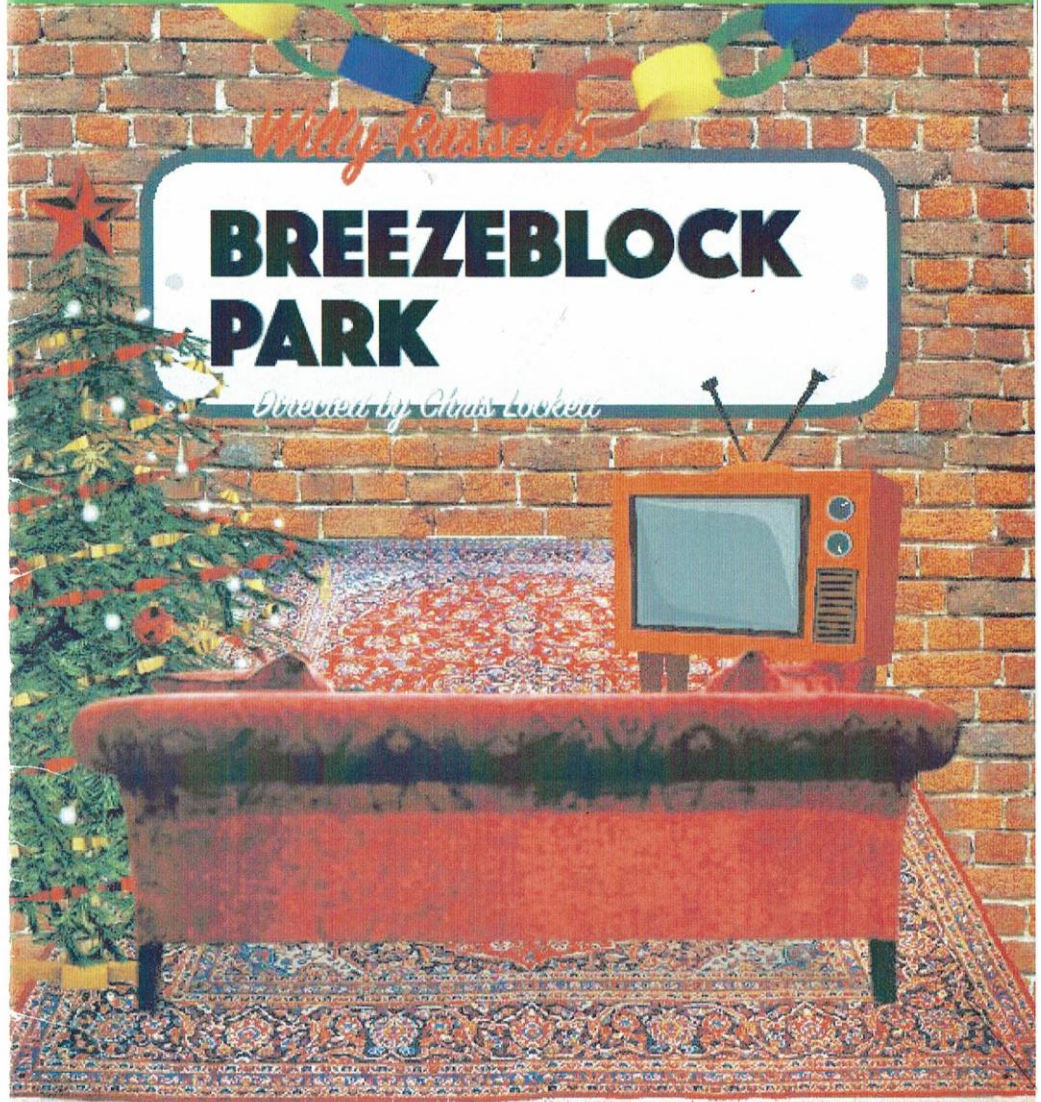


A **STOKE REP**
PLAYERS
Production 

Willy Russell's

BREEZEBLOCK PARK

Directed by Chris Lockett



An hilarious comedy from the writer of
Shirley Valentine, *Educating Rita* and *Blood Brothers*

5th - 9th December 2017 stokerep.info

Willy Russell

Willy Russell was born in Liverpool in 1947. He became a hairdresser on leaving school, then undertook a variety of jobs, also writing songs which were performed in local folk clubs. He also wrote songs and sketches for local radio programmes.

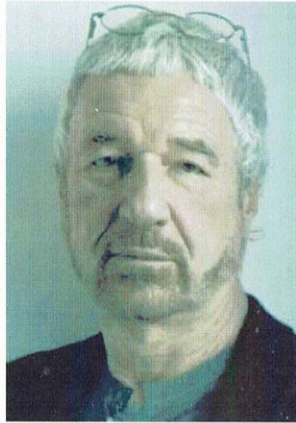
At the age of 20 he returned to college and became a teacher in Toxteth, after which he became interested in writing drama. His first play *Keep your Eyes Down* was produced in 1971 and he became well known after his musical about the Beatles, *John, Paul, George, Ringo...and Bert*, won The Evening Standard and London Theatre Critic Award for Best Musical in 1974.

Breezblock Park was commissioned by and performed at the Everyman Theatre in 1975 and was a sell out success.

However, as with all Russell's plays there is a more serious side to his comedy, a story of women forced to accept their rather miserable lot, a theme echoed in his later and better known works, *Educating Rita* and *Shirley Valentine*, although with the more progressive attitudes of the 1980's, both Rita and Shirley had a means of escape, unlike their *Breezblock Park* counterparts!

A creator of strong characters and hilariously funny yet poignant situations, Willy Russell continues to be a dramatist, lyricist and composer loved by the Nation.

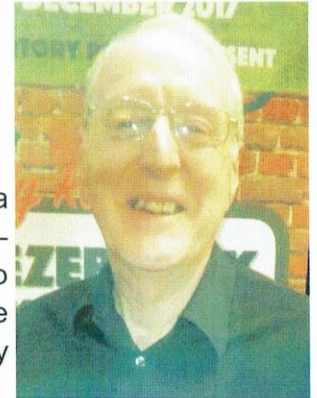
Chris Lockett



Spotlight on...

Terry Wright

No shows can run at the Rep without a man sitting in the corner of the wings, directing the technical team members, who are stationed at various points around the theatre. At the Rep that man is Terry Wright.



Terry first became involved in theatre in 1977, when he joined his wife as a member of Studio One Theatre, helping with props. He was soon promoted to the backstage team, helping to build sets and working backstage in a variety of jobs.

He became the society stage manager and was also the van driver and stage manager whenever the society members set out on their travels to drama festivals around the United Kingdom, helping them to win the British All-Winners Final seven times.

In 1985, he was persuaded to join the backstage team of the North Staffs Operatic Society. He later became the society stage director, working on shows at the Queen's Theatre, the New Victoria Theatre, the Regent Theatre and the Rep..

He joined the Rep 10 years ago, again as a member of the backstage team, but was appointed as Stage Director for the Stoke Rep Players in 2013. He also works as guest stage director for several local operatic societies, including the North Staffs, Newcastle and Porthill Operatic Societies.

A grandfather to two boys and two girls, Terry was a teacher for more than 40 years, teaching design technology at Moorland High School and later at Thistley Hough High School, where he became Assistant Head until his retirement in 2005.

Electrical appliances used in this production have kindly been supplied by Terry Knapper of The Appliance Group.

17 Blurton Road, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 2DG
Telephones: 0800 528 5228 and 01782 593816.

The Cast

Betty	Caroline Wicks
Syd, Betty's husband	Derek Yeomans
Sandra, Syd and Betty's daughter	Lauren Haynes
Tommy, Betty's brother	James Freeman
Vera, Tommy's wife	Dawn Birks
Reeny, Betty's sister	Sarah Stockdale
Ted, Reeny's husband	David Bryan
John, Ted and Reeny's son	Richard Vernon
Tim, a student	Jude Leath-Yates

Director Chris Lockett

Assistant Director Janie-Lou Smith

Act one takes place in Betty's home on Christmas Eve

Act two takes place in Reeny's home on Christmas Day.

The Crew

Stage Director	Terry Wright
Stage Manager	Ray Vernon
Set construction and crew	Rep Players' Workshop Team
Set design	RP Design
Lighting design and operation	Malcolm Rushton
Sound design and operation	Mike Adams
Flyman	Peter Logan
Props	Kath Vernon
Set dressing	Margo Bloor
Wardrobe	Sylvia Wright
Costumes	Rep Players and North Staffs Operatic Society
Front-of-House Manager	Nick Bailey
Programme design	Brian Rawlins
Company photographer	Peter Croft

Acknowledgements

We are indebted to the St John's Ambulance Brigade, whose members attend all our performances. Thanks also to the North Staffs Operatic Society and M-Way Vehicle Rental.