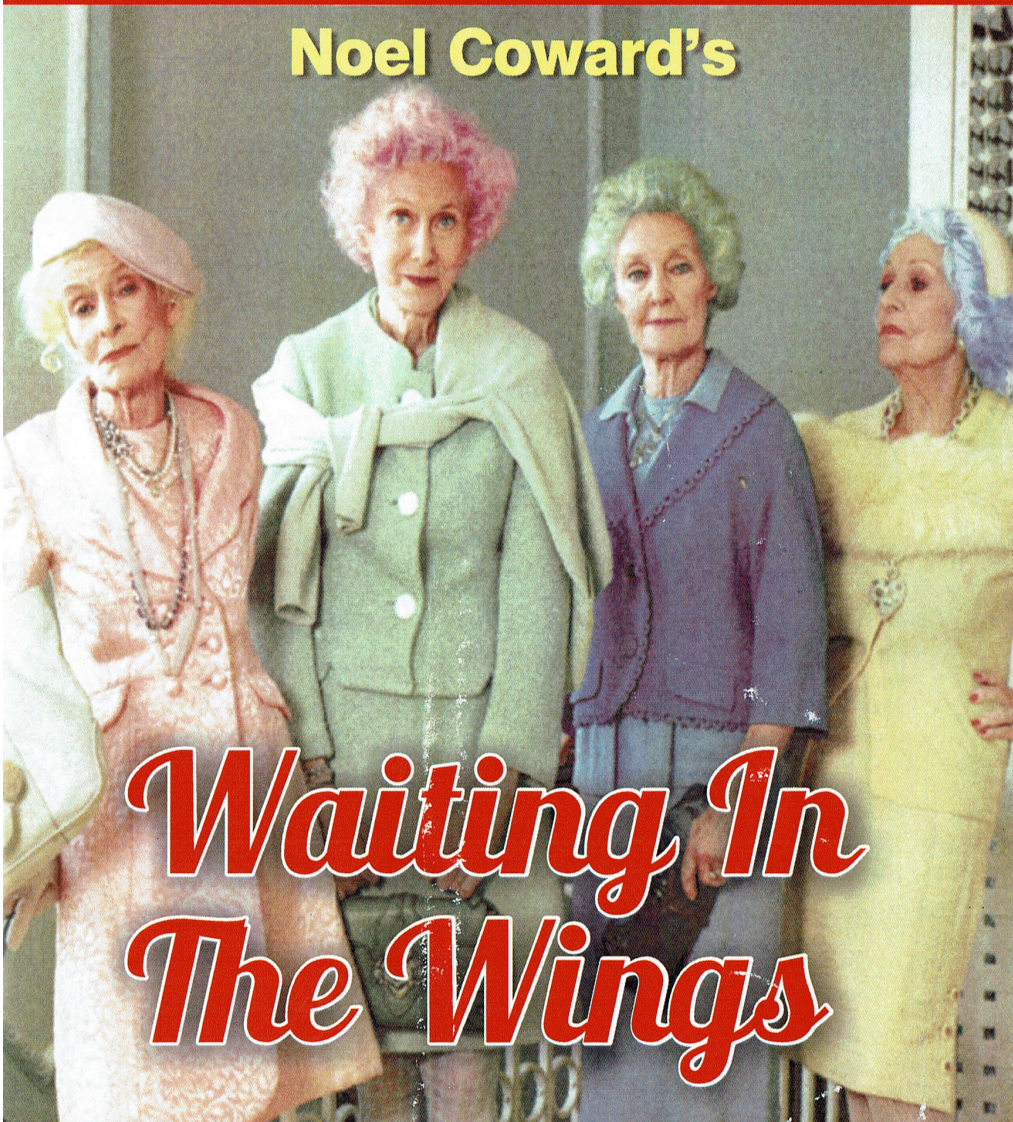




Stoke on Trent Repertory Players

£1.50

Noel Coward's



*Waiting In  
The Wings*

9th to 13th February 2016 at 7.30pm  
Matinee: Sat. 13th February at 2.30pm

An amateur production by arrangement with Samuel French Ltd



# Welcome

Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre is supported and run by volunteers who regularly give up their time and without whom we could not deliver the standard of production and customer service which our patrons have come to expect. Some of these people you will encounter tonight, others fulfil a less visible, but no less vital role.

Backstage Crew, Front-of-House, Bar and Coffee Bar, Members and all other helpers - we are deeply in-debted to everyone involved -  
**Thank You.**

Some information which you may find helpful:

**The Bar** is open from 6.45 until shortly after the end of the performance on performance evenings and drinking-up time is 20 minutes.

**Coffee, tea and confectionery** are available in the foyer from 6.45.

**All interval refreshments may be ordered before the performance to avoid queuing later.**

**The car park** is open from 6.30. until 11.00pm on performance evenings; overspill parking is available in the Staffordshire University car park further along Leek Road.

**Neither the Rep nor Staffordshire University can accept responsibility for damage to, or loss of vehicles.**

**Please note that smoking is not allowed in any part of the theatre building.**

**We hope that you enjoy your evening with us.**



**PLEASE ENSURE THAT MOBILE PHONES ARE SWITCHED OFF DURING THE PERFORMANCE.**

## Booking Information

Our box office is open from the Monday preceding each Rep production through until the last night of the show from

5.00 to 8.00pm.

Tel: 01782 209784

Book on line at

[www.stokerep.info](http://www.stokerep.info)

Book tickets during opening hours from Music Mania, 4 - 6, Piccadilly Arcade, Hanley.

Tel: 01782 206000

Book on line at

[www.musicmaniauk.com](http://www.musicmaniauk.com)

[www.stokerep.org.uk](http://www.stokerep.org.uk)

- Find out 'What's On' and 'What's News' by visiting the Rep's website.
- Online booking, information about current and forthcoming productions, shows, concerts and activities is available at the click of a mouse.
- Join our emailing list and keep up to date with the latest news.
- Catch previews of forthcoming Rep productions by checking out the Rep's channel on



- Have your say (and find out what others are saying) at [www.Facebook.com/stoke.rep.theatre.players](http://www.Facebook.com/stoke.rep.theatre.players)





Coming next from the Repertory Players

12th to 16th April 2016

at 7.30pm

Matinee: 16th April 2016

at 2.30pm



Machebeth

by William Shakespeare



## Sir Noël Coward

Sir Noël Coward was an English playwright, composer, director, actor and singer, known for his wit, flamboyance, and what Time magazine called, "a sense of personal style, a combination of cheek and chic, pose and poise".

Born on 16th December 1899 in Teddington, southwest London, Coward attended a dance academy in London as a child, making his professional stage début at the age of twelve. As a teenager he was introduced into the high society in which most of his plays would be set and used what he observed in the light comedies which he wrote between acting engagements; however, his reputation was not established until the serious play *The Vortex* opened in London in 1924.

Coward achieved enduring success as a playwright, publishing more than fifty plays from his teens onwards. In his writing he caught the clipped speech and brittle disillusion of the generation that emerged from World War One, and his songs and sketches struck the world-weary note of the time. Many of his works, such as *Hay Fever*, *Private Lives*, *Design for Living*, *Present Laughter* and *Blithe Spirit*, continue to feature regularly in the theatre repertoire.

In addition to his playwrighting, he also composed hundreds of songs and well over a dozen musical theatre works (including the operetta *Bitter Sweet*) plus comic revues, screenplays, poetry, several volumes of short stories, the novel *Pomp and Circumstance*, and a three-volume autobiography.

At the outbreak of the Second World War he volunteered for war work, running the British propaganda office in Paris. He also worked with the Secret Service, seeking to use his influence to persuade the American public and government to help Britain. He won

an Academy Honorary Award in 1943 for his naval film drama, *In Which We Serve*, and was knighted in 1969.

Coward's stage and film acting and directing career spanned six decades, during which he starred in many of his own works, and in later life achieved fresh success as a cabaret performer performing his own songs, such as *Mad Dogs and Englishmen*, *London Pride* and *I Went to a Marvellous Party*.

He never publicly acknowledged his homosexuality, but it was discussed candidly after his death by biographers including Graham Payn, his long-time partner, and it featured in Coward's diaries and letters which were published posthumously.

His final years were spent chiefly in the Caribbean and Switzerland and he died on 26th March 1973. In 2006, the former Albery Theatre (originally the New Theatre) in London was renamed the Noël Coward Theatre in his honour.



'Wit ought to be a glorious treat like caviar;  
never spread it about like marmalade.'



# The Cast

Bonita Belgrave:.....	Gina Brian
Cora Clarke:.....	Christine Birks
Maud Melrose:.....	Wendy Manns
May Davenport:.....	June Hodson
Almina Clare:.....	Anne Pope
Estelle Craven:.....	Amanda Bosson
Diedre O'Malley:.....	Gill Plant
Perry Lascoe:.....	James King
Sylvia Archibald:.....	Sue Thompson
Osgood Meeker:.....	Robert Pope
Lotta Bainbridge:.....	Ann McArdle
Dora (her dresser):.....	Corrin Lipiec
Doreen (the maid):.....	Sophie Banwell
Sarita Myrtle:.....	Beverley Marshall
Zelda Fenwick (a journalist):.....	Elena Fox
Dr Jevons:.....	Alan Clarke
Alan Bennet (Lotta's son):.....	Steve Bourne
Topsy Baskerville:.....	Diana Halstead

The action takes place in 'The Wings',  
a charity-run home for retired actresses.

## Act One

**Scene 1:** A Sunday afternoon in June

**Scene 2:** 3.00am on a Monday morning a month later

## Act Two

**Scene 1:** A Sunday afternoon in September

**Scene 2:** Several hours later

**Scene 3:** A week later

## Act Three

**Scene 1:** The evening of Christmas Day

**Scene 2:** A Sunday afternoon in June

**Time:** The early 1960s

*There will be a twenty minute interval after Act Two Scene 1*

*'Just say the lines and don't trip over the furniture.'*

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*'I love criticism just so long as it's unqualified praise.'*



# The Crew

Director: ..... Sarah Stockdale  
Stage Director: ..... Terry Wright  
Stage Manager: ..... Terry Wright  
Set construction and crew:..... Mike Adams, Andy Baddeley,  
John Beeston, Bob Flowers, John Hall,  
Bill Hancock, Nick Haynes, Peter Logan,  
Ken Mills, James Tomlinson, Terry Wright  
Lighting Design & Operation: ..... Malcolm Rushton  
Sound Design & Operation: ..... Mike Adams  
Flyman:..... Peter Logan  
Props : ..... Margo Bloor, Janet Clarke  
Set Dressing:..... Margo Bloor  
Costumes: ..... The Cast, North Staffs Operatic Society  
Birmingham Costume Hire  
Wigs:..... John Cumberlidge  
Wardrobe: ..... Sylvia Wright  
Dressers: ..... Sylvia Wright, Joy Rawlins, Shelley Hilton  
Diana Halstead, Margaret Ball, Kath Vernon  
Pianist: ..... Tim Sagar  
Programme design: ..... Janet Smith  
Company Photographer:..... Peter Croft

We are indebted to the  
**St John Ambulance Brigade**  
whose members attend all our performances.

**Thanks also to**  
**M-Way Vehicle Rental**  
**North Staffs Operatic Society**  
**Artz Producitons**

*'If you must have motivation, think of your paycheque on Friday'*

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SWINGIN' with GOODMAN

**Friday, 13th May 2016 at 7.30pm**

**Tickets £22 available from:**

Stoke Repertory Theatre Box Office, Leek Rd., Staffs, Tel: 01782 209784

on line [www.stokerep.info](http://www.stokerep.info)

or Music Mania, 4 - 6, Piccadilly Arcade, Hanley, Staffs, Tel: 01782 206000

on line [www.musicmaniauk.com](http://www.musicmaniauk.com)



# Coward's Wit

It's discouraging to think how many people are shocked by honesty and how few by deceit.

★★★★★★

***I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.***

★★★★★★

*I have a memory like an elephant. In fact, elephants often consult me.*

★★★★★★

**I have always paid income tax. I object only when it reaches a stage when I am threatened with having nothing left for my old age - which is due to start next Tuesday or Wednesday.**

★★★★★★

I'll go through life either first class or third, but never in second.

★★★★★★

***My body has certainly wandered a good deal, but I have an uneasy suspicion that my mind has not wandered enough.***

★★★★★★

*Success took me to her bosom like a maternal boa constrictor.*

★★★★★★

**Let's drink to the spirit of gallantry and courage that made a strange Heaven out of unbelievable Hell, and let's drink to the hope that one day this country of ours, which we love so much, will find dignity and greatness and peace again.**

*'I don't believe in astrology. The only stars I can blame for my failures are those that walk about the stage.'*

The higher the building the lower the morals.

★★★★★★

***We have no reliable guarantee that the afterlife will be any less exasperating than this one, have we?***

★★★★★★

Someday I suspect, when Jesus has definitely got me for a sunbeam, my works may be adequately assessed.

★★★★★★

**That strange feeling we had in the war. Have you found anything in your lives since to equal it in strength? A sort of splendid carelessness it was, holding us together.**

★★★★★★

Extraordinary how potent cheap music is.

★★★★★★

***People are wrong when they say opera is not what it used to be. It is what it used to be. That is what's wrong with it.***

★★★★★★

*Mona Lisa looks as if she has just been sick - or is about to be.*

★★★★★★

**Never mind, dear, we're all made the same, though some more than others.**

★★★★★★

I've sometimes thought of marrying - and then I've thought again.

*'I'm not a heavy drinker, I can sometimes go for hours without touching a drop.'*





## GARDEN CENTRE

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