



Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre
College Road, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent
Telephone: Stoke-on-Trent 44784

the
SERVANT

by Robin Maugham

22nd - 26th November
29th November - 3rd December, 1983

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The Author Robin Maugham

The author of this play was born a Viscount and heir to his father's title on May 17th, 1916 as Robert Cecil Romer Maugham.

His first profession was that of a barrister, until the war took him into action in many of the trouble areas around the world. It was probably the war that was responsible for his transition to writing and also for giving him an appetite for travel. After completing his first novel **Come to Dust** at the end of the war, whilst in hospital recovering from war injuries, he decided to take up writing full time, realising his injury would hinder his practising law any further.

Throughout his life, trying to appease his love of travel took him to various parts of the world, and his experiences were to form the staple part of the material for his novels, of which there were over twenty.

However, Maugham was also an accomplished mystery writer and playwright, sometimes writing under the name of David Griffin. He was fortunate to have good family connections in the literary world — his uncle was the celebrated W. Somerset Maugham, about whom he wrote two books of reminiscences. Some of his plays and novels, **Line of Ginger** and **Desert Bond** for example, were adopted for the screen. Occasionally he wrote film scripts himself based on other people's work, and even transformed his uncle's novel **Cakes and Ale** into a film script.

The Servant started life as a novel in 1948, but Maugham decided to re-write it as a stage play ten years later. After its success in the theatre a film was made, starring James Fox and Dirk Bogarde in the leading roles of Tony and Barrett. But it was the highly acclaimed playwright, Harold Pinter who was responsible for the screen play, actually appearing in a minor role in the film itself.

Robin Maugham died on May 25th, 1981 after a long illness.

Car Park

The part of Beresford Street between St. Jude's Church and the schools may be used for parking, but please ensure that cars do not obstruct the entrance to the Vicarage. No responsibility is accepted by the Repertory Theatre. No charge is made for parking.

Refreshments

Confectionery is always on sale and coffee will be served during the interval. Coffee tickets available from the attendants.

Smoking is permitted during the intervals only.

Smokers Please Note:

Please use the ashtrays provided. Smokers on the front row should ask an attendant for an ashtray.

Christmas at the Rep

Saturday, 17th December, 1983

at 7.30 p.m.

Start off the Festive Season by coming to see
Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College's production of:

Christmas Music from 'Messiah'

by Handel

and

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by Gilbert and Sullivan

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the SERVANT

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Richard Merton.....	PETER FRANKLIN
Sally Grant.....	LINDSAY KENNERELL
Tony Williams.....	RAY JOHNSON,
Barrett.....	DEREK YEOMANS
Vera.....	CATHY GOODALL
Mabel.....	ANN TUNNICLIFFE

Directed by Brian Rawlins

The action of this play is set in No. 7 Benson Street, Chelsea,
London. Time: Present.

Act I

- Scene 1 Tony's living room. May
- Scene 2 Tony's bedroom, two weeks later.
- Scene 3 The living room, four months later.

Act II

- Scene 1 The kitchen, one month later.
- Scene 2 The bedroom, two months later.
- Scene 3 The bedroom, three months later.

Act III

- Scene 1 The living room, two months later.
- Scene 2 The kitchen, two months later.
- Scene 3 The kitchen, four months later.

BEHIND THE SCENES

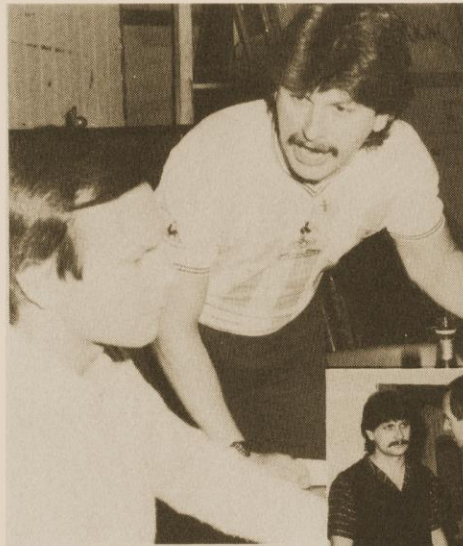
A lot of hard work has gone into the building of the set for **The Servant**, for which the actors owe a debt of gratitude to the backstage people. They have made the set both practical and effective, and therefore, made the actor's job a lot easier.

In future programmes we would like to show you a little of the work that goes into putting on plays at the Rep., all the dedication, time and energies that are behind every show. The audience usually only sees the final product, but we thought you might like to see 'the early stages'.



The play in rehearsal.

Ray Johnson's interests in the theatre are very diverse, ranging from the one man shows he performs professionally all over the U.K., to the award-winning documentary and educational films he has directed. As well as all this, Ray manages to fit in a full time job as a Senior Lecturer in Communications at the North Staffs Polytechnic.



Derek Yeomans has appeared in plays for the past nine seasons at The Rep, and has had leading roles in a number of productions with the North Staffs Operatic Society. During the day, however, he takes on a totally different role to the one you now see him in, as he is a teacher of P.E. at a local Comprehensive school.

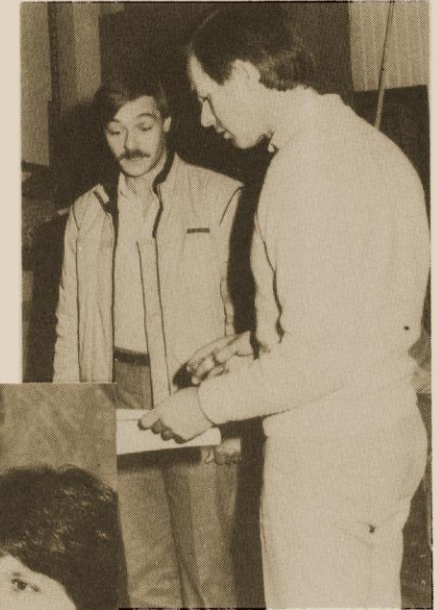
A very popular member of the cast (because she is a very good cook) is Lindsay Kennerell, who has been a Rep member for 25 years - believe it or not - but only acting for ten.



She teaches drama as well, but manages to get away from the theatre with her other hobby of sailing.

Peter Franklin is the newest acting member in this play — not very popular with the rest of this cast, because he was so fast at learning his lines that he put everyone else to shame. But seriously, how he manages to successfully combine being The Rep Treasurer, a General Practitioner, and Richard Merton all at the same time, one can only guess. But we certainly hope that this will be the first of many acting roles here.

1976 and **Conduct Unbecoming** marked the start of Cathy Goodall's involvement with the theatre and, after a three year break training to become a nurse at the N.S.R.I., returned to the 'fold' last season in **Arsenic and Old Lace**.



A special thanks to Cathy here, who has considerably aided the editor of this programme.

Ann Tunnicliffe, who appeared in the last play too, says she is thoroughly enjoying this production, but looks forward to a break after the show when she hopes to involve herself a bit more in backstage work.

The director is Brian Rawlins, who trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama in London, and is also a qualified drama teacher, proves that he is a worthy (if not always appreciated at the time by the actors) hard-working leader of an enthusiastic and very happy cast.

He is looking forward to playing his first leading role at The Rep in March as **The Last of The Red-Hot Lovers**.



PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager BILL HANCOCK
Lighting TINA RICHARDSON
Sound EDWIN DUTTON
 GRAHAM MOUAT
Properties ALISON TOWNSEND
 NORMA ROGERS
Set Design TINA RICHARDSON
General Stage Manager RICHARD MASTERS
Master Carpenter JOHN SHENTON
Assistant Stage Managers GRAHAM MOUAT
 DEBBIE MOUAT
 TINA RICHARDSON
 GEORGE GOODALL
 PAULINE TURNER
 SHELLEY RIDDELL
 MADELEINE POTTINGER
 JOHN WALLEY

Fireplaces loaned by Antique Workshop

Lichfield Road, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent.

We would like to thank Catering Equipment (Stoke-on-Trent) Limited,
22-24 Andrew Place, George Street, Newcastle, Staffs.,
for kindly supplying the Servant's costume.

Also grateful acknowledgements to Mr. Peter Croft who took the
photographs (by kind permission of Greyhound Publications)

At THE REP

**Tuesday,
6th December,
1983**

8.00 p.m.

The Protestant Whore

or

The Life and Times of Nell Gwynne

A Solo Performance featuring Debbie Mouat

Written by Tim Bezant

Pretty, witty Nell, Eleanor 'Nell' Gwynne was born in either 1642 or 1650, in either Hereford or London, the daughter of either a fruit seller or a soldier, depending upon which sources you believe. The basic facts of her life, however, constitute the archetypal rags to riches story. In Nell's case the street urchin becomes an actress and from the limelight of the stage catches the Royal eye. At court yet more tales and legends accrue to the woman who was by now a popular enigma.

Tickets **£1.20**
OAP's & Children **£1.00**

Future Productions at The Rep 1983-1984 Season

Make sure that you book your tickets for the exciting future productions at the Rep this season. The box office will be open on the Wednesday of the week preceeding each play from 4.00 p.m.



Toad of Toad Hall

**Saturday, 21st January
23rd - 28th January and
31st January to 4th February
1984**

A delightful musical by A. A. Milne, a show for all the family based on Kenneth Grahame's book **Wind in the Willows**.



The Last of the Red Hot Lovers

**20th - 24th March
27th - 31st March**

Neil Simon brilliantly provides the hilarity of a situation when a middle-aged man realises that life is passing him by and goes in search of extra-marital excitement.



Penny for a Song

**15th - 19th May
22nd - 26th May**

A crazy family during the Napoleonic Wars shows that with a little dedication one can create utter pandemonium.

Improvements to the Theatre

During the coming weeks and months, we hope that you will see an improvement in the facilities we offer to you, our patrons. We have appreciated for some years that we have not been able to offer cloakroom facilities, and, although we spent a great deal of money on a new toilet block, it is not up to the standard we hoped for. We now hope that we have discovered a solution! In collaboration with the Manpower Services Commission, we are making work available for some long-term unemployed local people and have drawn up plans to carry out a refurbishment project throughout the theatre.

The exterior will be tidied up, with some essential maintenance being carried out, together with jobs we feel will improve our image. Backstage the conditions under which our actors and actresses have been working, are primitive, to say the least. This will be generally improved, and adequate hot water made available.

The auditorium will be completely re-decorated, and again, we hope to achieve a lot in the way of tidying up some areas. The main improvement though will be the use that we finally make of the hall behind the auditorium. Since we bought the theatre, we have been aware that the foyer area is too small, and we have no room to offer 'mingling' facilities before and after a performance. Up to now, the hall has been used as a storeroom, but we now intend to make the main entrance lead into here, and to equip it with a new box office, a cloakroom and, for the future, a bar.

We are very grateful to the Manpower Services Commission, and indeed to a great number of other people who have helped in many ways, and we shall be thanking them in later programmes. We hope that you will find your visits to the theatre even more enjoyable in the future. We have been presenting plays at the Repertory Theatre for more than 50 years, and we hope that this project will ensure a second 50 years.

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