

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS

23 June - 1 July at Green Room 7 - 8 July at Quarry Bank, Styal

adapted by Nicholas Wright from the novel by Jules Verne

Directed by Celia Bonner

Phileas Fogg lives a life of perfect control and regularity, going every day to his club to play whist and letting nothing stir his equilibrium, let alone his heart. But he is never one to turn down a bet and when someone suggests that even in the heady days of high-speed connections that are the 1870s he cannot possibly travel right round the world in just eighty days, Fogg is prepared to wager his fortune to prove them wrong.

Fogg's new valet, Passepartout, thinks he has settled for a quiet life after leaving his former profession as a circus performer, but finds himself on a hair-raising adventure. Racing around the globe and across the continents, the pair jump from train to boat to elephant and back again, pausing only to rescue a princess and battle bandits, winter storms and Scotland Yard.

In the course of their journey, Fogg and Passepartout, pursued by Inspector Fix and eventually accompanied by Mrs Aouda, come across a collection of about fifty very varied characters, played by four versatile performers with a deal of panache and a lot of help from our inventive Wardrobe department.

As if all this were not enough, this production has an extra challenge. For I think the first time we will present a play in the Green Room itself and then transfer the same production to the lovely setting of the Upper Garden at Quarry Bank – which means that everything we use in the Green Room has to be fit for use outdoors too.

And then there is the small question of the elephant...

Celia Bonner



CAST

Phileas Fogg	Ian Tyler
Jean Passepartout	Tim Cooper
Inspector Fox	Steve Williamson
Princess Aouda	Laura Crow
Naidu and other parts	Peter de la Wyche
Captain Speedy	
and other parts	Charlie Cook
Von Darius	
and other parts	Vicky Johnson
Colonel Proctor	
and other parts	Mark Jephcott

The SHEILA HINE AWARD

The annual **SHEILA HINE AWARD** is presented each year at the AGM, to any Green Room member who is deemed to have put in effort over and above what might be expected in roles they have filled.

Please send in your nominations by Friday 23 June latest, with a short statement giving your reasons, to: Margaret Seddon
Chris Hills
Jacque Bilsborough
Pat Barrow



THE LADYKILLERS



Did you see **The Ladykillers**? If so, you will have really enjoyed the wonky set, cleverly built in the limited confines of the Green Room; and the agile, cunning antics of the gang. The GMDF adjudicator certainly did.



He praised the ingenious two-storey house, the detailed interior, complete with radio, parrot, and crazy window, and the superb train effects created so well with sounds and lighting. He praised the director for the pacy production with its well-defined characters.

He enjoyed the put-upon Mrs Wilberforce, (Linda Batson), Bob Stewart as the patient Constable, and the 'terrifying gaggle' of ladies invited in to tea. He admired the 'villainous relish', making Hamish as the Professor the 'star of the show'. Also, Charlie Cook's facial tics and physical humour, John Chandler's ability to be both chilling and endearing, Ewan Henderson's disturbed anger, and Ian McBride's very entertaining slow confusion.



SOCIAL

SATURDAY 3 JUNE - RACE NIGHT

Be a Jockey. Be an Owner. Watch the horses or have a flutter! The **Green Room is holding it's own Ascot evening**. Even though the races are on screen, appropriate dress, including hats, is encouraged (though not compulsory).

£2 on the door, 7.30 for 8pm. The bar will be open.

Seats are limited so please contact

Di James

or any member of the Social Committee if you want to guarantee your place, or just turn up on the night

Gawsworth Celebration Event

WE NEED YOU!

The Green Room is holding an event in summer 2018 to celebrate our long association with the Gawsworth Hall summer season.

We need photographs, videos, anecdotes, stories, props, costumes – in fact anything that can be used to illustrate the many and varied productions over the years. We want to bring back memories and show younger members of the society, and those who were not involved in Gawsworth productions, just what we got up to! Also, we would like to contact and invite as many people as possible who were involved to come along and share the celebration.

Would you be prepared to come and share your experiences? The event will be informal, but the idea is to celebrate the part that the association with Gawsworth Hall has played in the Green Room's history. We would like to start planning the event as soon as possible, as there must be a wealth of ideas and material available. If you have any ideas or suggestions or would like to take part please contact

Di James

BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS for AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS

Bookings for Quarry Bank - please make directly: 01625 527468 / www.nationaltrust.org.uk/quarry-bank

PLEASE : - use the Ticket-Line tel no 01625 540933 for ALL messages for the ticket secretaries - to reserve seats, make returns, or leave any messages and enquiries

Answerphone / Ticket-Line / on-line bookings	from Monday 29 May	members and general public
Box Office on four Saturdays	from Saturday 3 June	11 am till 12 noon
Postal bookings	send in at any time	will be dealt with after 29 May

Please note that the on-line booking facility will close at 6pm on the night of a show, and that all reserved tickets must be paid for by 7.15 latest on the performance night, or such tickets will be deemed available for resale

PLAY & STAGE

Firstly many thanks for those members who took the trouble to attend the auditions for the new season and also those who contacted us to express an interest. Overall we were pleased with the turnout, particularly for the catch-up, which bodes well for the future. We have also had a few individual auditions for members who couldn't make the regular dates. E-mails have now been sent out with offers of parts and most have been accepted. However, as always, there were (thankfully just a few) gaps and we are now making phone calls and trawling the membership. By the time you read this we should be fully cast and e-mails will have been sent out to those few, those very few, who have not been successful.

In the current LTG newsletter there is an article by Michael Billington raging against the lack of 'classics' in the new NT programme and ruminating on the difficulties of choosing an attractive, adventurous yet balanced season. During my three years as Artistic Director at the Green Room, I have found that both our audiences and our actors are very receptive to both new (and sometimes little known) plays and neglected classics as long as they are well written, dramatic and surprising. By the time you read this my tenure will be drawing to a close. I shall miss the play reading and healthy discussion before, and definitely after, we have made our choices! As the AGM approaches we are looking for fresh blood to reinvigorate the committee. The latter is selected by the Exec. from volunteers.

Interested? Your theatre needs you! Give me a call or contact pssc@wgrsoc.org.uk

Mike Rogerson

YOUTH GROUP

We have now started our summer drama term but we are very short on members due to some members participating in summer sports and activities which clash with our timings. We therefore have places available across all three groups. If you know of anybody who may be interested in joining the drama group aged 8-16, please ask them to contact me and we can arrange for a trial lesson.

We are very proud to announce that one of our group 3 female members, Niamh Phelan, has secured the role of Mary in the Green Room's production of 'Be my Baby'. Congratulations! We are all thrilled for Niamh and are looking forward to seeing her in the production.

John and I also recently attended a fantastic showcase in which one of the group three members, Niall McGovern performed. This was at the Shena Simon theatre in Manchester. Niall's performance was amazing and it is a real pleasure to see the huge confidence and skills members showcase when performing.

I'm still contemplating whether a summer school will run this year. This is purely down to the number of people who have shown an interest - which is currently not enough, so if you do know anybody who would be interested in attending the week, please let me know. The play is purposely written by our fabulous Ben Shotton; the title and synopsis will be announced at a later date should the week go ahead. It is a one week summer course and runs from Monday 14 August until Friday 18 August with a performance on the Friday at 6 PM for parents and friends.

If you know of anybody who is interested in stage lighting, sound and set design, please let me know and I can contact them to discuss their involvement.

We are all looking forward to another fun filled term and enjoying the excellent, diverse performances the members bring us. We look forward to seeing you soon and thank you all for your continued support.

Best wishes, Lesley John and Steph

LITTLE THEATRE GUILD (and auditorium seating)

On 16 April the LTG, at our request, circulated to all our fellow theatres an advert offering our current seating and rostra for sale. Within three days we had four enquiries and a week later we had a visit from Tony Childs of the People's Theatre Newcastle. It transpired that they have just completed the shell of a new studio theatre and needed seats etc to equip it. The day after his visit we received an offer from People's which we have accepted. So in July our seats will be heading north and will start a new life in one of the regions oldest and most outstanding Theatres. A great example of what the LTG is all about.

Finally a note for your diaries, the next LTG conference weekend is 29/30 September, & 1 October at the CITY theatre DURHAM. It's a beautiful city and a friendly welcoming theatre. Interested? Drop me a line

Mike Rogerson

Diary & Notices



Saturday 3 June	Race Night more information on p2	7.30 for 8 pm
23 June - 1 July at GR 7.45 pm	AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS GR Members' Booking from 22 May	directed by Celia Bonner
7 pm start 7 - 8 July at Quarry Bank, Styal	<i>Open Air</i> AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS	directed by Celia Bonner
Tuesday 11 July 3 pm	Tim Richards Memorial Event	Gawsworth Hall lawn / open air theatre area
Thursday 13 July	AGM	7.45 for 8 pm
7 - 14 October	KAFKA'S DICK by Alan Bennett	directed by John Chidgey
2 - 9 December	THE WINTER'S TALE by William Shakespeare	directed by Mike Rogerson
27 January - 3 February 2018	BE MY BABY by Amanda Whittington	directed by Ian McBride
17 - 24 March 2018	THE WEIR by Conor McPherson	directed by Graham Boswell
5 - 12 May 2018	MRS WARREN'S PROFESSION by George Bernard Shaw	directed by Helen Bingle & Jill Stringer

MEMBERSHIPS

Welcome to recent **new** social members:

Mrs Elizabeth Jackson
and Mr Roy
Wadsworth.

Ian McBride

'I recently learnt that **Manchester Central Library** has scans of almost every national newspaper from many years past. Pages can be requested from these papers for 20p each. These could be used to help make period newspapers They also have many other periodicals and playbills available - another useful source for period props.'

Charlie Cook

WORKSHOPS

Following on from the great success of the recent Workshop Day, we are looking for suggestions for a topic for a similar event in 2018. Please contact Ronnie Dykstra

Contact us:

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Please send any feedback or articles for publication to: newsletter@wgrsoc.org.uk,
or by post to the address above, marked Newsletter.

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NB The next Newsletter will be published in August/September 2017