



Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre
College Road, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent

The Happiest Days of Your Life

by John Dighton

4th-8th October, 1983
11th - 15th October, 1983

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The Happiest Days of Your Life

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Dick Tassell	KEVIN WYSE
Rainbow	DAVID FINN
Rupert Billings	JOHN WALLEY
Godfrey Pond	GEORGE GOODALL
Evelyn Whitchurch	SHELLEY RIDDELL
Miss Gossage	MADELEINE POTTINGER
Hopcroft	EDWARD BENTLEY or NEIL BRICKLEY
Barbara Calhoun	ALISON TOWNSEND
Joyce Harper	ANN TUNNICLIFFE
Rev. Edward Peck	GORDON TOON
Mrs. Peck	MADELEINE POINTON
Edgar Sowter	JOHN WOOD
Mrs. Sowter	JOAN BENNETT

Directed by Mary Bartholomew

The action takes place in the Masters' Common Room of Hilary Hall School for Boys in Hampshire immediately after World War II

Act I First day of the Summer Term, afternoon.

Act II Saturday afternoon, three weeks later.

Act III Two hours later.

Who's Who in The Happiest Days of Your Life

MARY BARTHOLOMEW, Director of this production is, despite her youthful appearance, the longest-serving member of The Rep still acting and directing. She joined in 1951 and has acted in countless memorable productions, her favourite being William Douglas Home's **Lloyd George Knew My Father**. As a director, she feels that her triumph was **Habeas Corpus** two years ago.

KEVIN WYSE is a teacher at St. Thomma's R.C. School and is just about to become a Deputy Headmaster. Dick Tassell is his fifth part with the Rep and his first major role. Previous appearances were in **The Dark of the Moon**, **The Long, the Short and the Tall**, **Arsenic and Old Lace**, **The Rep Revue**, and **Birds on the Wing** in which he doubled as a Frenchman and a Japanese.

DAVID FINN doubles acting with serving his third season as Front-of-House Manager. Now in his sixth year as a member of the Rep, he was formerly with the now-defunct Etceteras 'for many years'. A bank clerk in real life, Rainbow is his eighth part. His triumph was undoubtedly Dr. Einstein in last season's production of **Arsenic and Old Lace**.

JOHN WALLEY, a teacher, joined The Rep from the New Era Players in 1969 and has taken part in 15 productions, his most memorable roles being Dr. Wicksteed in **Habeas Corpus** and a homicidal maniac in **The Man**. He is also a member of the North Staffordshire Operatic Society and last year played Colonel Pickering in **My Fair Lady**. He is well-known locally as an impersonator of George Formby, is Secretary of the George Formby Society and the author of a book, **George Formby Complete** (1972).

GEORGE GOODALL, joined The Rep in 1970 after more than 20 years with the New Era Players. An auditor for the electrical chain, Rumbelows, he is one of the best known faces on the North Staffordshire amateur stage and has taken leading roles with North Staffordshire and Stoke Operatic Societies, the most memorable being Ali Hakim in **Oklahoma**, Baron Zeta in **The Merry Widow** and Koko in **The Mikado**. At The Rep, his most memorable performances have been the mad Teddy in **Arsenic and Old Lace** and The Adjutant in **Conduct Unbecoming**.

SHELLEY RIDDELL has acted for 'more than 35 years' but had her greatest triumph only last year, when she brought the house down as Grandma in **Billy Liar** which she says will always remain one of her favourite productions. Shelley is also a classical singer and takes part in concerts throughout the area, but she acts exclusively for The Rep 'because she loves the place'.

MADELEINE POTTINGER, now in her fourth year at The Rep and playing the one part she would have chosen out of this season's productions. Her previous favourite role was Connie, the frustrated spinster who prayed for a bigger bust in **Habeas Corpus**, but Madeleine actually prefers drama to comedy. She has also appeared with the Proscenium Players at Barlaston and with the Meir-based Studio One.

NEIL BRICKLEY is 16 and was selected (with Edward Bentley) from 19 young hopefuls who auditioned for the part of Hopcroft. He attends the St. John Fisher School in Hartshill and his only previous acting experience was at junior school, where he played the lead in a home-made production called **Home on the Range**.

EDWARD BENTLEY, also 16, has acted before, in school productions at the Painsley School in Cheadle, but Hopcroft is his first major role. He has no desire to be an actor, despite his success at audition, but hopes to be either a draughtsman or a surveyor.

ALISON TOWNSEND has been a member of The Rep for six years. She specializes in character parts and her first major role was as Liz, the scruffy girlfriend in **Billy Liar** last season. She began acting while at the Sixth Form College and had roles in **Moses** and **The Dark of the Moon**. She is one of the few female ceramists at Twyford.

ANN TUNNICLIFFE is 22 and a secretary for 'the well-known local tyre manufacturing company'. She has been a member of The Rep for five years and her first production was **Charley's Aunt**, which she considers a good introduction to the variety of parts she has had since, reaching the heights with her performance in last season's production of J. B. Priestley's **Dangerous Corner**.

GORDON TOON is appearing in his third Rep production, his previous appearance being in two of last season's comedies, **Birds on the Wing** and **Arsenic and Old Lace**. He has been in personnel management for his whole working life but now spends his time writing plays for TV and radio — although he has not sold any yet!

MADELEINE POINTON has been a member of The Rep for 30 years and Mrs Peck is her 28th part. She says that most of the productions have been memorable but, when pressed, confessed to having particularly fond memories of the first production of **Arsenic and Old Lace**, **Dark of the Moon** and **As Long as They're Happy**. She doubles her acting with being the Theatre's very active Social Secretary.

JOHN WOOD is a newcomer to The Rep and joined to play Officer Klein in last season's production of **Arsenic and Old Lace**. He had already appeared in a production of the play at Cheadle. He is also a member of the North Staffordshire Operatic Society and his most memorable role was the drag part of Mary Sunshine in **Chicago**.

JOAN BENNETT joined The Rep 11 years ago after 17 years with the New Era Players and has played 'lots of wonderful parts' including Elizabeth in **Vivat Vivat Regina**, the Mum in **Barefoot in the Park** and Eleanor in **The Lion in Winter**. She has also appeared in productions by both Stoke and North Staffordshire Operatic Societies and her roles have included Nellie in **South Pacific**, Ado Annie in **Oklahoma**, and the title role in **Mame**. A mum in real life, both her children, Julie and Robert, have acted at The Rep. She is also a golfer and reached the quarter finals of this year's national Daily Mirror Foursomes Championship.

For Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre

Stage Managers	GRAHAM MOUAT and BRIAN RAWLINS
Lighting	TINA RICHARDSON
Sound	LES NEALE
Properties	GILL CHESWORTH and MARGO PERKINS
Set design	TINA RICHARDSON
Costumes	AVERILL COCHRANE
Prompters	SUE THOMPSON and JUNE HODSON
Set constructed by	BILL HANCOCK, RICHARD MASTERS, -PAULINE TURNER, GRAHAM MOUAT, DEBBIE MOUAT and PETER FRANKLIN

Fireplace loaned by Antique Workshop

Lichfield Road, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent.

Car Park

The part of Beresford Street between St. Jude's Church and the schools may be used for parking, but please ensure that cars do not obstruct the entrance to the Vicarage. 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 the attendants.

Smoking is permitted during the intervals only.

Smokers Please Note:

Please use the ashtrays provided. Smokers on the front row should ask an attendant for an ashtray.



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20th March to 31st March — **The Last of the Red-Hot Lovers**

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