

THE REP

Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre,
Beresford Street, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent. ST4 2FX

TEACHERS



by John Godber

29th November - 3rd December and
6th - 10th December, 1994

Programme 50p

75th
Season

DON'T MISS OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

January
31 -



LADIES IN RETIREMENT

by Edward Percy and
Reginald Denham

The 1880's, and an eerie atmosphere of mystery is evoked on the marshes of the Thames estuary in a dark, lonely house owned by wealthy Leonora Fiske and shared by her housekeeper/companion, Ellen Creed, a gentlewoman fallen on hard times. The two are friends and live pleasantly enough until, against Miss Fiske's wishes, Miss Creed's two homeless, penniless, simple-minded sisters come to stay - when events suddenly takes a spine-chilling turn. Based on a famous contemporary murder, 'LADIES IN RETIREMENT' is one of the most successful and frequently performed plays in modern repertoire.

Here is a fine melodrama of shudders

Box Office opens 4.30pm Wednesday,
25th January, 1995

Don't forget that tickets for The Rep are now available from the Newcastle Tourist Information Office until the week before a show opens, when they are transferred to our own Box Office.

February
- 11



GOOD EVENING

.....and welcome to the
Repertory Theatre;
we hope that you will enjoy
your evening with us

Here is a little information about our theatre which first-time visitors may find helpful :

CAR PARKING

The Rep has parking space available in the school yard of the Cauldon Primary School, directly opposite the theatre. Patrons are encouraged to use this facility. Cars are parked at the owner's risk, no responsibility can be accepted by the Repertory Theatre.

REFRESHMENTS

Theatre Bar : This is open from half an hour before the curtain rises until the end of normal licensing hours. Interval drinks may be ordered before the performance.

We must advise patrons that our licence restricts the consumption of Bar Refreshments to that area of the theatre only. Persons under the age of 14 years are not permitted to enter the Theatre Bar.

Coffee : Coffee will be served to patrons in their seats during the interval. Coffee tickets are available in the auditorium and should be purchased before the performance.

Confectionery : A full range is available, and on sale in the auditorium before the performance. Patrons are respectfully asked not to rustle confectionery wrappings, however, as it can mar the enjoyment of others.

SMOKING : Smoking is not permitted in the auditorium.

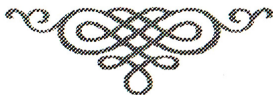
PHOTOGRAPHY : Photography and/or tape (including video tape) recordings in the auditorium during a public performance are prohibited.

The Rep is a member of the Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain, and is affiliated to the British Theatre Association and *International Amateur Theatre Association.*

We look forward to seeing you at our next production



IN REHEARSAL



Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre

presents

by special arrangement with Samuel French Ltd.

‘TEECHERS’

by John Godber

29th November - 3rd December and
6th - 10th December, 1994

**DESIGNED AND DIRECTED BY
BRIAN P. HADLEY**

SCENIC ARTIST COLIN CHESTERTON

GENERAL STAGE MANAGER ... RICHARD MASTERS

Acknowledgements

Specialist Wardrobe Care and Dry-cleaning for the Repertory Theatre courtesy of **Central Cleaners**, 163 Hamil Road, Burslem.

**WE ARE INDEBTED TO THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE,
WHOSE MEMBERS VOLUNTARILY ATTEND ALL OUR
PUBLIC PERFORMANCES.**

A a B b C c D **TEACHERS** L I M m N n O

by John Godber

CAST

SALTY : (playing Teacher B, Nixon, Pete Saxon, Oggy Moxon, Mr Fisher, Mr Hatton, Deanie)
Derek Yeomans

HOBBY : (playing Mrs Parry, Ms Jones, Mr Basford, Ron, Piggy Paterson, Oggy Moxon, Mrs Clifton)
Jane Procter

GAIL : (playing Teacher A, Ms Whitham, Oggy Moxon, Mr Basford, Miss Prime, Barry Wobschall, Dennis, Doug, Mrs Coates)
Michaela Warrilow

Incidental music selected by John K. Collier
 Whitewall High Schools pupils (F.O.H.) : The Young Rep

Setting : A Comprehensive School Stage,
 somewhere in Yorkshire

Time : Early 1980's

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager (for this production)	Richard Masters
Lighting Designer	Stuart Campbell
Sound Designer	Martin Allsop
Assistant Stage Managers	Mike Adams Tina Campbell Gill Franklin Bill Hancock Martin Guest Beverley Halfpenny Jan Johnson Yvonne Tipping
Wardrobe Mistress	Alison Townsend
Properties	Debbie Rowley
Company Photographer	Peter Croft
Theatre Bar Manager	Judy Adams
Front of House Manager	Trevor Barlow
Box Office Managers	Stella Woolliscroft Brenda Swancott
Refreshment Organiser	Sandy Holland
Programme	Tina Campbell



JOHN GODBER . . .

"**Teachers**" was first performed by the Hull Truck Theatre Company in 1987. John Godber actually wrote the play in April 1986, and it is based on his own experiences of teaching drama as a probationary teacher in 1979. He recently wrote . . .

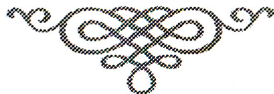
"I have always been a supporter of the comprehensive system, since it served me well as a lanky adolescent and I attempted to serve it well as a postgraduate teacher."

Of course many of the references to education in "**Teachers**" no longer apply, as the education system has changed dramatically in fifteen years.

*"I was shocked when I considered how much had actually changed in real terms. So I concluded that if I were to accommodate these multifarious changes, essentially we were talking about writing a new play. On a further painstakingly careful re-read I deduced that the play **Teachers**" was 'fixed in time'. Everywhere in the text there was evidence of the 1980's."*

So we decided therefore to set the play in the early 80's and not to try and bring it up to date, and to leave it to you to decide whether things have changed for the better or worse, or not at all.

As Head of drama at a comprehensive school I am aware of many changes in education. The most notable change, as far as I am concerned, has been the changing role of drama in school. Fifteen years ago there were many drama teachers in the county running their own departments. Now there are very few who are completely autonomous, they have been swallowed up into other departments where they take a subservient role, or in some cases have disappeared altogether. Surely this must give rise for some concern . . .



. . . AND TEECHERS

"more people watch the dramatic form today than ever before in the history of civilisation."

Drama is one of the most natural creative activities known to man. It was never learned, it has become instinctive, From early childhood games to the complex role play of adults, drama has been used as a vehicle for learning. Through drama we are able to develop communication skills and social skills. We are able to develop physical, sensual, emotional and intellectual awareness. Should we not, therefore, be teaching young people about its complexity and its formulation, should we not be giving them the experience of performance, the opportunity for group co-operation and creativity?

"Why is it then, that less drama is being taught in schools? Why is it our children are not experiencing the magic of performance but are restricted to watching it? Is it further evidence of passivity?"

The same argument is currently being leveled at P.E. and the decline of team games. We are becoming a nation of watchers, not doers. I'll leave the final word to John Godber . . .

"It seems to me, that we are losing drama as a major player in our curriculum and I believe that, if this continues to be the case, we will be a poorer nation for it."

BRIAN P. HADLEY (Director of "Teachers**")**



The History of the Repertory Theatre **(1920 - 1995 and beyond)**

In May 1990, Peter Legge completed his first draft of a "*small publication*" on the history of the Rep. He continued to work on the project, intending to publish the material at an appropriate time in the hope that it would be "*of particular interest to the loyal Rep. audience some of whom are grandchildren of the original audience of the 1920s.*"

Inevitably I was caught up in his enthusiasm. I agreed to provide photographs to illustrate Peter's text and to help him to fill in some of the wider historical background to the theatre's development.

Peter's project is worthy of completion. As members look forward to a new and exciting phase in the theatre's history we should also seek to preserve the story of its past.

I recently began to work towards the creation of a permanent Rep. archive. A nucleus of material already exists - programmes, photographs, press cuttings etc. - but there are enormous gaps in the sequence. The time has come for me to appeal to Rep. members past and present for further assistance. Have you any material such as old programmes which you are willing to place in a central archive?

- ▶ Have you any old photographs (especially pre-1977 season) from which new negatives or slides can be made?
- ▶ Have you any play scripts from past productions?
- ▶ Have you any collections of press cuttings which can be photocopied?
- ▶ Do you know of former Rep. members who might be able to provide information or materials?

If you are willing to help, I should be grateful if you would contact me through the theatre OR at home - Tel: (0782) 49948.

Peter Croft
November 1994

IN MEMORIAM **THE REP REMEMBERS**

Rosemary Parker (nee Forster)
Actress; Social Committee Member

Bernadette (Bunny) Sheppard
Bar Committee Member

Springbank are pleased to support
The Repertory Theatre
and the Local Arts

Vending's Finest Choice

- Springbank are independent specialists in all types of vending systems
- We have all the necessary support services 'in-house' to cover installation, operating, technical services and ingredients supply.
- Our systems produce cost effective savings and represent genuine value for money.
- We already supply prestigious companies in your area.

0785•815551

Whitebridge Lane
Industrial Estate
Stone
Staffordshire
ST15 8LQ

Vending's Finest Choice

THE REP

Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre,
Beresford Street, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent. ST4 2EX
Telephone (0782) 44784

75th Season 1994/1995

WHEN WE ARE MARRIED by J. B. Priestley

11 - 15 and 18 - 22 October, 1994

Box Office opens 5th October

TEACHERS by John Godber

29 November - 3 December and 6 - 10 December, 1994

Box Office opens 23rd November

CHRISTMAS AT THE REP

17th December, 1994

LADIES IN RETIREMENT

by Edward Percy and Reginald Denham

31 January - 4 February and 7 - 11 February, 1995

Box Office opens 25th January

ALL MY SONS by Arthur Miller

28 March - 1 April and 4 - 8 April, 1995

Box Office opens 22nd March

OUT OF ORDER by Ray Cooney

23 - 27 May and 30 May - 3 June, 1995

Box Office opens 17th May

BOX OFFICE

OPENS

4.30 p.m.

TELEPHONE

44784

CLOSES

7.00 p.m.

FOR TELEPHONE BOOKINGS