



Stoke-on-Trent
Repertory
Theatre

£1



Quartet

by
Ronald Harwood

*7-11 and 14-18
December 2004 at 7.30pm*

and

*Matinee
18th December 2004 at 2.30*

Welcome

Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre is supported and run by volunteers who regularly give up their time and without whom we could not deliver the standard of production and customer service which our patrons have come to expect. Some of these people you will encounter tonight, others fulfil a less visible, but, non-the-less, vital role.

Backstage Crew, Front-of-House, Bar and Coffee Bar, Members, Friends, Young Rep and all other helpers - we are deeply indebted to everyone involved - **Thank You.**

Some information which you may find helpful:

The Bar is open from 6.45 until 11.00pm on performance evenings and drinking-up time is 20 minutes afterwards.

Coffee, tea and confectionery are available in the foyer from 6.45pm.

All interval refreshments may be ordered before the performance to avoid queuing later.

The car park is open from 6.30 until 11.00pm on performance evenings; overspill parking is available in the Staffordshire University car park further along Leek Road.

Neither the Rep nor Staffordshire University can accept responsibility for damage to, or loss of, vehicles.

Please note that smoking is not allowed in any part of the theatre building.

We hope that you enjoy your evening with us.



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

Booking Info

Our box office is open from the Monday preceding each Rep production through until the last night of the show from 5.00 to 8.00pm

Tel: 01782 209784

Book tickets during opening hours from Music Mania, 4/5 Piccadilly Arcade, Hanley.

Tel: 01782 206000

Why not join our free MAILING LIST - simply give your name and address to a member of our Box Office or Front-of-House staff.

www.stokerep.org.uk

Find out 'What's On' and 'What's News' by visiting the Rep's website.

Information about current and forthcoming productions, shows, concerts and activities is available at the click of a mouse.


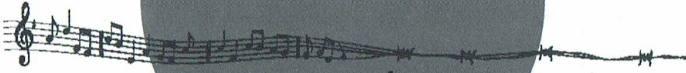
You can easily place provisional ticket orders **AT ANY TIME** using the on-line booking facility.

Friends of the Rep

We all need good friends and the Rep has some of the best. Over the years they have raised thousands of pounds for our theatre which has helped us to upgrade our facilities and make the theatre the excellent venue which it is today. The Friends of the Rep organise social and fund-raising events throughout the year and are always delighted to welcome new members.

If you would like to join them and receive a copy of our regular Rep newsletter, 'REPPORT', please contact

Brian Harvey on 01782 393026


 Presents
 a British Premiere of the
 Award-Winning Australian Play
Diana Halstead & June Hodson
 in
The Shoe-Horn Sonata

 Written by
 John Misto
 Directed by
 Geoff Legan
 at
 Stoke Rep September 5th-10th 2005

**At only £25 + VAT, advertising in
 a Rep programme this season is an
 excellent and very cost-effective way of
 promoting your production,
 business or organisation.**

**For further information, or to book a space, please contact
 the Marketing Manager at
 the theatre.**

Spotlight



LINDSAY-JANE KENNERELL:

My lovely mother was always a soft touch for anyone who knocked on our door peddling their wares. Over a period of years she amassed enough hand-made wooden pegs to start her own laundry business - and she had her palm read a least five times, to boot! On each occasion she was told that I would be rich and famous and have my name up in lights. As I was one of those awful children who shows off at the drop of a hat and who writes one-woman plays and charges a penny to watch them in the front room, my family sat back and waited to bask in reflected glory and live off my millions.

Years later, when I reached a personal crossroads in my life, I went to have my palm read - and the same prediction word for word was given to me. So I took myself off to Drama School, enjoyed the best and most exhausting year of my life, had an Equity card virtually handed to me on a silver platter and fulfilled my ambition of earning a pittance as a professional actress!

Eventually, my life went off in another direction; I went back to teaching - and returned to The Rep.

The Rep has been part of my life for nearly fifty years. As a child, I played in the theatre during working parties and watched the dress rehearsals, agog, on the edge of my seat. I saw my father in countless plays and I learned most of what I know about technique from him and many other versatile and talented performers. As an adult I prompted, ran the wardrobe and props departments, served coffee, sold programmes and showed patrons to their seats. Oh yes! And I cornered the market in playing old bags, bitches, tarts and drunks!

Over the years, I've made lots of friends, laughed a lot, cried a little and always counted myself lucky to belong to a company which sets itself such high standards.

As for the riches, fame and twinkling lights?

Never believed a word of it!!

The Cast

Cecily Robson:	Diana Halstead
Wilfred Bond:	Christopher Salisbury
Reginald Paget:	Gordon Alcock
Jean Horton:	June Hodson
Voice of Bobby Swanson:	Geoff Legan

The action takes place in the music room in a home for retired opera singers and other musicians.

Time: The present

There will be a twenty minute interval

The Crew

Director:	James Masters
Assistant Director:	Lindsay-Jane Kennerell
Musical Director:	Anne Levitt
Stage Director:	Tina Campbell
Set Designer:	Brian Hadley
Stage & Construction Manager:	Bill Hancock
Stage Assistants:	Mike Adams, John Beeston, Sue Hackney, Pete Logan, Richard Masters and Students from Stoke-on-Trent College
Lighting Design:	Malcolm Rushton
Lighting Operator:	Jamie Wood
Sound Design/Operator:	Paul Jones
Props:	Debbie Morrey
Set Dressing:	Margo Bloor, Joan Horne
Costumes:	Birmingham Costume Hire
Company Photographer:	Peter Croft

The Play & Playwright

RONALD HARWOOD:

Born in South Africa in 1934, Ronald Harwood moved to London in 1951 to pursue a career in the theatre. After attending RADA, he joined the Shakespeare company of Sir Donald Wolfit, one of the last actor-managers in Great Britain. From 1953 to 1958 Harwood was the personal dresser of Sir Donald. He would later draw from this experience in his play 'The Dresser' which was also made into an Academy Award nominated film starring Albert Finney and Tom Courtenay.

In 1960 he started his new career as a screenwriter and writer. He proved quite prolific, penning plays, novels and non-fiction books, such as 'All the World's a Stage' which is a general history of the theatre.

One of the recurring themes in Harwood's work is his fascination for the stage and its artists and artisans. This is demonstrated in the aforementioned 'The Dresser' and his plays 'After the Lions' (about Sarah Bernard), 'Another Time' about a gifted piano player and 'Quartet' (about ageing opera singers).

He also has a strong interest in the World War II period, as highlighted by the films 'Operation Daybreak', 'The Pianist', 'The Statement' and his play, turned into a film, 'Taking Sides'.

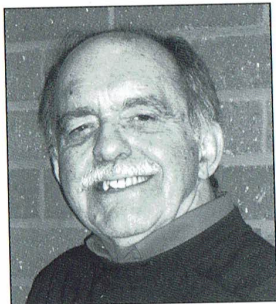
Based on true stories, the last two films, once again, feature musicians as the main characters.

He was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 1974, Commander of the British Empire in 1999 and was President of the international PEN club from 1993 to 1997.

STOWES
the PRINTERS

Stowes the Printers, Park Hall Works, Sutherland Road, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 1HB
Tel: 01782 313793 Fax: 01782 599134 E-Mail: stowes.printers@btpopenworld.com

*Stowes The Printers are pleased to be associated
with the Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre*



GORDON ALCOCK:

In addition to his work as a professional actor, many of you will know Gordon from his association with other amateur groups within the city. In 1967 he took the, then, Meir Youth and Community Group and formed it into Studio One. The original plan was that he would work for twelve months with the group, however, when he next checked his calendar, it was 33 years later and he was still there.

The last few months have been particularly busy for him. The summer brought TV roles in 'Fat Friends' and 'The Royal', plus three weeks at Manchester Contact Theatre in 'The Boy with the Sunken Eye' and over the last few weeks he has been combining rehearsals for 'Quartet' with rehearsals for 'Fiddler on the Roof' which he directed recently for Newcastle Amateur Operatic Society.

His last appearance for the Rep was in 1983 playing the father of Derek Yeomans in 'Billy Liar'. It's taken 21 years, but Gordon has finally returned - it's good to have you back

DIANA HALSTEAD:

Diana was born in Manchester and trained from the age of four in ballet and musical theatre.

In addition to performing, Diana worked as Assistant Wardrobe Mistress at the Victoria Theatre, Hartshill, prior to moving away and living in many different parts of the country from Cornwall to Cumbria and Liverpool to Stoke.

Two of her more unusual claims to dramatic fame are that she is possibly the only actor currently at The Rep who has performed inside a gasometer and that, wherever she has lived, a new theatre has opened, so maybe we should not be surprised that Diana's return to Staffordshire coincided with the opening of the new Rep.

Since her return she has performed in many of the Rep's productions, including 'Lost in Yonkers', 'Cemetery Club' and 'Female Odd Couple'. Her most recent appearance on our stage was in September when she played Doris in Alan Bennett's 'A Cream Cracker Under the Settee'.

In addition to acting, she has also directed 'Habeas Corpus' and co-directed 'Stepping Out' and five of Alan Bennett's 'Talking Heads' monologues.



JUNE HODSON:

Playing Jean, the 'Opera Diva' is quite a change from my real-life years on the stage.

I joined The Rep more than 25 years ago and have been lucky enough to be selected for a wide variety of roles. Among my favourites were Beatrice in Arthur Miller's 'View from the Bridge', Hermione in 'The Winter's Tale', elegant ladies with dark secrets in two Oscar Wilde plays and the slightly crazy Eva in our 1980s production of 'Absurd Person Singular'.

I've just finished a pre-season production of Alan Bennett's 'Talking Heads', playing a dying woman; a contrast to my role during last season when I was a psychotic murderess in Richard Harris's thriller, 'Dead Guilty'.

The only singing role I've ever had was in a production of 'Cabaret' directed by Gordon Alcock, one of the three other actors who make up our quartet. My only other musical experience on the stage was quite unforgettable; playing the obsessive and irritating Vera in 'Stepping Out'. I had to learn to tap dance - quite a challenge when you have two left feet!

CHRISTOPHER SALISBURY:

I suppose it all began, my long and unresolved relationship with live drama, as it did for many others, at school doing Shakespeare and Sheridan. At 15 you do them badly but bravely, since you have to face your mates next day in double maths.

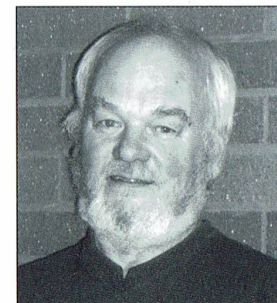
The breeze which kept my fire burning came from much earlier though. Probably from Albert Modley doing his Mother Goose to a house of 900 at the Leeds Empire; and in the same year of 1944 from a contralto at a C.I.M.A recital at Sherburn in Elmet Land Army Hostel, to an audience of 27. She turned out to be Kathleen Ferrier.

The power of live performance never lets you go.

Since then, I've done plays in Hull, Wilmslow and Altrincham, but the last one was almost 30 years ago. So for me, doing Wilf in 'Quartet' is a most unexpected comeback. Nothing's changed though and the underlying panic is there, so I guess that means I must be still alive.

Happy Christmas everyone!

This is the first time that Christopher has appeared at the Rep and we are delighted to welcome our 'new boy'.



JAMES MASTERS:

Having made his first public appearance at the Fanny Deakin Maternity Hospital in Chesterton an unspecified number of years ago, James went on, eventually, to train at the Webber Douglas Academy of Music and Dramatic Art in London. As a professional actor he has played many of the major Reps in the country and was for a long time a member of the 'theatre in the round' companies of the Victoria and New Victoria theatres.

His many television credits include 'Coronation Street', 'Peak Practice' and 'Where the Heart Is' and he recently played Brian Bruce, a deputy kiln manager, in the locally-filmed ITV3 drama series, 'Blue Dove'. Radio 4 devotees may have caught him reading a new Wedgwood biography on its 'Book of the Week' during the week of the 29th November. For those who missed it, he is about to record the voice-over for a televised tribute to Fred Dibnah, who died recently.

Over the years James has appeared in several productions at both the old and new Reps, his most recent appearance being several seasons ago as the fickle fiancé, Hamish, in 'Things we do for Love'.

ANNE LEVITT:

Anne hails from Port Talbot, South Wales. After gaining a music degree at the University of East Anglia, she qualified as a teacher and worked for a number of years in schools in and around London before moving north and settling in Wetherby where she began a long association with the Wetherby Musical Theatre Group where she was, at various times, a leading lady, an accompanist and the musical director.

Baroque was an early musical love and she performed in many concerts as harpsichord continuo. She also loves jazz and for a number of years was a big band vocalist and cabaret singer.

Although she is best known as an accompanist, Anne has been involved with amateur operatic societies across Yorkshire and for the last few years has been the Musical Director of Leeds Amateur Operatic Society. In addition, she is also co-founder and Musical Director of 'Opera Elan' which performs regularly across the north of England.

We are delighted to welcome her back 'down south' to work with our 'quartet'.

Artist in the Gallery

MARIE MCGOWAN-GRIFFIN:

Marie's grandfather was a portrait painter to the Indian Raj which led her to an early interest in art. Her parents moved from India to Britain and she was the first of seven siblings to be born in Wales.

She gained an Honours degree in Interactive Systems Design at Staffordshire University where she is currently a Senior Lecturer in Interactive Multimedia.

Having spent the last ten years exploring art and design from a digital perspective, she has recently enjoyed a return to 'pencil and paper'. She says, "I find working in direct contact with the paper enormously relaxing and therapeutic."

Marie has recently been experimenting with black as the starting point, introducing colour and light to the page to create the blends, contrasts and the intensity of colour sought. Poignant experiences, along with an enduring love of nature and organic forms are major influences behind all her work.

Many thanks, Marie, for the loan of your work.

Thank You

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

Dates for Your Diary

Christmas at the Rep

Thursday 23rd December 2004

Biddulph Male Voice Choir

Saturday 26th February 2005

The Memory of Water

by Shelagh Stephenson

8th - 12th & 15th - 19th February 2005

The Taming of the Shrew

by William Shakespeare

12th - 16th & 19th - 23rd April 2005

Happy as a Sandbag

by Ken Lee

7th - 11th & 14th - 18th June 2005

Young Rep Production

(Details to be announced)

13th - 16th July 2005

Dates for Your Diary