

THE REP

STOKE-ON-TRENT REPERTORY PLAYERS

College Road, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent

Telephone: 44784

58th Season 1978-79



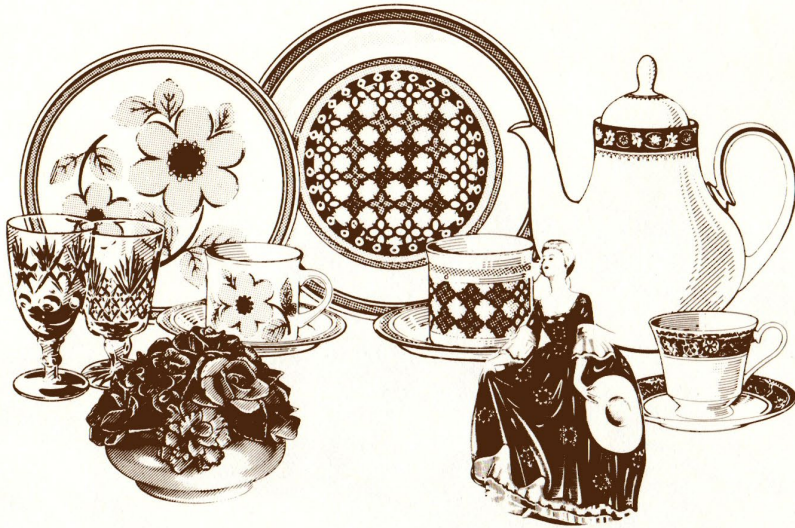
JANUARY 23 – FEBRUARY 3 1979

The Ghost Train

by

Arnold Ridley

Lawleys in Newcastle...

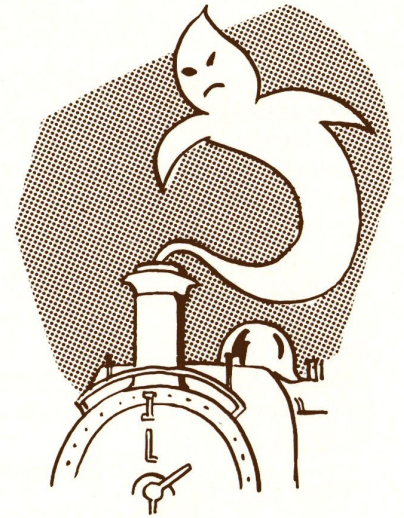


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The Ghost Train



ABOUT THE PLAY

When Arnold Ridley rose to television fame as the bumbling and slightly incontinent old soldier of 'Dad's Army' hardly anybody realised that fifty years earlier he had written a highly successful play.

'The Ghost Train' was first produced at the St. Martin's Theatre, London in 1925. Ridley described it as a 'drama' but he could hardly have meant this seriously. The play contains all the stock characters of 'twenties' comedy: the silly, upper-class ass; the crumbling rustic; the eccentric spinster (complete with pet); the self-conscious newly-weds and the beautiful and mysterious wandering girl. Even if some of these characters turn out to be other than they seem, the whole effect is that of a 'comedy thriller' rather than a drama.

Modern audiences may find Ridley's rather stilted dialogue hard to accept. In 1925, however, stage characters were not expected to speak and act like the folks next door and their artificial language was an accepted tradition. Today, the play must be seen as a period piece, a piece of theatrical history and an amusing bit of spookery.

CAST

in order of appearance

Saul Hodgkin, Stationmaster at Fal Vale Station _____ Peter Legge
Richard Winthrop _____ Derek Langston
Elsie, his wife _____ Lindsay Kennerell
Charles Murdock, junior partner in Murdock & Son _____ Richard Anderson
Peggy, his newly-married wife _____ Rosemary Hulme
Miss Bourne _____ Ann Mollart
Teddie Deakin _____ John Walley
Julia Price _____ Jackie Allen
Herbert Price _____ Gordon Broomfield
John Sterling _____ George Slater
Jackson _____ Jim Chainey
Police Constable _____ Walter Plinge

Directed by Keith Groom

The action of the play takes place in the small General waiting-room at Fal Vale, a wayside station on the South Cornwall Joint Railway, during the course of four hours.

Act I 10 p.m.
Act II 11.30 p.m.
Act III 12.30 a.m.

Time: The early 1920's

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 attendants.

SMOKING IS PERMITTED DURING INTERVALS ONLY

PRODUCTION

Settings and Lighting designed by Brian Hadley

General Stage Manager _____ Richard Masters
Stage Manager _____ Steve Brothwell
Assistant Stage Managers _____ Pauline Turner
Gill Chesworth
David Hemmings
Lighting Technicians _____ David Amos
Mark Langston
Nick Williamson
Ian Buckley
Niel Morrisey
Theatre Photographer _____ Peter Croft

The Repertory Theatre would like to thank

North Staffordshire Railway Society
British Rail
Watkins-et-Cie

Our Next Production
MARCH 20 – MARCH 31 1979

THE ENTERTAINER

by John Osborne

The story of Archie Rice –
music hall comedian and failure.

THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY.

The North Staffordshire Railway Society was formed in 1971 to try to re-create the "Knotty" atmosphere, by running steam trains on a section of the old railway system. It was not until late 1973 that the idea reached any form of reality when Cheddleton railway station on the former Churnet Valley line became the society's headquarters after months of negotiations with Leek & District and Cheddleton Parish Councils. Since then, and with the station now being classed as a Grade 2 historical building, the society has moved into the preservation world in a big way. Planning permission has been granted to re-build the railway between Oakamoor and Alton Towers, a distance of two miles, with a British Rail link at the Oakamoor end, and a possible through line to Cheddleton. B.R. still use the existing line between Leekbrook and Oakamoor (now singled throughout) for moving sand from the quarry.

At Cheddleton station, the society have set up a small indoor museum in the restored waiting hall and ticket office, while the station master's house has become the sales area and main offices and lecture rooms. The one thing missing from the whole site was the signal box, but this has now been rectified by purchasing from B.R. Elton Crossing box (Sandbach) by The Signal Box Trust and recently transported by road to the museum to be rebuilt as a working monument to the old N.S.R.

The society has also an interesting array of rolling stock which can be inspected by the public at any time, although the site is officially open on Sundays only. Two steam locomotives are under restoration, one a Fowler 0-6-0 Class 4F tender engine No. 44422 rescued from the scrapyard in 1977, the other a small industrial locomotive purchased from the N.C.B. at Wolstanton colliery which is now very close to steaming thanks to the part sponsorship from The Wedgwood Pottery Group. This engine will be named "Josiah Wedgwood" on completion. Other stock include, two ex B.R. Mk 1 carriages, two 12 ton freight vans and three wagons recently donated by the British Steel Corporation from Shelton Steel Works. A small 0-4-0 diesel locomotive has been donated privately.

The whole project will be officially opened by World Professional Snooker Champion Ray Reardon on Good Friday, and it is anticipated that following a grant of £7,000 from the Manpower Services, the station buildings will be completely restored.

The North Staffordshire Railway Society are geared for success, and details of the Society including membership can be obtained from; The Secretary, Cheddleton Station, Station Road, Cheddleton, Nr. Leek, Staffs. enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

It is with great pleasure that we can loan our relics for this production of the "Ghost Train".

**The MUSICAL
MUSICAL**
Gordon Alcock PRODUCTION
OF
GHOST TRAIN

Queen's Theatre, Burslem

Wednesday 21 to Saturday 31 March 1979
Each evening at 7.15 p.m.
Matinee on Saturday 24 March at 3 p.m.

Seat Prices: £1.50, £1.40, 90p, 70p, 60p, and 50p.
All seats half price on Wednesday, 21st and Saturday matinee 24th

Booking Office opens at the Queen's Theatre on Saturday 10 March.
11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. (except Saturday Evenings and Sundays) Telephone: 88904.

Big reduction for party bookings in side balconies.
Advance booking information can be obtained by sending a stamped-addressed envelope to: Mrs E Stretch, 56 The Bridle Path, Madeley, Crewe CW3 9EQ.

'Alice Blue Gown'
'I can dream can't I!'
'What do you want to make those eyes at me for'
'You made me love you!'
'I'm always chasing rainbows'

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