

The David Soul Appreciation Club **NEWSLETTER**

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Kindly authorised by D Soul

Dear Members,

Here is what David has been up to in February:

- **My Favourite Hymns** - David was interviewed on this Sunday morning programme which was televised on ITV1 on Sunday 10th.
- **The Ed Stewart Show** - On Sunday 17th David appeared on this Radio 2 show and spoke about his current role as Sydney Bruhl in Death Trap.
- **Death Trap** - David has visited four towns and cities with the play throughout this month and apart from his hectic schedule of performances, radio and tv interviews, etc he has managed to visit a few places of local interest including the villages of Saltaire and Haworth in Yorkshire. He even managed to find time to watch a couple of Arsenal football matches on tv in the pub. He is really into his football at the moment and nothing could drag him away from the screen!! When we met up in Bradford he said that he was thoroughly enjoying himself and that the cast were getting on so well together. He even said that whilst the male members of the cast were staying together they were sharing the cooking between them and that he made a 'mean' omelette to which Gerald Kyd wholeheartedly agreed!! However, the downside of the play for him is that he is on stage for the full duration, nearly 2 and a half hours and it is a very energetic role and he's admitted that he is really tired after the performances.

Other Information:

- **BBC Documentary** – The BBC have been following David around for the past few weeks filming a documentary on men's issues. Although David has said it is definitely not a documentary about him as such they will even film some of the play Death Trap which I'm sure will make a fabulous momento for all of us who have attended it.
- **David Documentary** – David is actually making his own documentary on the touring of Death Trap and has already shot quite a bit of interesting and fun footage so far. Though it may never be used, at least he'll have a record of it, should it come in handy one day in the future.
- **Israel Tour** - David has been invited along with the rest of the cast to take Death Trap to Israel and although most of the cast, including David, are willing to travel the Home Office is expressing reservations due to the current terrorist activity in the region so no firm plans have yet been made.
- **New Album** - David has definitely not recorded this yet...even though what he said on the Ed Stewart radio show may have sounded misleading.

In friendship

Playing It For Thrills - a Death Trap Review by Robin Duke

It's hardly surprising that one of author and playwright Ira Levin's greatest fans is horror maestro Stephen King.

Apart from this regularly revived thriller, his cv includes Rosemary's Baby, The Stepford Wives and The Boys from Brazil - each one an acutely observed but frequently irreverent exercise in a particular genre.

Perhaps that's why Deathtrap has always worked so well on stage yet flopped so noticeably at the cinema when the symmetry of two acts with three scenes each taking place in just the one room was replaced by Jay Presson Allen's version of what was witty.

Here director Peter Wilson remains faithful to the 1978 Broadway hit - typewriters not computers, a cordless phone but no mobiles, a cinema screen to flesh out off-stage action and enough one liners to reveal Levin as a closet comedy writer.

David Soul is Sydney Bruhl, a once successful thriller writer now living off his wealthy wife's money and suffering from a serious bout of wordblock. When a former student at one of his writing workshops sends him the plot of a perfect thriller the wheels appear to be set in motion - does he beg, borrow, steal or kill for it?

Suffice it to say very little is as it seems but unlike Agatha Christie Levin allows flexibility in his characters.

Soul is certainly no Michael Caine (the film version's Bruhl) - and for that we can be thankful. Nor is he a 21st century Hutch (as in Starsky and...).

Instead he **delivers a performance of the first calibre with a voice like stressed leather soaked in finest bourbon and some perfect comic timing.**

One time Bouquet of Barbed Wire sex siren Susan Penhaligon is his weak hearted wife Myra, who likewise knows when to go for the jugular and when to aim at the comic vein.

Slim as a wraith Gerald Kyd is the aspiring writer Clifford Anderson, camp and confident in equal measures, and the cast of this very satisfying production is completed by Stewart Bevan as the solid solicitor Peter Milgrim and Becky Hindley as the wacky psychic Helga.

Pen Pal amendment:

Please note that DSAC member Judith Cragg who advertised in the February issue of the newsletter for a pen pal has moved house. Please address any future correspondence to her at; Flat 17d, Lyndale Road, Coventry CV5 8AS

See you next month