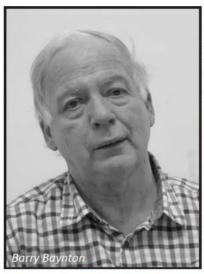


17th - 19th October 2013

TIVOLI THEATRE WIMBORNE

Welcome



I love a good comedy or farce, either to appear in or to direct, and I have enjoyed producing plays by Ayckbourn, Bennett and Cooney here at the Tivoli. So it was somewhat surprising that I put forward our latest production.

Mr Priestley's play has really stood the test of time and is considered to be one of the classics of 20th century British theatre.

It is established on the school text list for study. Four or five schools in for this production - many critics - so no pressure!

In order to create the feeling of an intimate space, the stage and acting area is greatly reduced; you have a splash of colour and nothing more!

I offer my sincere thanks to my cast for their very spirited input and also to our stage manager for her smooth preparations over the rehearsal period. As always the Tivoli technical staff offer much support.

Enjoy your time with us and to you young folk I trust our production will go some way in assisting your study of the play.

Barry Baynton, Director

Barry Baynton is a familiar figure on the local theatre scene having acted and directed for a number of companies, including Broadstone Players, P&P and Wimborne Drama. He has also played a pantomime dame here at the Tivoli! Among his many highlights with Wimborne Drama are his lascivious coachman in *On the Razzle*, Ernest in *Bedroom Farce*, and DS Porterhouse in *Run For Your Wife*, a role he will play again next month for Broadstone Players. He has also directed *Run For Your Wife* and his other directing credits at the Tivoli include *Forty Years On, Habeas Corpus, Loot* and *Relatively Speaking*.

JB Priestley

John Boynton Priestley was an author, novelist, playwright, essayist, broadcaster, scriptwriter, social commentator and man of letters, whose career straddled the 20th century.

Priestley believed passionately in social justice and the widening of democracy. Although never a member of the Labour Party, he described himself as a left-wing intellectual and a socialist of the old style.

He was born in Bradford, Yorkshire in 1894. His father Jonathan was a great influence on the young Priestley. A pioneering headmaster, he believed that helping the less fortunate was a moral obligation and his school was the first in

the country to introduce free school meals. He inspired his son to be honourable, brave, hard working, unselfish and public-spirited.

Priestley wrote An Inspector Calls at the end of the Second World War, in one week in the autumn of 1944, and it was first produced in Moscow in 1945. By setting the play in 1912, before the outbreak of



the First World War, he was offering a clear comparison of the world at these two crucial moments in history. In 1944 people like Priestley were questioning whether they wished to return to a world of Edwardian values or break out and create a new, more caring society.

During the 1930s and 1940s, Priestley was one of the leading advocates of political and social change. Already a best-selling novelist and renowned playwright, he turned his attention directly to social issues and was one of the first authors to tour the depressed areas of the country. His book *English Journey* (1934) was extremely influential and contributed towards a growing public consensus for social change that eventually led to the election of the Labour government of 1945, the foundation of the NHS and the creation of the welfare state.

During the Second World War, Priestley became the "voice of the people" through his *Postscript* radio broadcasts. Around 14 million people tuned in to listen to him on Sunday evenings. In these talks, he began to paint a vision of a better world to come once the war was over. He wanted "a land fit for heroes", a society that had at its core social justice and equality for all; not the sort of world he had returned to as a survivor of the First World War.

In the First World War, Priestley had served in the 10th Battalion, the Duke of Wellington's Regiment. He was wounded in 1916 by mortar fire. His experiences of the war were the transforming event of his life. He lost virtually all of his friends and emerged from it with a deep-rooted class consciousness. In his autobiography, Margin Released he was fiercely critical of the British Army and in particular of the officer class whom he blamed for the needless deaths of so many young men.

Priestley saw the Second World War as a very different conflict to the First. He believed that the defeat of fascism was vital and that Britain needed to play its role in overcoming what he considered to be forces of great evil. Also, he witnessed a unity of all classes and groups of people, a unity previously unknown in Britain.

After the war, he was an advocate of the formation of the United Nations and later one of the founder members of The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. He died in 1984.

In that magnificent summer of 1940, when I spent my days collecting information, and my nights broadcasting it to the world beyond the ring of steel around us, I think I felt better than ever before or since. We lived at last in a community with a noble common purpose, and the experience was not only novel but exhilarating. We had a glimpse then of what life might be if men and women freely dedicated themselves, not to their appetites and prejudices, but to some great communal task, and not even the brute threat of war, the menace of the very skies, could remove from that glimpse the faint radiance of some far-off promised land.

JB Priestley, BBC broadcast, 11 May 1945

An Inspector Calls Cast

Arthur Birling

Sybil Birling

Sheila Birling Eric Birling

Gerald Croft

Edna

Inspector Goole

RICHARD NEAL

CHRISSIE NEAL

TRACEY NICHOLLS

DAVID BEDDARD

JOHN SIVEWRIGHT

VERENA SMITH-MAURER

STUART GLOSSOP

Setting

The action of the play is continuous and takes place in the dining room of the Birlings' house during one evening in April 1912

Running time approximately 2 hours 15 minutes, including a 20-minute interval

Creative team

Director BARRY BAYNTON

Stage Manager PHYLLIS SPENCER

Set Designer COLIN PILE

Sound & Lighting SAM MOULTON

Assistant Stage Managers JUDY GARRETT

CALUM HEARNE

Continuity VAL MANTLE

Costume Supervisor LIZZIE PETERS

Tivoli Production Manager KYLE BEST

Produced by Wimborne Drama at the Tivoli Theatre 17 – 19 October 2013

The company in rehearsal

Top row from left:

Chrissie Neal, David Beddard and Richard Neal

Bottom row from left:

Tracey Nicholls, Stuart Glossop, Verena Smith-Maurer and John Sivewright



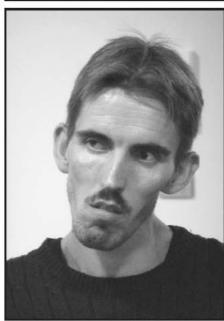












Cast in conversation

Is the play still relevant today?

TRACEY NICHOLLS: Definitely! It's mainly about human nature and that never changes. The current social climate is very different to that in 1912, particularly the class system, and there have been many changes for the better.

STUART GLOSSOP: But we still have a class divide with the rich seemingly getting richer and the under classes struggling to make ends meet. As in the period in which the play is set, we still have people fighting for a fair wage and this is something I think that will be with us for many years to come.

VERENA SMITH-MAURER: I think Priestley wants to highlight the problems which arise from exploitation by greedy employers rather than class division. Today it is very different...or is it?

RICHARD NEAL: Class still matters to a lot of people in this country. It still shapes our politics even today, as does the 'capital versus labour' debate.

CHRISSIE NEAL: We seem obsessed with class. We should respect each other, because we are all the same

whatever our background or status in life.

JOHN SIVEWRIGHT: The play sends a clear message about the effect our behaviour has on others and that others are not there simply to be used.

DAVID BEDDARD: The trouble is we're too ready to sit at home and shut out the world sometimes. I'm guilty of letting my mind wander when a charity appeal comes on during an advert break to avoid facing the truths of the world I'm now inheriting. I feel like the play is a challenge to me, as much as it ever was to anyone, to recognise my power to act for the good of others and make a difference to a world I didn't build but can reshape.

Who is the Inspector?

SG: I began thinking that he could be a journalist of the time looking for a hint of scandal, or possibly a relative of the dead girl trying to piece together why she committed suicide.

TN: I originally thought that he might be an angelic being, sent to convict the Birlings of their behaviour and attitudes in order to open their eyes to their responsibilities. **DB:** Like a spirit, not in a supernatural or heavenly way, but one who has been conjured up - brought into being by and formed of their own consciences.

TN: But when we explored the idea of the Inspector being able to travel through time, I did begin to wonder whether he might be Dr Who!

CN: Or Torchwood's Captain Jack Harkness, a lot edgier than Dr Who!

RN: I like the time traveller theory.
Priestley has sent the Inspector back

from 1945 with the knowledge of what the future holds for the Birlings. He gives them the opportunity to change their behaviour and take a different path.

JS: I'm with David - he's each character's guilty conscience.

DB: The collective conscience of the family.

SG: Yes, he could be pricking a collective guilty conscience. But who knows? It's up to the audience to decide!

DAVID BEDDARD

Eric Birling

David has been fond of performing his whole life, starting out in choirs at school and Christmas productions at church. His first major role came at the age of 16 when he played Judd Fry in Oklahoma! at St Luke's Church, Parkstone in 2007. He then went on to play Javert in Les Misérables and Bernardo in West Side Story, both St Edward's School productions at The Tivoli. He has since performed in three plays with the Poole & Parkstone Players and played the comic baritone in University of Nottingham Gilbert & Sullivan Society productions. Now 22, and having graduated with a BSc in Physics, David wants to stop being sensible and somehow pursue a career in acting. Although, right now, any job would be welcomed!

STUART GLOSSOP Inspector Goole

Stuart has been involved with a number of groups in the local area including BLTC, BOAT, Castle Players, Broadstone Players and The Poole Passion, For Wimborne Drama he has played Dr Watson in The Hound of the Baskervilles, Wemmick in Great Expectations, Khlestakov in The Government Inspector and Lieutenant Osborne in Journey's End, and also directed a number of plays for Wimborne Drama, most memorably Stepping Out and Charley's Aunt. He will be on stage again in December at BLTC in Dead Man's Hand and appear in the 2014 Poole Passion. Next year he will also take on the role of Peter Sellers in a production of Ying Tong.

CHRISSIE NEAL Sybil Birling

Chrissie has a long association with Wimborne Drama going back to the 1980s, and has been involved on or off stage in countless productions. Her favourite roles have been Mrs Swabb in Habeas Corpus, Queen Charlotte in The Madness of George III, Madame Knorr in On the Razzle, Mrs Danvers in Rebecca and Clairee in Steel Magnolias. She has also enjoyed appearing in a number of our Agatha Christie plays, most recently And Then There Were None, Over the past three years Chrissie has successfully masterminded the front of house logistics for our open air productions at Deans Court.

RICHARD NEAL

Arthur Birling

Richard joined the company just before we moved to the Tivoli in 1994 and like wife Chrissie has been involved in most of our productions here ever since. His favourite acting roles have been Canon Throbbing in Habeas Corpus, Truscott in Loot, Maxim de Winter in Rebecca, Jaggers in Great Expectations, Mr Stewart in Pack of Lies and Capt Lombard in And Then There Were None. Richard has also directed a number of plays at the Tiv and particularly enjoys the works of Noel Coward. He directed Hay Fever in 2012 and will produce another of The Master's classic comedies, Present Laughter, in February.

TRACEY NICHOLLS Sheila Birling

Tracey joined Wimborne Drama in 2002 and has played a variety of roles

including Mrs De Winter in Rebecca,
Shelby in Steel Magnolias and Olivia in
Twelfth Night. She has also been
involved on many occasions backstage,
including stage manager for Pack of Lies
and Spider's Web and assistant director
of Lord Arthur Savile's Crime. Tracey has
also appeared in plays by Churchill
Productions, including Hobson's Choice
and Dangerous Corner, and played
Hermia in the Swan production of A
Midsummer Night's Dream.

JOHN SIVEWRIGHT Gerald Croft

John has been with Wimborne Drama for a year now and has thoroughly enjoyed acting in the wonderful Tivoli Theatre, where he played the murder victim in Agatha Christie's Spider's Web in February, as well as outside at Deans Court, appearing as Mr Podgers in Lord Arthur Savile's Crime this summer. He has also trod the boards for All Saints Dramatic Society and Bournemouth Little Theatre Club with the role of Lawrence the photographer in Calendar Girls for All Saints being particularly enjoyable!

VERENA SMITH-MAURER Edna

Many years ago, when Verena came to England, she joined a drama group where she played "sexy parts" and met her husband to be Michael. Now, a few years down the line, she is playing parts (perhaps not quite so sexy!) with Wimborne Drama. Edna is a small, but interesting part (actors' creed: there are no small parts, only small actors). She is enjoying her a lot and hopes you do too!

Acknowledgements

Costumes provided by Hirearchy

Properties loaned by Broadstone Players

Also we acknowledge the help and support of:

Age Concern Wimborne
Daisy Graphic
Forest FM
Gullivers Bookshop
Royal British Legion Wimborne
The JB Priestley Society
Tivoli Theatre
Wimborne Tourist Information
Centre

Next Wimborne Drama Production

Noël Coward's Present Laughter

20th-22nd February 2014

Evenings 7.30pm, £10 Saturday matinee 2.30pm, £8

Successful and self-centred actor Gary Essendine is about to embark on a tour of Africa when a series of events bordering on farce threatens to overwhelm him

Box Office: 01202 885566 Or book online at www.TivoliWimborne.co.uk

President of Wimborne Drama

Anthony Oliver MBE

Patrons of Wimborne Drama

Frances Alton
Lynda Bellingham (H)
Roger Billings
Beverley Blehs
Edward Childe
Robin Cook (H)
John Dickson
Maureen Dickson
Dorothy Dodman
George Dodman
Brian Dryden Domestic
Appliances of Wimborne
Roy Hudd (H)
Val Jolliffe
Roy Joseph (H)

Roy Joseph (H)
Diann March

Michael Medwin (H)

Carol Neal Peter Neal

Tina Nicholls

Anthony Oliver

Christine Oliver Anthony Pawley

Linda Pawley

Pamela Wood

H signifies honorary

For information about becoming a Patron and for news about future productions and events visit www.WimborneDrama.co.uk



Twitter @wimbornedrama



www.facebook.com/wimbornedrama

Noël Coward's classic comedy Present

aughter

A Wimborne Drama Production



Thu 20th, Fri 21st & Sat 22nd February 2014 Evenings at 7.30pm, £10 Sat matinee at 2.30pm, £8

TIVOLI THEATRE WIMBORNE

BOX OFFICE 01202 885566

ONLINE

TivoliWimborne.co.uk