

SPECIAL THANKS

New England Gardens

The Foulkes Family

The Friends of Monomoy Theatre wish to thank The Max and Victoria Dreyfus, Inc for their continued support of the Monomoy Theatre. This year their grant will be designated for students' stipends.



Refreshments are available
in the patio area.

COMING SOON

Little Shop of Horrors July 26-28 & July 30-August 4

As You Like It August 7-11

Lost in Yonkers August 14-18

You Can't Take it With You August 21-25

Monomoy Theatre
776 Main Street, Chatham, Massachusetts

Present Laughter

By Noel Coward
Directed by Max Williams



July 17-21, 2018

Presented through special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Recording and photography are strictly forbidden in the theatre.

CAST

Garry Essendine	Reid Williams
Joanna Lyppiatt	Katherine Wolf
Liz Essendine	Erin Cessna
Monica Reed	Rachel Rival
Morris Dixon	Matthew Werner
Roland Maule	Pedro Fontes
Daphne Stillington	Laura Axelrod
Henry Lyppiatt	Tristan Rewald
Fred	Christopher Bailey
Miss Erikson	Emily Qualmann
Lady Saltburn	Olivia Fenton

PRODUCTION STAFF

Scenic Designer	Braden Hooter
Costume Designer	Grace Bunt
Lighting Designer	Ethan Jones
Sound Designer	Merle Dewitt III
Production Stage Manager	Bethany Rachel Weed

TIME

Early Summer, 1939

SETTING

Garry Essendine's flat, London, U.K.

ACT I: *Morning*

ACT II, Scene One: *Evening. Three days later.*

Intermission

ACT II, Scene Two: *The next morning.*

ACT III: *Evening. A week later.*

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Noel Coward gives himself credit as the inspiration for Garry Essendine, the egotistical leading man around whom the story of *Present Laughter* revolves, or you might even say gallops. Having been turned down by the British government when volunteering to enlist during WWII, Coward was told he would be more valuable staying home and entertaining the troops. "Go and sing to them when the guns are firing – that's your job!" Churchill told him. He did just that, and this rollicking comedy is just one of his contributions to the war effort. It's as joyful and entreaty today as when he wrote it. He took the title from the closing lyrics of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*: "What is love/ 'Tis not hereafter/ Present mirth hath present laughter." The play we share tonight has much in common with Shakespeare's play – an abundance of wit; a comic convention that borders on farce; an infatuation for youth that resolves into mature companionship. As ever, Coward greets us and salutes us with a wink and a smile.

- Max Williams