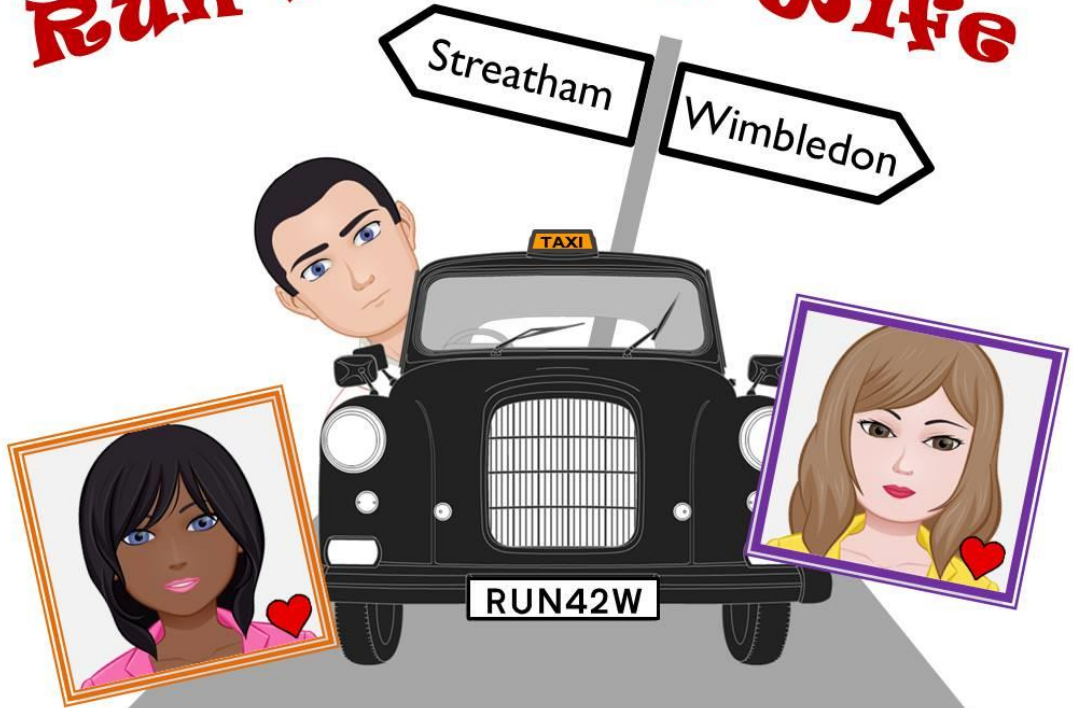


presents the Streatham premiere of

by Ray Cooney

# Run For Your Wife



*"I'm delighted that Run For Your Wife is being performed in Streatham...I love it!" Ray Cooney*

## Souvenir Programme

10, 11 & 12 November 2016 - Streatham Tate Library

[www.streathamtheatre.org.uk](http://www.streathamtheatre.org.uk)

# Welcome

Welcome to the rescheduled Streatham premiere of Ray Cooney's *Run for Your Wife*. We had originally planned to stage this production for this year's Streatham Festival in July but unfortunately had to postpone. Rescheduling has meant some changes to the team due to non-availability but continuity with the original production has been retained.

As Ray tells us below, he is a local lad, and we appreciate his personal support. From a childhood in 'sarf' London, Ray has gone on to become the '*King of Farce*'. As STC aims to help local people develop their interests, talents and experience in theatre, we hope to see other rays of talent shine out from Streatham into the wider theatre world.

Please bear in mind that the show represents the attitudes of 35 years ago and not those of today. I hope you enjoy it, and that you continue to support STC into the future. We look forward to seeing you at some of our future events.

David Harvey

## A Message from Ray Cooney

*I'm delighted that Run for Your Wife is being performed in Streatham. Not only because half the play is set in Streatham but because I spent so much of my childhood there. My Auntie Rosie lived in Streatham and we saw her once a week. My Auntie Ivy lived in Streatham and we saw her once a week. My Auntie Phyllis lived in Streatham and we saw her once a week. I lived in Clapham with my Mum and Dad and we'd take the dog for a walk on Streatham Common. I was never out of Streatham! I love it.*

*I'm so looking forward to seeing Streatham Theatre Company's production of Run for Your Wife. Actually, the Japanese production is also playing, but Streatham's easier to get to!"*

Ray

## Director's Notes

I have chuckled my way through rehearsals of this well-written and mirth-making play. *Run for Your Wife* is a classic farce; a group of characters experience a catalogue of improbable mix-ups, unlikely events and misunderstandings. This is serious stuff; the characters are not laughing; which is why, in the true tradition of farce, we as an audience can and do.

When circumstances dictated that David Harvey could not continue as original show director, I was happy to step in. My thanks go to the original cast for welcoming me and new cast members and for their continued enthusiasm and resilience throughout the extended rehearsal period. Equal thanks go to Alan, William and Richard, who all stepped in (and up) to the challenges of the show for our postponed run. I am sure the cast join me in thanking our wonderful technical team, who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes. Finally, my personal thanks to Ian Freeman, whose in-depth knowledge of the script and professional insights were invaluable.

Set in 1982, *Run for Your Wife* is a play of its time. Watching it now, audiences may be offended by its stereotypical depiction of gay men. My personal consolation is that this snap shot of 1982 London serves to remind me how far UK society has come in respecting and supporting the rights of the LGBT community. I am proud to say that the Streatham I live in now is a truly different world.

Helen Mason

*This amateur production is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French Ltd. Photography and the video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever are strictly prohibited by the rights owner.*

*This is a work of fiction, and the events and characters depicted are fictitious. Any similarity to actual persons (living or dead), organisations, locations and telephone numbers is purely coincidental. The views expressed by the characters are not those held by the Company or STC.*

*No taxi drivers, their wives, little old ladies or handbags were harmed during this production.*

# RUN FOR YOUR WIFE by Ray Cooney

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

**Prologue** - the present  
**Act 1**  
One sunny morning, July 1982  
*Interval of 15 minutes*  
**Act 2**  
Immediately following

## THE CAST

### The Prologue

*John Smith*..... *Alan Scott*  
*Sir Stanley Gardner*..... *Nigel Haynes*  
*Gardner's PA* ..... *Ian Freeman*

### The Play

*Mary Smith* ..... *Sally Cohen*  
*Barbara Smith*..... *Hansa Bharadia*  
*John Smith*..... *Alan Scott*  
*Detective Sergeant Troughton*..... *Enda Lambe*  
*Stanley Gardner*..... *Nigel Haynes*  
*Detective Sergeant Porterhouse*..... *William Barklam*  
*Bobby Franklyn*..... *Richard Trout*

## THE PRODUCTION TEAM

*Prologue written by*..... *Nigel Haynes*  
*Director* ..... *Helen Mason*  
*Assistant Director*..... *Ian Freeman*  
*Technical Director*..... *David Harvey*  
*Stage Management* ..... *Eshani Weeresinghe*  
*Sound and Lighting Operator* ..... *Hild Liptrott*  
*Costumes*..... *Liz Burton*  
*Set Build* ..... *David Hicks, Paul Lunnon, Eshani Weeresinghe*  
..... *and Members of the Company*  
*Graphic Design* ..... *David Harvey*

## THANKS

Ray Cooney, Streatham Tate Library, Streatham Festival, Vinters Studios, Beacon Bingo, Network Theatre, Southside Players, Mike Jennett, Andrew Thompson, Luke Scott, Ian Cuthbert, Alexander Ross and his grandmother, our front of house team, and of course you our valued audience.

Thanks also go to The Copyshop, 45 Knights Hill, West Norwood SE27 0HS, (thecopyshoplondon.co.uk) for kindly printing posters, flyers and programmes.

*The Copyshop is part of Southside Rehabilitation Ltd, a registered charity providing employment training and support for people with mental health problems through a variety of social enterprises.*

## Coming Soon

We run events on the second Tuesday of every month. In addition to this regular slot, we have events and activities at other times. Our events are usually open to all, and cover a wide range of activities including play readings, workshops and social events. Most events are free to members and only £3 for non-members. Do come along, and if you have a suggestion for an event please let us know.

- 15 November: *Pantomime readings*  
13 December: *Streatham's Got Talent and social*  
10 January 2017: *Stand-up Comedy Masterclass with Jo Ostrowska*  
February: *Pantomime performances*  
21 February: *Movement Improvement with Mark Londesborough*  
14 March: *Stanislavski Method Acting with Mhairi Grealis*

So far we have staged eleven productions since our launch in April 2013, and are constantly working on our programme of future productions. These productions are performed by our members in local venues for local audiences. In addition, we take some shows 'on tour' to showcase Streatham's talent elsewhere. If you're interested in getting involved in any capacity, or have any suggestions or proposals for a future show, do get in touch.

## Membership

Membership is open to everyone (aged 18 or over), with a connection to Streatham, and whatever their level of experience in theatre or related activities - amateur, professional or none.

Annual subscriptions are only £10 - ask one of our team for an application form or contact us as below. Members can buy their tickets at concession prices, and attend most workshops for free. Your subscription will help us keep putting theatre into Streatham.

## Contact

You'll find more on our website [www.streathamtheatre.org.uk](http://www.streathamtheatre.org.uk) where you can join our mailing list and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Streetlife. Email [info@streathamtheatre.org.uk](mailto:info@streathamtheatre.org.uk) or call 020 3432 5710.

*Patrons: Lord Michael Grade (Baron Grade of Yarmouth) and David Harewood*

[www.streathamtheatre.org.uk](http://www.streathamtheatre.org.uk)