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by Eric Chappell
produced/directed by Brian Capper

22nd - 25th April 2009

Dunham Massey Village Hall



a Dunham Thespians production

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Emily Baines, a resident of the Summer End retirement home, is convinced that her recently deceased former room-mate Bella was actually murdered for her money by Sally, one of the carers, and Vernon Watts, the home's resident ageing sex symbol. Despite apparently having evidence to support her suspicions, her theory is initially dismissed by her new room-mate, May Brewer. However, when the evidence mysteriously disappears, and Bella's sapphire ring is discovered amongst her own possessions, the finger of suspicion is soon pointing at Emily herself. Events take a more sinister turn when May is attacked, and their early reservations must turn to mutual trust, dependency, and ultimately friendship, as they face suspicion and adversity together. But will it be soon enough to solve the mystery...?

AST

Emily Baines **Sandra Capper**
May Brewer..... **Gina Hutchinson**
Sally **Laura Kinsella**
Mrs. Lang **Stefanie Knight**
Alan Baines **John Wagner**

The action takes place in the room shared by Emily Baines and May Brewer in the Summer End retirement home.
Set in the present day.

Act I

Scene 1 - A Sunday evening in late November
Scene 2 - Early evening a few days before Christmas

Act II

Two hours later

- The raffle will be drawn at the end of Act I, Scene I.
- Raffle tickets will be on sale before the play. There's always a healthy selection of prizes, so make sure you don't miss out on tickets.
- The interval will take place at the end of Act I, Scene 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

For the last twenty years, my wife and I have been attending the theatre festival in Pitlochry, during which time we have seen in excess of a hundred plays performed by professionals. One of our favourite plays was "A Month of Sundays" by Bob Larbey (who also wrote "The Likely Lads" for television.) This play, about two old men in a nursing home, was funny, serious and quite emotional at times. The two old men were played by Jimmy Logan and Bob Grant. Although it is a number of years since we saw it, it has always stuck in our minds.

"Summer End" by Eric Chappell (author of the popular television series "Rising Damp"), also features a nursing home, but this time about two old ladies. It is extremely funny, very poignant at times, and also includes an attempted murder. 'Summer End' is in fact the name of the nursing home where the two ladies share a room.

Whilst there are many people I would like to thank for their support and assistance, I must particularly thank my wife Sandra, and Gina Hutchinson, who play the two old ladies. It took considerable courage for Sandra to do this play, as her Mother died in a nursing home on Boxing Day last year. However, she saw the potential of the play, and the opportunity to do something different at Dunham. In Gina's case, she had to be persuaded to come out of semi- retirement to play opposite Sandra.

I'm sure everyone will enjoy this lovely play and appreciate the humour and all the other emotions and relationships the script examines. Thank you for supporting us again. Please tell us your views.

Brian Capper