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# "BESIDE THE SEASIDE"

by Leslie Sands  
produced by Gina Hutchinson

## CREDITS

Lighting & Effects  
Martin Clare,  
David Davies

Ticket Manager  
Brian Capper

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Design & Artwork  
Martin Clare

Props  
Gina Hutchinson,  
Carol Davies

Prompt  
Olwen Ferrans

Bar Tender  
Bill Craig

Raffle & Refreshments  
Elizabeth Craig

Stage Building  
Ron Hutchinson, John Wagner,  
Chris Matthews, Lindsay Park, John Brooks

Set Dressing  
Ron Hutchinson, Gina Hutchinson

With Thanks To...  
[www.ticketprint.co.uk](http://www.ticketprint.co.uk)

If you're interested in joining the society in any capacity, please contact us:

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

18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> November 2009  
Dunham Massey Village Hall



The Dunham Thespians

a Dunham Thespians Production



# "BESIDE THE SEASIDE"

The first play in Leslie Sands' trilogy of seaside capers at the Seaview Guest House. The tyrannical landlady Mrs Austin terrorises her lodgers with her bread and butter pudding; Florrie gets flustered; newlyweds Mr and Mrs Pepper realise that marriage is no honeymoon; and Wilf and Ethel Pearson try to prevent their daughter Sally from running off with local 'theatrical' trickster Tony Brett. Chaos abounds in this stormy seaside resort.

## CAST

(in order of appearance)

<b>Mrs Austin</b>	.....	<i>Sandra Capper</i>
<b>Pat Marlow</b>	.....	<i>Stefanie Knight</i>
<b>Florrie</b>	.....	<i>Louise Burgess</i>
<b>Tony Brett</b>	.....	<i>Jon Barton</i>
<b>Ethel Pearson</b>	.....	<i>Joan Jones</i>
<b>Wilf Pearson</b>	.....	<i>Chris Matthews</i>
<b>Sally</b>	.....	<i>Philippa Cameron</i>
<b>Mr. Pepper</b>	.....	<i>John Wagner</i>
<b>Mrs. Pepper</b>	.....	<i>Rachael Gallagher</i>

The action takes place in the sitting room of the Seaview Guesthouse, a seaside boarding house in the early 1950's

**Act I**  
Saturday

**Act II**  
Scene 1 - Wednesday  
Scene 2 - Friday

**Act III**  
Saturday

- The interval will take place at the end of Act I
- Raffle tickets will be on sale before the play and during the interval. There's always a healthy selection of prizes, so make sure you don't miss out on tickets. The raffle will be drawn at the end of Act II.
- A bar will be available in the foyer selling wine and lager, along with a small selection of sweets and chocolate.
- Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served during the interval free of charge.

## Producer's Notes

Once again we turn back the clock. We take a peek into the 'lounge' of a typical seaside boarding house shortly after the war, when rationing was still in force, money was short, and a week's break at the seaside was a much-looked-forward-to treat. There were, however, pitfalls for the unwary. Boarding house landladies were notorious for their strict regimes and woe betide those who dared to transgress! The result is good Lancashire humour with a dash of pathos.

We give a warm welcome to two new members, Joan Jones and Louise Burgess who, together with Chris Matthews, recently joined our happy band of players. Chris of course made his debut in the last play 'Summer End' at very short notice, for which we were extremely grateful.

I am sure you will enjoy our latest offering, so: relax, sit back and enjoy!

***Gina Hutchinson***

## About The Writer

Leslie Sands was born in Bradford, Yorkshire on 19<sup>th</sup> May 1921, and made his stage debut at the age of just seven, performing comic songs with his father. He made his first professional appearance at the Lyceum Theatre in Sheffield in a play called 'Do You Remember' in 1941.

Despite being a versatile actor, Sands did become somewhat typecast as policemen, his most famous role being Detective Superintendent Miller in the hit 60's TV series 'Z Cars' (for which Sands himself wrote several episodes). He subsequently appeared in an episode of 'Detective', and followed this up by playing the title role in the detective series 'Cluff'. Aside from his lead roles, he made many cameo appearances in popular television, including 'The Saint' and 'The Avengers', and more recently 'Blackadder', 'The Two Ronnies' and 'Boon'. Sands passed away on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2001.

His play 'Beside The Seaside' is the first in a trilogy of seaside capers, and was one of the first productions performed by St James United Church Drama Group in Canada (1959), later to become the United Players of Vancouver Theatre Company.