

## A Month of Sundays – Bob Larbey

Date 28 Jan – 4 Feb 2023

Directed by Richard Humphry

Bob Larbey was one of the most prolific and best-loved writers of TV situation comedies in the second half of the twentieth century. Single-handedly he was responsible for making Judi Dench, previously seen as a serious stage actress, a screen comedy icon in the series *A Fine Romance* and then teamed up with his old school friend, John Esmonde, to produce amongst others *The Good Life*, *Ever Decreasing Circles* and *As Time Goes By* (again with Judi Dench).

*A Month of Sundays* was his first stage play which won the 1986 Evening Standard Best Comedy of the Year. Cooper is that rarest of creatures - a willing occupant of a home for the elderly, having, he said, no wish to be a burden on his daughter, Julia, son-in-law, Peter, or grandson, Gary. Given his enjoyment of Julia and Peter's visits and theirs of being there, one has to wonder about Cooper's true motives for his voluntary residence there. His relationship with staff and other "inmates" however is a different matter. Even the sharp-tongued, give-as-good-as-she-gets cleaner, Mrs Baker is found to have swapped Cooper's room with Mrs Malik on whose rota it should have been. And Nurse Wilson goes out of her way to encourage Cooper's dirty-old-man act which both know conceals his immense fondness for her. But his greatest affection is reserved for his fellow resident, Aylott, with whom he has formed an alliance known as The Escape Committee in order to try and ward off those twin horrors of old age, incontinence and dementia. Chess is considered a useful exercise for the brain as is trying to remember the names of the 1947 Middlesex cricket team. Annoyingly, one name always eludes them...

Cast: All ages are approximate.

Cooper – late 60's

Aylott – late 60's

Julia – Cooper's daughter 40s

Peter – Julia's husband 40s

Mrs Baker – cleaning lady 40s

Nurse Wilson – nurse 20s