

What Have I Done to Deserve This?

a play in one act

by Margaret Kynaston

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What Have I Done to Deserve This? by Margaret Kynaston

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First performed by Llanymynech Amateur Drama Society
at Berriew Community Hall, Berriew, Powys
on 25th March 2010

Olive Cook	:	Rosi Pyne
Ann Pullen	:	Suzannah Smith
John Cook	:	Peter Coxhead
Des Pullen	:	Roy Davies
Mrs O'Dell	:	Marg Kynaston
Yvonne	:	Jan Maychild

Directed by Debbie Davies

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Scene 1

A seaside town, boarding house. Two middle aged couples: Desmond and Ann Pullen, John and Olive Cook are meeting up for a weekend together at a Dusty Springfield convention. They have been coming here for years. The set is a dining room (a couple of tables) on one side on the stage and a reception desk on the other side. The apron or the front of the stage can be used for the "prom" and the convention hall, set out with chairs.

BOTH COUPLES APPROACH THE BOARDING HOUSE FROM DIFFERENT POINTS IN THE AUDITORIUM, CARRYING THEIR WEEKEND BAGS

Olive: There they are! Annie! Over here!

Ann: We set out at six this morning and you still got here first. You always beat us!

Olive: It's not a race, is it? It's great to see you.

Ann: And you!

DURING THE ABOVE THE WOMEN EMBRACE, THE MEN SHAKE HANDS, THE MEN KISS THE WOMEN

Olive: It only seems like five minutes since last year.

Ann: Really? It seems an age to me.

Olive: You all right? You look a bit pasty.

Ann: No I'm fine, just a bit car sick.

John: It's old Des the Demon isn't it? Trying to be Lewis Hamilton.

Des: You must be joking. I'm not allowed to go above forty five, that's why we set off at six.

John: We didn't get going till eight, so we've made pretty good time really.

Des: Peugeot still going well is it?

John: It does all right for Olive. I'd like something with a bit more poke in it.

Ann: What is it about men and cars?

Olive: God knows. If they were gorillas, they'd be beating their chests

JOHN AND DESMOND DO GORILLA IMPRESSIONS FROM THE AUDITORIUM TO THE STAGE. DURING THE PREVIOUS CONVERSATION THEY HAVE

CLIMBED THE STEPS TO THE BOARDING HOUSE. MRS O'DELL APPEARS AT THE DESK AS THE CHEST BEATING IS GOING ON. SHE IS A DOUR, UNSMILING, HUMOURLESS WOMAN.

O'Dell: Yes?

Olive: Oh. Hello

O'Dell: Hello. Yes?

Ann: We've booked two double rooms for two nights. Cook and Pullen.

Olive: Er...where's Pamela?

O'Dell: Mrs Trelawney's not here. I'm standing in for her. I'm her sister.

John: Oh. Do you have a name?

O'Dell: Yes

Pause.

John: Which is...?

O'Dell: Mrs O'Dell. (SHE HAS A WEST COUNTRY ACCENT)

Des: Oh yes? And which part of Ireland are you from? (Attempting a joke)

O'Dell: Truro.

Ann: What's wrong with Pamela – Mrs Trelawney?

O'Dell: She's in hospital.

Olive: Oh no! Is it serious?

O'Dell: Yes.

Ann: Will she be in for long?

O'Dell: Yes.

John: Thanks for that. That was very informative.

O'Dell: I'll take you to your rooms.

Olive: Are we in our usuals?

O'Dell: (LOOKING AT BOOK). Mr and Mrs Pullen in 3, Mr and Mrs Cook in 4.

Ann: We're usually in 4 actually (O'Dell sighs heavily) Not that it matters, not really.

O'Dell: I can swap you over if you really want me to.

Ann: Oh no, it doesn't –

John: Yes if you wouldn't mind, that would be great.

O'DELL SIGHS AGAIN AND MAKES A BIG BUSINESS OF RUBBING OUT NAMES AND SWAPPING THEM OVER. THE COUPLES LOOK AT EACH OTHER AND TRY TO SUPPRESS THEIR LAUGHTER.

O'Dell: Right. So that's Cooks in 3 and Pullens in 4. Is that all right?

Des: Perfect. Thank you very much. Hope we haven't put you to too much trouble.

O'Dell: That's my job isn't it?

John: You'd think.

Olive: John!

O'Dell: Can you manage your luggage or do you want me to bring it up?

Des: (SARCASTIC) Oh good heavens no. You've done far too much already.

O'Dell: You'll be here for the convention then I suppose?

Ann: That's right, we come every year, wouldn't miss it.

John: And staying here is the highlight.

Olive: John!

Ann: Thank you Mrs O'Dell. We'll see you at supper. (SHE TURNS AND KNOCKS HER SUITCASE OVER)

O'Dell: 7 o'clock sharp mind (SHE LEADS THE WAY OUT)

John: Sieg heil!

Olive: John!

Margaret Kynaston

has been actively involved in amateur theatre for eighteen years. She wrote her first play, an all-female comedy set in a maternity ward, entitled: *All Labour in Vain* which was commended in the Geoffrey Whitworth Competition, in 1999. In 2000 her second play *Loony Tunes* was runner-up for the DAW Crawshay Cup awarded for the Best Original Script premiered in the National Festival of Community Theatre in Wales. *A Slight Inconvenience* won the Crawshay Cup in 2002 and is also published by the Drama Association of Wales. Cold won the Crawshay Cup in 2004, *Parasites* in 2006 (published by DAW), *Happy Families* in 2009 and *What Have I Done to Deserve This?* in 2010.

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What Have I Done to Deserve This?

Set in a seaside town at a Dusty Springfield Convention, two couples: Des and Ann Pullen and John and Olive Cook meet up to enjoy the weekend but Ann has a secret that she's both desperate and reluctant to share. Their stay is not exactly enhanced by their fearsome, Health and Safety obsessed landlady Mrs O'Dell and the dippy chambermaid Yvonne. Comedy and tragedy combine. Dusty Springfield's timeless music plays throughout until the devastating climax.

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