



STOKE-ON-TRENT REPERTORY THEATRE  
College Road, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent.  
Box Office: Stoke-on-Trent 44784

1981 — 1982 Season



# THE LONG & THE SHORT & THE TALL

By Willis Hall

6 October - 17 October 1981

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### ABOUT THE PLAY

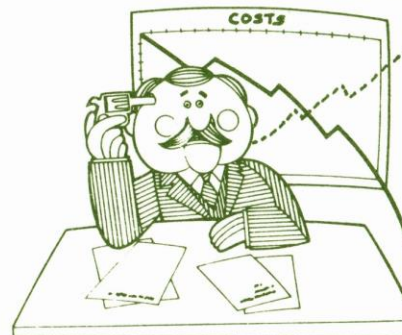
'The Long and The Short and The Tall' is a play about war and how it affects people, but it is nothing so simple as an anti-war play. Nobody in it thinks of war as a noble or glorious human activity; all are cynical in varying degrees about the way the war is run and their own rôle in it; yet there is no questioning of the causes of war and there is not a whisper of pacifism.

The author has said that the play is about human dignity. War has little room for human dignity. The soldier's task is easier if he can regard his enemy as merely a 'bloody Nip', a 'Wog' — a thing to be despised or hated, not to be thought of as a human being.

The author is not preaching a doctrine, telling us how men should act, offering a solution to a problem. On the contrary, he belongs to the contemporary movement in the theatre, where we are confronted with disturbing questions to which there is no easy answer.

Among the reasons for the immediate and lasting success of this play on the stage are the dramatic clashes between members of the patrol, set against the increasing menace to them all from outside. This produces the essential ingredient of drama — 'conflict'.

Willis Hall has penned in this play some of the most colourful and believable characters in the modern British Theatre.



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# THE LONG & THE SHORT & THE TALL

by Willis Hall

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## CAST

465 SGT. Mitchem, R. .... GEORGE GOODALL  
839 CPL. Johnstone, E. .... GORDON BROOMFIELD  
594 L/CPL. Macleish, A. J. .... KEVIN WYSE  
632 PTE. Whitaker, S. .... MARK LANGSTON  
777 PTE. Evans, T. E. .... CARL RICHARDSON  
877 PTE. Bamforth, C. .... DEREK YEOMANS  
611 PTE. Smith, P. .... DAVIN FINN  
Japanese Soldier ..... DAVID CHIRNSIDE

*Directed by John Walley  
Set Designed by Richard Masters  
Lighting and Décor by Brian P. Hadley  
Construction Supervisor John Shenton*

The action of the play takes place in the Malayan jungle during the Japanese advance on Singapore early in 1942. It is late afternoon and the Japanese are being held by British forces twenty miles to the north.

It is important to remember that Singapore has not yet fallen and that the characters are unaware that the Japanese offensive down the Malayan mainland has begun.

## PRODUCTION CREDITS

Stage Manager ..... RICHARD MASTERS  
Assistant Stage Managers ..... NORMAN JAMES  
BILL HANCOCK  
PAULINE TURNER  
MADELEINE POTTINGER  
GILL CHESWORTH  
SIÂN DAVIES  
JUNE HODSON  
Lighting Assistant. .... TIM SEATON  
Wardrobe Mistress ..... SANDY HOLLAND  
Properties. .... MARY BARTHOLOMEW  
CHRISTINE KOUTELIERI  
Sound Engineer ..... TED DUTTON  
Technical Advisor ..... STEVE BROTHWELL  
*SET BUILT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY*  
Additional Costumes ..... BERMAN & NATHAN & Co.  
Firearms. .... BAPTY & Co.

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### Car Park

The part of Beresford Street between St. Jude's Church and the schools may be used for parking.

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.

## THE LONG AND THE SHORT AND THE TALL

They say there's a troopship just leaving Bombay,  
Bound for Old Blighty shore,  
Heavily-laden with time-expired men,  
Bound for the land they adore.  
There's many a soldier just finishing his time,  
There's many a twirp signing on,  
You'll get no promotion this side of the ocean,  
So cheer up, my lads, bless 'em all!

Bless 'em all! Bless 'em all!  
The long and the short and the tall;  
Bless all the sergeants and W.O.1s,  
Bless all the corp'ral's and their blinkin' sons,  
'Cos we're saying goodbye to them all,  
As back to their billets they crawl,  
You'll get no promotion this side of the ocean,  
So cheer up, my lads, bless 'em all!

They say, if you work hard you'll get better pay,  
We've heard it all before,  
Clean up your buttons and polish your boots,  
Scrub out the barrack-room floor  
There's many a rookie has taken it in,  
Hook line and sinker an' all,  
You'll get no promotion this side of the ocean,  
So cheer up, my lads, bless 'em all!

Bless 'em all! *etc.*

They say that the Sergeant's a very nice chap,  
Oh! What a tale to tell!  
Ask him for leave on a Saturday night  
He'll pay your fare home as well.  
There's many a soldier has blighted his life,  
Thro' writing rude words on the wall,  
You'll get no promotion this side of the ocean,  
So cheer up, my lads, bless 'em all!

Bless 'em all! *etc.*

They say that the Corp'ral will help you along,  
Oh! What an awful crime,  
Lend him your razor to clean up his chin,  
He'll bring it back every time.  
There's many a rookie has fell in the mud,  
Thro' leaving his horse in the stall,  
You'll get no promotion this side of the ocean,  
So cheer up, my lads, bless 'em all!

Bless 'em all! *etc.*

Nobody knows what a twirp you've been,  
So cheer up, my lads, bless 'em all!

# COMING SOON!

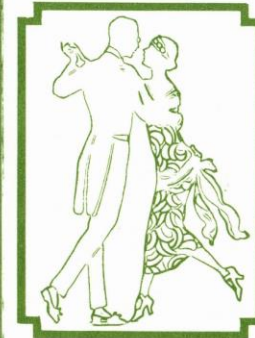
December 1 — December 12 1981



## Angels in Love

A delightfully contrived mock Victorian romp frothing with farce. By Hugh Mills

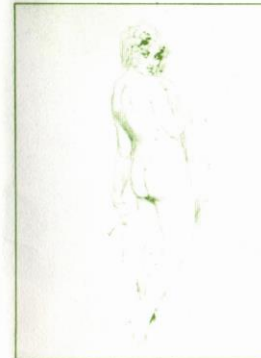
March 23 — April 3 1982



## SALAD DAYS

A glittering twenties-style revue by  
Dorothy Reynolds and Julian Slade

January 26 — February 6 1982



## Habeas Corpus

by  
Alan Bennett

The Permissive Society  
is taken to task in a farcical  
comedy of mistaken identities  
and sexual encounters.

May 18 — May 29 1982



## Death of a Salesman

Arthur Miller's  
electric tale set in the cruelest city of all.