

MOON Over BUFFALO



by
Ken Ludwig

25th - 29th March
1st - 5th April 2003



Stoke-on-Trent
Repertory
Theatre

£1

Welcome

Welcome to Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre! We hope that you enjoy your evening with us. Here's a little information that first-time visitors may find helpful.

The car park will be open from 6.30pm on performance evenings until the theatre bar closes. Overspill parking is available in the Staffs University car park. Neither the Rep nor the University can accept responsibility for damage to or loss of vehicles.

The Bar is open from 6.45pm until 11.00pm on show nights. Drinking-up time is 20 minutes afterwards. Coffee, tea and confectionery are available in the Foyer from 6.45pm. All interval drinks may be ordered before the performance, to avoid having to wait your turn later.

Smoking is not allowed in the auditorium; neither is photography or the taping of the performance.

Booking Information

Our Box Office is open on the Monday preceding each Rep production from 5.00 - 8.00pm, and during the run of the show.
Tel: 01782 209784.

Tired of talking to an Answer Phone?
**Save time - save money
BOOK ON-LINE!**

With Internet access, you could place a provisional order AT ANY TIME using the On-line booking facility at
www.stokerep.org.uk

Book tickets in office hours from Music Mania,
4/5 Piccadilly Arcade, Hanley.
Tel: 01782 206000.

*rich, deep, diverse Stoke-on-Trent
with the South Staffordshire Stone*

BBC RADIO STOKE

BBC Radio Stoke has been at the heart of life in North Staffordshire and South Cheshire for more than 30 years. No-one has a better understanding of local people, local issues and local concerns. From unrivalled coverage of all the most important sporting action to hard hitting news stories and all the local weather, travel and entertainment updates, BBC Radio Stoke has got every angle covered.

Add great music and great conversation from the station that has more local presenters than most you can find, and there's no better station for you and yours in North Staffordshire and South Cheshire.

We are pleased to support the Arts and regularly cover local events on the Barbara Adams programme, Monday to Friday between 3pm and 5pm.

104.1 FM IN STAFFORD 94.6FM 1503MW

The Crew

Director: **John Wicks**
Assistant Director: **Louise Challinor**
Set Design: **Tina Campbell**
Stage Director: **Richard Masters**
Construction Manager: **Bill Hancock**
Stage Manager: **Bill Hancock**
Set Dressing/Props: **Margo Bloor, Joan Horne**
Lighting Designer: **Malcolm Rushton**
Lighting Technician: **Jamie Wood**
Sound Design/Technician: **Paul Jones**
Assistant Stage Managers: **Mike Adams, John Beeston, Gordon Procter**
Costume Supervisor: **Georgine Machin**
Assisted by: **Daphne Ratcliff**
Company Photographer: **Peter Croft**

We are indebted to the rest of the Backstage Crew, and to the Front-of-House, Bar and Coffee Bar Staff - Members, Friends, Young Rep members and other helpers. All are volunteers who give up their time week after week, and without whom we could not provide the standard of production and customer service you have come to expect at the Rep.

The Author

Ken Ludwig

Ken Ludwig is the author of several Broadway hits, including the award-winning musical 'Crazy For You' and comedy 'Lend Me A Tenor'. He has enjoyed further success with the plays 'Sullivan and Gilbert', 'Postmortem' and 'Divine Fire' as well as work for television. Besides his prolific theatrical career, Ken Ludwig has managed to sustain a 'day job' as a lawyer specialising in international law!

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



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

The Cast

George Hay:	David Finn
Charlotte Hay:	Alison Wicks
Ethel:	Jackie Clarke
Rosalind:	Ann Williams
Howard:	Tim Cooper
Eileen:	Laura Bickley
Paul:	Richard Morrey
Richard:	Michael Eyre

Place and time:

On stage and backstage
at the Erlanger Theatre,
Buffalo, New York, 1953

ACT ONE

A mid-morning in June

ACT TWO

Scene One: Two hours later
Scene Two: Immediately following
Scene Three: Two hours later

*Produced by special arrangement with
Samuel French, Inc.*

The Play

Moon Over Buffalo

Ken Ludwig's 1995 farce 'Moon Over Buffalo' achieved some notoriety for luring comedian Carol Burnett back to Broadway, to great critical acclaim. It was nominated for best play and is now produced around the world.

The story concerns two old board-treaders, George and Charlotte Hay, who have been touring in repertory for years but never regaining the fame they so crave. When they hear that Frank Capra, the famous movie director, is coming to one of their productions they see this as a last chance for stardom. However, a series of mistakes, mishaps and misunderstandings contrive to make their performance one of the most memorable the famous director will have ever seen!

Original Broadway Production
produced by

Elizabeth Williams Heidi Landesman
DLT Entertainment Ltd. Hal Luftig
Jujamcyn Theaters

The Real Hays?

The characters in tonight's play, George and Charlotte Hay, display all the extremes of the 'theatrical couple' stereotype - self-importance, grasping ambition and petty jealousy. There is no suggestion they were based on real characters.

But there really was a star husband-and-wife acting team that dominated American theatre for three decades - Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne; a couple whose achievements resonate with those of our loveable reprobates.

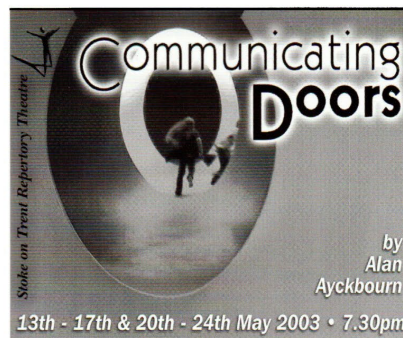


Alfred Lunt first set foot on a Broadway stage in 1917, and two years later scored his first significant success as the title character in **Clarence**. In 1922, he married British actress Lynn Fontanne, and for the next 35 years the team of Lunt and Fontanne reigned on Broadway.

Their string of stage successes included **Amphytrion 38** and **Idiots' Delight**, not to mention their sublime collaborations with actor/playwright Noël Coward (**Private Lives**, **Design for Living**). Outside of a guest appearance in 1943's **Stage Door Canteen**, Lunt and Fontanne appeared together onscreen only once, in a 1931 adaptation of their stage success **The Guardsman**, for which they both received Academy Award nominations. Other stage hits included **Pygmalion**, **There Shall Be No Light** and **The Visit**, which saw the couple acting together until 1960.

See if you can spot the reference to the Lunts during tonight's play!

Coming Up Soon....



13th - 17th & 20th - 24th May 2003 • 7.30pm

BETRAYAL

by Harold Pinter

Wed 11th - Sat 14th June 2003
at 7.45pm

Tickets: **£6.00**

A Rep Studio Production

ANIMAL FARM

by George Orwell

Wed 9th - Sat 12th July 2003
at 7.30pm

Tickets: **£5.00**

A Young Rep Production



North Staffs Society of St. George



Celebrate St. George's Day
on 23rd April 2003

in good company, with good food & dancing
at

Clayton Lodge Hotel, Newcastle-under-Lyme
7.00pm for 7.30pm

Tickets: **£19.50**

Contact Mrs I. Bailey on 01782 310149

For details of aims & membership of the Society
Tel: 01782 844204

Artist in the Gallery

Derek Higginson

Derek Higginson is another of our artists from the Burslem School of Art and from the Staffs Artists - "Unit 10". He was selected to the Free Painters & Sculptures in 1965 (London).

He designed pottery and taught Art in the City, specialising in "Paintings that tell a story". Derek has had many one-man exhibitions - he has a London collector who has acquired no less than 60 of his works!

Thank you, Derek for the loan of your work.

Future Exhibitions at the Rep.

We still have a couple of slots free for 'Artist in the Gallery' next season. Exhibitions can be either professional or amateur, or collective exhibitions of two or more artists would be acceptable. Depending on the size, 20 - 30 paintings or craft works are needed for each display.

If you're interested in loaning us your work, or know someone who might be, please contact Gordon Toon on 01782 632789

Friends of the Rep

Friends of the Rep have raised thousands of pounds for our theatre over the past five years. Their gifts to the Rep include the computerisation of the Box Office and our revolving stage.

The Friends Committee is eager to enrol enthusiastic people on to the team which organises these fund-raising schemes. To share your ideas, or maybe join the Committee, please contact Brian Harvey on 01782 393026.

If you're interested in reserving advertising space in our next programme, please ring Alison Wicks on 01782 619921.

Rep Gift Vouchers

Make a gift of a ticket for an evening at the Rep.
Please ask at the Box Office.

The Rep Mailing List: Want to know more about forthcoming productions?
Join our **FREE** mailing list.
Ask at the Box Office for details.

Spotlight on a Member

Gill Plant

I joined Stoke Repertory Theatre about four years ago and have, to date, been mainly involved in being part of the bar team, helping out in the bar on a voluntary basis. I have also had a go at prompting and helping with props.



I am now the *Little Theatre Guild* representative and, as such, have been helping to organise the Little Theatre Guild Annual Conference, which this year is being hosted here at Stoke Repertory Theatre. I attended their last conference in the Isle of Wight in April 2002 and found it very enjoyable and stimulating. I am looking forward very much to attending more of their events.

I started out as a dancer and have appeared in many North Staffs Operatic Society shows, both dancing and in cameo rôles. I have also played a variety of rôles with the *Tangents* and the *Mow Cop Drama Groups*, and the *Liberty Theatre Company*.

I my time I have been everything from a tree and a tap-dancing dinosaur to a witch and a battleaxe stepmother - at the moment I seem to be getting cast as the 'baddie'; but I don't mind as it is the character rôles which I like the best! My dream is to play the Fairy Queen in 'Iolanthe' - and to have the singing voice to go with it. But what I like doing most is comedy as I love making people laugh.

Outside the theatre, I work as an administrator in the National Health Service and also for a professional association - the computer skills needed for this have come in handy for the paperwork involved in organising the Little Theatre Guild Conference.

My other great passions apart from the theatre, are my family, travel, history, taking part in quizzes - and eating out!