



Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre

Wind in the Willows

by
Kenneth Grahame
adapted by Alan Bennett

80th Season

programme

£1

Toad : Dave Bryan
Ratty : John Wicks
Badger : Dave Finn
Mole : Billy Ryan*
Albert : Bill Hancock
Chief Weasel : Alan Hodgkinson
Bargewoman/ferret : Jackie Clarke
Gypsy/weasel : Stephanie Smith*
Rupert/squirrel : Tim Durham
Washerwoman/rabbit : Dawn Birks
Sgt. Fred Ferret : Alan Clarke
Parkinson/weasel : Steve Damjanovic*
Policeman/Stuart Stoa : David Wheat*
Magistrate : Di Halstead
Norman Weasel : Craig Ostrouchow*
Gaoler's Daughter/squirrel : Emma Wootton*
Fox/Ticket Clerk/ferret : Richard Boden*
Monica/squirrel : Paula Williamson
Otter/Train Driver/Rupert : Steven Meaney
Clerk/Gerald Ferret : Jamie Wood*
Portly Otter/Mark Mouse : Liam Green*
Robert Rabbit: Richard Forrester*
Rose Rabbit : Nina Pemberton*
Ronald Rabbit : Joshua Bennett*
Herbert Hedgehog : Sarah Holmes*
Harry Hedgehog : Sarah Manley*
Tommy Hedgehog : Elizabeth Harrison*
Billy Hedgehog : Samantha Rushton*
Cyril Stoa : Nicki O'Brien*
Gerald Stoa : Barnaby Vickers*
Shirley Squirrel : Gemma Taylor*
Raymond Squirrel : Thomas Ryan*
Samuel Squirrel : Megan Hepher*
Martin/Malcolm Mouse : Matthew Armstrong*
Martha/ Mary Mouse : Holly Entwistle*
Maureen Mouse: Joanna Salt*
Another Mouse : Jenna Bos*

* denotes Young Rep members

The Cast

Welcome

We hope that you enjoy your evening with us. A little information about us that first time visitors may find helpful. The car park will be open from 6.30 on performance evenings until the Theatre bar closes. Overspill parking is available in the Staffs University car park. Neither the Rep or the Uni can accept responsibility for damage or loss of vehicles. The Bar is open from 7.00pm on show nights - until 11pm - drinking up time is 20 minutes afterwards. Coffee, tea & confectionery are available in the foyer from 7pm. All interval drinks may be ordered before the performance. Smoking is not permitted in the auditorium, nor is photographing or taping the performance.

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

The Rep Mailing List : Want to know more about forthcoming productions? Join our FREE mailing list. Ask at the Box Office for further details. Tel : 01782 209784.

FRIENDS OF THE REP

Our aim is to fill the theatre by raising public awareness of the Repertory Theatre. We also organise informative and social events for FRIENDS throughout the year. For more details please contact the Box Office. Tel: 01782 209784.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT WOMEN?

A light hearted entertainment for the new millennium. Hardly will the sun have risen on the new Millennium when an exceptional group of actresses take centre stage at The Rep - their mission is to enlighten and explain the eternal mystery of WOMAN.

8th January 2000 £7

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Principal David E. Adams A.C.I.I., M.L.I.A. (dip)

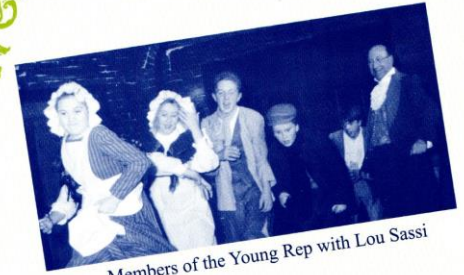
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Archives



Members of the Young Rep with Lou Sassi

Our photographs from the Rep archives show scenes from the 1991 production of "A Christmas Carol". There are several links with our current production; Brian Hadley was director and he designed the set. The scenic artist was Colin Chesterton; both productions drew on the combined talents of long standing adult members and the Young Rep.



John Walley and Trevor Barlow

Artists in the Gallery

A number of artists are exhibiting in the gallery for Wind in the Willows - they are members of the Moorlands Day Service Art Groups.

ANNE BOURNE (soprano)

& CHRISTOPHER SAUNDERS (tenor)

in concert

A ROMANTIC EVENING OF OPERA,
 MUSICALS AND SONG

Friday 14th January 2000 at 7.30 pm

Tickets £7 - available from

Mike Lloyd Music 207777 / 712500
 Mrs A. Bourne 01782 617986

DAVE BRYAN
 (TOAD)

BLOGS

In 1968 David became involved in local theatre and has appeared in many shows and plays.

He became a member of The Rep about 10 years ago and has enjoyed both acting and directing with them. In 1998 David and his wife Virginia formed their own theatre company, 'One Off Productions', and presented "Shirley Valentine", followed by "Pia" and are now planning their next production in March 2000.

JOHN WICKS
 (RATTY)

Born a Southerner, John arrived in Stoke on Trent in 1991 since when he has appeared regularly for The Rep. Favourite plays include "A Man for All Seasons", "All My Sons", "Time of my Life", "Plaza Suite", "Ring Around the Moon" and "The Winters Tale". John has also acted with Second Stage in Stafford and more recently has ventured into musicals with local operatic societies, including "Crazy For You", "Hot Mikado" and next year the role of Fagin in "Oliver!"

Spotlight On A Rep Member

ACTING *Diana Malsstead*

My mother said, 'It's better to be looked over, than overlooked!' Diana started her theatrical journey as a cute four year old (their words, not hers!) Dancing and singing with a troupe of child entertainers, and lessons in most aspects of stage craft, moving to musical shows with roles in 'Me and My Girl', 'New Moon' and others. When she played a very blooded Lady Macbeth in a school production, she realised that she was no longer cute! But her parents gave both her hands in marriage, and at nineteen she moved with her husband to Newcastle and they had three children.

The North Staffs Operatic Society followed and she appeared in over 20 productions including 'West Side Story', 'Cabaret', 'Fiddler on the Roof', 'Hello Dolly' and Fanny Brice in 'Funny Girl'. For Studio One she played in 'The Boyfriend', 'Chorus of Disapproval' and 'Dames at Sea'.

For Stoke Original Theatre were Jellies, Jams and Jubilation!, a less blooded Lady M (!) and 'Dr. Music' (which became a TV show) all performed daily at The Edinburgh Festival. She sang on the LP record of 'Souvenir from Stoke'.

At this time she was working at The Victoria Theatre following her interest in costume and design in the wardrobe department, but did not relish finding the odd cockroach in the actors' boots! An acting contract was offered but had to be refused, as the Halsteads were off on their travels again.

A move to Cornwall followed where she was asked if she 'fancied going on the stage?' and soon she became involved in local theatre; this time directing, choreographing, playing piano, painting scenery etc. Musical entertainments, that she presented, were very popular with holidaymakers and locals alike. Her rendition of 'Popsy Wopsy' offered her cabaret spots around the district. Whilst there, she played in 'Sound of Music', 'Oklahoma!', 'Habeas Corpus' and 'Hay Fever', and packed out the house playing and directing 'Bad Day at Black Frog Creek'.

In Truro she worked for the RSC's touring company, and loved 'ear wiggling on artistic differences between director and stars'. A familiar face from her days at The Vic appeared, in the form of Nick Darke, and Salathiel Trennigan (a woman of dubious 'ormones) was born, in his specially commissioned play 'The Earth Turned Inside Out', using a cast of a hundred experienced and novice actors from the community of Cornwall.

Briefly back in The Potteries, she managed to fit in Miss Hannigan in 'Annie' for the NSOS and two shows with Studio One including a quick tour, previously mentioned. On the move again, she went to endless improvisation sessions at The Brewery Arts Centre in Kendal, Cumbria, where a brand new theatre had been opened by Alan Bennett, and was accepted into the newly formed 'prom' company named 'The Company' playing Mrs Crumple, and others, in the RSC's production of 'Nicholas Nickleby' and went on to play 'Aunt in the Restoration Comedy 'Sir Courty Nice' (performed in the tented beech circle at Levens Hall).



Queen in 'Old King Cole', a former Vic Theatre production, and Macbeth again! This time relegated to Witch One, no blood!! Also a member of The Brewery Players, parts included Mrs Wickstead in 'Habeas Corpus' in honour of the aforementioned A. B. Grandmother in 'My Mother Said I Never Should', Big Momma in 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof' and Jim Cartwright's 'Two'. A three week break brought her back to Staffordshire to rehearse and play in John Cumberland's production of 'Follies' playing Carolta and singing, aptly, 'I'm Still Here!'. Since moving back to Staffordshire and joining The Rep. three years ago, she has played Mother in 'Ring Round The Moon', Miss Ruddock in 'Lady of Letters', Lady Markby in 'An Ideal Husband' and Grandma in 'Lost in Yonkers'.

What's next? 'What is it About Women?' and Lucille in 'Cemetery Club'. So Diana says - 'Please come and look us ALL over'. Like my Mother said.

Claim to fame
Sharing a dressing room with, and playing an apprentice for, Mr. Bean (Rowan Atkinson). Being understudied by a Coronation Street actress!!!

Most Unusual Venue
Playing 'Blithe Spirit' in a converted Gasometer in The Lake District.

Biggest Put Down
An after show line up of actors, and a sprightly Cocker Spaniel, being congratulated on their performances. On reaching her, the lady remarked - 'Ah, Diana - I believe you brought the dog' and moved on!!

OOOPS!
It's Lady M' again!! 'Out damn spot' and the lights went out!!

The Director

Brian Hadley

Joined the Rep in 1974 and acted in "The Queen and the Rebels" with a young, fellow new member, Richard Masters. his first set design for the Rep was "Conduct Unbecoming". Since joining Brian has been seen many times on stage notably in "Death of a Salesman" and "Breaking the Code". His set designs have ranged from "A Man For All Seasons" to "HMS Pinafore" and his directing from "Teachers" to "Lost in Yonkers". On top of all he is also currently Director of the Young Rep.

One Off Productions
presents
Virginia Bryan
in
M'Lita
Stoke's forgotten star
a new musical play by **Ray Johnson**

1st - 4th March 2000
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Wind in the Willows

When I was first approached about directing, and therefore designing "The Wind in the Willows", I was asked whether I felt it was feasible for us to do it, and although we had a brand new purpose built theatre it was not the Royal National Theatre.

In his preface to the play Bennett says that when writing it he did not know how to avoid things like a rowing boat floating down a river, or a train thundering down a track or a barge drifting along a canal, to which he was told to write it in and leave the problems to the experts and facilities of the RNT and the Olivier stage. But could I leave it to the experts and facilities of the Rep?

Having worked at the Rep for a number of years I knew the team that I had behind me, and leading that team was Richard Masters. Apart from our passion for theatre, grown out of children's games played on home-made model theatres, we both rise to the challenge of making "the impossible, possible."

After eight weeks of work on designing a set I then had the task of approaching Richard and the 'team' with my set plans and model. After much chuntering, whispering and even hysterical laughter from the "crew" Richard finally turned around and said "No problem!"

I am therefore indebted to the "crew" for all their hard work and their dedication to this project.

I am also indebted to the cast who, in this joint venture of adult Rep and Young Rep, have worked so tirelessly and so hard as a team. They have put the life into the set and have created the changing atmospheres of The Riverbank and The Wild Wood.

There is often, in the theatre, a sense of wonder and excitement in creating something and then making it work.

I can only hope that you, the audience, get the same sense of wonder and pleasure out of what you see today on stage, as we did in the creating of it.

Brian P. Hadley
(Director of "Wind in the Willows")

Coming Soon

The Cemetery Club

A both moving and highly comic play about three extraordinary American Widows

by
Ivan Menchell
Directed by
Geff Legan

8th - 19th February 2000

Programme Design by Jayne E. Blake Additional artwork by Fiona Eyre

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