, **There Goes the Bride** and **Move Over Mrs Markham** (all co-written with John Chapman), **One for the Pot**, **Wife Begins at Forty**, **Run For Your Wife!**, **Two Into One**, **Funny Money!**, **Caught in the Net** and **Tom, Dick & Harry**. All these plays were directed by Ray Cooney and performed in the West End, where Ray created and played the lead roles in most of them. **Tom, Dick & Harry** (co-written with his son Michael) had a very successful try-out at the Theatre Royal, Windsor in the Autumn of 2003. A West End production opened at the Duke of York’s Theatre in August 2005.

From 1970 as producer and director Ray has been responsible for over thirty West End productions, including **Lloyd George Knew My Father**, **Whose Life Is It Anyway?** which transferred to Broadway and received a Tony award, **They’re Playing Our Song**, **Duet for One**, **Bodies**, **Ipi Tombi**, **Elvis**, **Clouds**, **Chicago**, and **Children of a Lesser God** (Play of the year – SWET Award), **Dame of Sark**, **Jack the Ripper**, **The Mating Game**.

**Kara Johnston**  
**Mary Smith**



This is my second outing with the Mitre Players, having thoroughly enjoyed playing Elaine in last year’s production of **Calendar Girls**.

I have been acting from an early age (11 to be exact!) and since 1993, have regularly performed on stage in my home town of Edinburgh at the Festival Fringe. Productions include, Jane Austen’s **Emma**, **Dancing at Lughnasa**, **Medea** and **Brighton Beach Memoirs**. I have also toured Scotland with Splinters Productions, with their show **Home to Neverland – a Window on JM Barrie**.

After specialising in Film at Edinburgh College of Art, I produced and directed a number of short documentary and drama films, winning a number of awards, including a BAFTA for my role as producer of **Who’s My Favourite Girl?** and a BAFTA New Talent award for directing the documentary **Body and Soul**. I have worked as casting assistant on Peter Mullan’s **The Magdalene Sisters**, as well as being assistant producer of **Politics Now**, for STV.

I have also taught Documentary Techniques at Napier University and have devised and facilitated drama workshops, as well as practical filmmaking projects within Education. Before moving to London in 2012, I took a year out to Travel. China, Laos and Peru being my top 3 destinations.

My films can be viewed online at Vimeo: [www.vimeo.com/karajohnston](http://www.vimeo.com/karajohnston)

**Simon Long**  
**Gavin Smith**



I feel as though I have been with the Mitre Players all my life, although in reality my first appearance was back in 2010, playing Thomas Culpepper in **Catherine Howard**. I was beheaded in that one, so things could only get better!

Other Mitre appearances have been in the acclaimed **Our House**, **The Wedding Singer** and **The Queen Must Die**. Highlight to date has been the Mitres’ tour to the Minack Theatre in Cornwall last year, where I had a whale of a time in **Return to the Forbidden Planet**.

I’m still trying to get into drama school – hopefully third year lucky!! – and enjoy playing the guitar and going to the gym to get fit for the strenuous hours spent in front of the mirror in **Caught in the Net**. My mentor for many years has been our illustrious director, Ian Brown, who taught me at The Helen O’Grady Academy from the age of 5. I have now moved on to help to teach the younger classes, hopefully passing on my knowledge and experience to the ‘younger generation’!

## Julie Cumbo

Assistant Director



I've been involved in "am-dram" around Surrey for some years, acting mostly at Miller Centre, occasionally at Chipstead and for the Mitre Players.

Some of my favourite parts over the years have been in *Private Lives*, *Death and the Maiden* and *Our Country's Good*.

I'm not noted for my singing prowess(!) so my Mitre musical appearances have been mostly limited to chorus! e.g. *Gulliver's Travels*, but I have appeared in Mitres' plays *Daisy Pulls It Off* and *Catherine Howard*. I am an English teacher by profession and have also directed school plays - but never adults. (So no change here then!)

I was very excited to be invited to sit on Ian's right hand during these rehearsals.... Sometimes, I was sitting on his left hand which was almost as exciting.

As for my computer skills: In sad, lonely hours I've been known to Google myself. Apparently, I am the only "Julie Cumbo" in the UK.

## Ros Broyd

Mary Smith



Born a "Geordie", my misspent youth was largely spent hanging around stage doors and "doing drama" whenever possible.

I trained to be a teacher at Homerton College Cambridge and spent many years directing school productions, making costumes...and teaching (currently at Croydon High), which left little time for trading the boards. Although my lovely husband and my sons attended Trinity School, and my daughter has performed here, this is only my second outing with the Mitres, the first being as a chorus member in *Ali Baba*, horrifyingly appearing in harem pants! I am hoping for a little more decorum in this production.

According to family members, playing the part of permanently confused Mary will require little acting ability! No chance of internet interference from this

mother - computer gadgetry usually throws a techy fit as she approaches the keyboard. A tenuous connection with the "Net" is that my aforementioned lovely husband, Tim, appears with Colin Warnock in the 1972 Trinity School badminton team photograph...

For many years the creation of a permanent theatre of comedy had been his cherished dream and in 1982 he put his full energies into this project. His main concept was to create a theatre company with an identifiable policy of comedy, so, with some thirty like-minded leading actors, writers and directors as a nucleus, the Theatre of Comedy was formed. A significant step was taken in 1983 with the leasing of the Shaftesbury Theatre and in 1984 the freehold of the theatre was purchased.

The Ambassadors Theatre was also leased, where more experimental work could be staged. At the Shaftesbury, Ray produced and directed *Run for your Wife* (which subsequently played a record-breaking run in the West End just short of 9 years), *See How They Run*, *Pygmalion* starring Peter O'Toole and John Thaw, *Two into One* and the award winning *Out of Order*, and amongst many interesting productions at the Ambassadors Theatre, *Loot* successfully transferred to The Lyric. During this period *Passion Play* was presented at Wyndhams Theatre and the multi-award winning *When We Are Married* at the Whitehall Theatre. In all Ray was responsible for over forty productions for the Theatre of Comedy, whilst also developing the radio, film and television interests of the company.

In 2005 Ray was awarded the OBE in recognition of his services to drama.

Released last week, Ray has co-directed the film version of *Run for your Wife* which features over 80 celebrities, all of whom have donated their fees to charity.

## Situation Vacant

**Would you like to help with Publicity?**

**Can you spare some time?**

Naturally we would like to see full houses at all our performances and fortunately that is often the case. However, all productions benefit from as much publicity as possible, particularly plays and musicals that aren't too well known. We are looking for someone who can spare a bit of time now and again in the lead up to a production to help with some local publicity.

The job would include organising the delivery of handbills to local libraries, railway stations, shops etc, as well as arranging reciprocal publicity with other local dramatic societies etc. The committee will be on hand to bounce ideas off.

The job is not onerous and can be fitted in to suit you. If you feel you can help, please speak to Julia Gibbs tonight or call her on 020 8686 2693. Thank you!

# The Mitre Players

## A Slice of



TMWA Clubhouse, Lime Meadow Avenue  
week ending Friday 19th July 2013

Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish  
20th to 24th August 2013

Tickets from 07914 763422  
[tickets@mitreplayers.org.uk](mailto:tickets@mitreplayers.org.uk)  
[www.mitreplayers.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.mitreplayers.ticketsource.co.uk)

### Tickets for all our shows are available from:

Cash/Cheques: 07914 763422 or [tickets@mitreplayers.org.uk](mailto:tickets@mitreplayers.org.uk)  
Credit/Debit Cards (with booking fee): [www.mitreplayers.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.mitreplayers.ticketsource.co.uk)  
Please log on to our website: [www.mitreplayers.org.uk](http://www.mitreplayers.org.uk) for more details.

**Ian Brown**  
Director



**Caught in the Net** marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my first Mitre performance: **Sir Merryman** in January 1983, when I was a member of the huge ensemble. It seems like only yesterday!

My first major role was Lord Brockhurst in the junior production of **The Boyfriend** in 1984 and it was the same show that I first directed for Mitres in 1999. Among other Mitre highs, I was responsible for uttering the immortal Mitre line "It's 10.30" in **Haggis in Wonderland**, and I played the euphonium onstage in 2002's **Aladdin**. My most recent Mitre roles are Man 3 in last year's **Is There Life after High School?** and Frances Dereham in **Catherine Howard**. Oh, and Bashim – twice, in **Ali Baba** and **Mitre Mincepie**.

I'm very pleased to have two of my HOG pupils (Rachel and Simon) in this play - I first taught Simon when he was just 5. Despite being a generally calm person, I get very frustrated with computers and shout at them when they don't do what they're meant to do.

My next role? (I cannot believe it has taken me so long to appear in this): I shall be giving my Uncle Max in **The Sound of Music** for Oxted Operatic in April. Woo!

**Our Christmas Production**  
Tuesday 10th - Friday 13th December 2013  
TMWA Clubhouse, Lime Meadow Avenue, Sanderstead

**The Flint Street Nativity**  
By Tim Firth

**DIRECTED BY**  
John Harries-Rees

**PRESENTATION EVE**  
Weds 12th June

**AUDITIONS**  
Weds 26th June  
at 7.30

**TMWA Clubhouse**  
Sanderstead

**Subject:** Behind the Scenes  
**Date:** February 2013  
**From:** Alan Bishop and Anna Warnock  
**Job Title:** Programme Coordinators  
**To:** Everyone watching



**Subject:** Director's Notes  
**Date:** February 2013  
**From:** Ian "Woo" Brown  
**Job Title:** Director and Committee Member  
**To:** The Audience



**Director**  
Ian Brown

**Assistant Director**  
Julie Cumbo

**Stage Management and  
Construction Co-ordinator**  
Alan Collins

**Costume Co-ordinator**  
Anna Warnock

**Lighting Designer**  
Alan Bishop

**Sound**  
James McLeod

**Properties**  
Julia Gibbs

**Decor and Furniture**  
DI Jones

**Scenic Artist**  
Jill Wilson

**Backstage Assistants  
and Technical Crew**  
Liz Dolman, Andy Hind,  
Derek Lee, Val Lee,  
Julian Parsons, Andy Thompson,

**Production Manager**  
Julia Gibbs

**Production Assistant**  
Mary Holton

**Handbill and Programme**  
Alan Bishop, Anna Warnock

**Press Officer**  
Lesley Bates

**Photography**  
Charles Marriott

**Box Office Manager**  
Gill Frost

**Front of House and Refreshments**  
Alex Greenslade and Friends of  
The Mitre Players

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Please see our website [www.mitreplayers.org.uk](http://www.mitreplayers.org.uk) for details on how to become a Patron for 2013

At a committee meeting several months ago, we were discussing future shows and we realised that the Mitres had never really done a farce or at least not for many years. I suddenly found myself being asked to direct one, with the first choice being **No Sex Please We're British**. After a bit of research however, the consensus was that this was a bit too seventies and out of date and it was suggested that I should find something more modern. I simply typed the name "Ray Cooney" into Google and immediately spotted a title that I didn't recognise – **Caught In The Net**. I read the synopsis, discovering that this play, the sequel to **Run For Your Wife**, involved characters meeting on the internet and straight away thought that this could be it. I ordered a copy and took it on holiday where I found myself falling off my sunbed with laughter and knew that this was the play I wanted to do.

The next question was: could we do this farce? In thirty years of amateur drama, it is I think the trickiest play I have ever worked on. In typical farce tradition, the characters are constantly running in and out of doors, answering telephones and doorbells, hiding in cupboards and diving over the furniture. This play however has an added complication—the same set represents two different houses, with the action frequently taking place in both houses at the same time. The actors often have to completely ignore other people on stage with them as they are not in the same place.

Fortunately, I found a talented and dedicated cast who were (more or less) willing to start rehearsals several weeks earlier than usual, and learn their lines early on; an excellent assistant director, Julie Cumbo who has watched what's actually happening on stage when my head has been buried in the script, trying to work out if everyone's running in the right direction (or vice versa) and a crew (the two Alans) who got started very early on, building us door frames to run in and out of in order to get the timing right. I would like to say a big thank you to these people and all the other unsung heroes who have worked so hard to bring **Caught In The Net** to the stage.

It has been a huge amount of work bringing this production to the stage, but rehearsals have been filled with laughter and I really hope that the audiences find it as funny as I did on holiday last summer.

By a strange coincidence, the film of **Run For Your Wife** is in cinemas right now. If you've already seen it, tonight is your chance to find out what happened 18 years later. If you haven't, why not go and see what happened 18 years earlier?

# Caught in the Net

The action of the play takes place simultaneously in the Wimbledon home of John and Mary Smith and, simultaneously, in the Streatham home of John and Barbara Smith.

It is a warm late summer afternoon in the early 2000s

There will a 20 minute interval between Act One and Act Two.

**Simon Long**   **Rachel Walker**   **Kara Johnston**   **Colin Warnock**   **Wayne Trice**   **Neil O’Gorman**   **Ros Broyd**  
*Gavin Smith*   *Vicki Smith*   *Barbara Smith*   *Dad*   *John Smith*   *Stanley Gardner*   *Mary Smith*

