

## Art of the matter



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With Becki Dixon

\* **The Shinfield Players** turn their hand to satirical humour when producer Gordon Bird presents Alan Ayckbourn's *Absurd Person Singular*.

This talented group of amateur thespians tackle this amusing play, which follows the exploits of three couples over three different Christmas Eves, by the master of satire.

The comedy of errors follows the antics of up-and-coming entrepreneurial Hopcrofts, who start hob-nobbing with people they think may progress their business opportunities.

So they invite the bank manager and his wife and a successful local architect and his wife to drinks on Christmas Eve.

With the house looking ship-shape thanks to the house proud Jane and everything organised down to the very last minute by Sidney, surely nothing can go wrong. Or can it?

One year later and the Jacksons reciprocate their associates' invitation and they all gather round at their flat.

Eva, though, is thoroughly depressed and Geoffrey, the architect, has been working away from home on projects.

They have become so wrapped up in their lives that they have forgotten that at any minute their business friends are expected.

An over-excited dog, an electrocuted bank manager and a sodden Sidney make for an interesting Christmas Eve that neither Eva or Geoffrey will forget.

And finally, a drunken Marion is bed bound and her children have been sent away, leaving Ronald for a peaceful season of goodwill. That is, until the Hopcrofts invite themselves round for a quick drink.

Producer Gordon Bird said: "I chose the play because I'm a big fan of Ayckbourn and I saw the piece as quite a challenge.

"It's challenging for the actors because its set over two years and challenging for the backstage crew because the set is of three different kitchens.

"Ayckbourn is a guaranteed crowd puller because he is one of Britain's best known modern playwrights."

This hilarious production has plenty of laughs and opens at the Shinfield Players Theatre in Whitley Wood Lane on March 6 and runs until March 9.

For tickets contact the box office on 0118 966 2934.