



KAFKA'S DICK

by Alan Bennett

Directed by John Chidgey

7 - 14 October

Kafka's Dick is a real treat ...

Sydney and Linda are living perfectly normal lives in 1980s suburban Yorkshire, when they are visited by the esteemed (and long-dead) author Franz Kafka, as well as his (also long-dead) friend and work-guardian, Max Brod. Things get even stranger when Kafka's father, Hermann, turns up – and threatens to reveal a big secret about his son.

Bennett's rarely revived play explores the nature of reputation and fame, and the fate of an artist's work after their death.

John Chidgey

CAST

| | |
|---------|----------------|
| Kafka | Josh Neary |
| Brod | Ewan Henderson |
| Linda | Rani Jackson |
| Father | Bryan Higgins |
| Sydney | Ian McBride |
| Hermann | Paul Reid |

Alan Bennett first attracted attention for **Beyond the Fringe**, playing at the Edinburgh Festival back in 1960. Since then his clever, wry and witty diaries, plays and film scripts have become hugely popular - especially **The History Boys**, and **The Lady in the Van**. Ed.

'Kafka's Dick is a play that finds Bennett at the top of his wickedly comic game' - Charles Spencer, The Daily Telegraph 15 July 2014

100 Club

Lucky winners drawn at the AGM:

Eva Krystek (£70), plus six winners of £50: Anne Macdonald, Jenny Spiller, Pat Carlisle, Eileen Wilkinson, Ian McBride, and Bill Pinnock.

Don't miss out; join the 100 Club when renewing your membership.



Welcome to the first Newsletter for the new season in this special 6-page **BUMPER** edition.

Look inside for information on:

- ◆ Plans for summer production, 2018 p2
- ◆ Plans for Gawsworth celebration p3
- ◆ A History of the Green Room p4
- ◆ New website and logo p4
- ◆ Sheila Hine Award winner 2017 p4
- ◆ Adjudications for Vincent in Brixton and Around the World in 80 Days p5

PLAY & STAGE

The new committee has already had its first meeting. The members are Jill Stringer, Helen Bingle, Caroline Lucas, Vicky Johnson, Tim Cooper, Mike Bullimore and Alison Fleming (secretary).

It was a busy evening as, in addition to the normal business, we auditioned for the final character in **Kafka's Dick** and went over the sound requirements for 2017/8 with Mark Seyler and Bruce Williams.

The most important decision was the choice of the Summer Show for 2018.

This will be Blake Morrison's original play for Northern Broadsides **We are Three Sisters**. Inspired by Chekhov's masterpiece, this is a quirky look at the Bronte Sisters (and their troublesome brother Branwell). The play provides a fresh and intelligent look at this remarkable family . . . more details later.

Recruiting has started for stage crews for **Kafka's Dick** and for **The Winter's Tale** and a play reading list is being assembled for 2018/9 season.

The committee would love to hear from any of our directors (or indeed wannabee directors) of any pet projects they are nurturing. Just drop them a line on pscc@wgrsoc.org.uk

Enjoy the summer!

(for the last time)

Mike R

Ed: Mike Rogerson has now stood down from his role as Artistic Director at the Green Room, following his three years in office. The new committee will however be keeping you informed of all Play & Stage news as the season progresses.

Please take time to read your Dear Member letter, enclosed, to learn more about our productions which were nominated for awards this summer.

TICKET PRICES



Please note that from September,

ticket prices will rise - to £8 each for tickets for members, and to £10 for non-members.

This represents an increase of a mere £1 per ticket. The additional revenue will help offset the cost of the new seating installed over the summer.

Ticket prices have been held for some time, since summer 2014, and we hope you will understand the need for this modest increase.

We are always pleased when our productions do well, and believe that the new prices still represent very good value for a quality product.

Membership renewal costs remain unchanged.

BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS for KAFKA'S DICK

Ticket prices from September - members: £8 and non-members: £10

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; messages are picked up daily in the booking period

| | | |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Answerphone / Ticket-Line / on-line bookings | from Monday 11 September | members and general public |
| Box Office on four Saturdays | from Saturday 16 September | 11 am till 12 noon |
| Postal bookings | send in at any time | will be dealt with after 11 September |

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

SOCIAL

Our Race Night on 3 June was a Galloping Success

A fantastic array of Ascot hats and beautifully turned-out ladies and gentlemen cheered on their horses at the Green Room Race Night. It was great fun and £173.50 was raised for the fund for the victims of the Manchester Arena attack. This is an amazing total from the 20 or so people who attended. You should feel very proud of yourselves!



We have events planned for September to December:

Macmillan Coffee morning Saturday 30 September

Lots of homemade cakes and fun. Come and help us raise money for a good cause. From 10.30 till 12 noon

Christmas Fair Saturday 25 November

If you would like a stall, please contact Di or any member of the Social Committee. Come and find some unique Christmas presents

Brass Band concert Thursday 14 December

Always a wonderful evening to start your Christmas festivities. Tickets will be on sale at the Green Room - check your next newsletter for details

And we have a Music Evening being planned for 8 February 2018, when diverse talents will be showcased.

An evening not to be missed.

Please contact Chris McClory if you would like to take part.

And please add all these dates to your diaries asap.

Di James

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group Drama sessions will start a fresh term on Saturday 9 September.

There are currently places available for others to join the group.

We work on improvising, scripts where requested, plus different techniques used across theatre, television and - more recently - radio.

The sessions are very relaxed and all the members who attend are always welcoming to new people joining.

If you know of anybody who would be interested to come along, please ask them to get in touch.

We look forward to seeing everybody soon.

Steph and Lesley ☺

gtschoolofdrama@btinternet.com

Gawsworth celebration

This will take place at the Green Room next summer.

If you have any reminiscences, stories or photos, they will all help to make this a fun celebration of the Green Room's 44 years of performances in the Gawsworth summer season.

Please contact Di or any member of the Social Committee

Di James

LITTLE THEATRE GUILD

As previously trailed, the next LTG Northern Region Conference will take place at **The City Theatre, Durham** from 29 September to 1 October 2017. Apart from the opportunity to visit a beautiful city, and be shown round by the locals, the conference itself is full of interest.

The theme is 'Drama is what drives us'. The weekend will showcase five productions from five different theatres, plus workshops on 'between a rock and a hard place - selecting your season's plays, Lighting Design, and Youth Theatre. All very relevant to WGRS.

The Saturday night show is **And a Nightingale Sang** by C P Taylor set in Newcastle during WW2.

All the usual food and drink will feature together with proper northern hospitality - and the cost of all this is just £45 per head plus your hotel. There is the chance of a small subsidy from the Green Room - so let me know if you are interested and I will send you a full application pack.

Mike Rogerson

VINCENT IN BRIXTON

Author Nicholas Wright imagined what might have occurred during the year (1873) spent in London by Vincent van Gogh.

In the view of our adjudicator the highlights of this show were its impressive set, created with 'great attention to detail'; the effective and wholly appropriate costumes; and the overall 'intelligent direction'. She was impressed with the unusual seating set-up and the realistic episodes in the play of food cooking and preparation. Lighting from 'gas lamps' gave a period atmosphere, and well-chosen music and sound effects all added to the

success of the show. These factors all contributed to the play being nominated for a GMDF Award for its technical achievement and excellent set. The adjudicator praised the cast for their convincing portrayals of the characters and the director for his sensitive and well-paced presentation, varied in mood and nicely 'interspersed by the prop-changing scenes'.



AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS

Jules Verne's novel turned into a fast-moving and very enjoyable play, staged at the Green Room and at Quarry Bank, Styal. The adjudicator attended the in-house show.

He commented particularly on the 'tremendous ensemble playing' which made the production so successful, fast-paced and well-delivered by a cast playing multiple roles. He was struck by the 'complete and polished performance' of Tim Cooper as Passepartout, whose convincing French accent and physicality was so impressive. Adaptable and very clever props, abundant and good costumes helped the audience's involvement. Steve Williamson as Inspector Fix moved smoothly from his early enquiries to his hounding of Fogg. 'Super performances' from Ian Tyler as Philius Fogg and Laura Crow as Mrs Aouda worked really well. Peter de la Wyche, Mark Jephcott, Charlie Cook and Vicky Johnson nimbly embodied their many characters, ably and energetically assisted by Ewan Henderson and Amaia Basanez.



SEATING - MUSICAL CHAIRS

by Mike Rogerson

Working teams loading the old seats on to a lorry for removal to Newcastle-under-Lyme, and posing for a congratulatory group photo after clearing the auditorium; and a few rows of the new seats in one possible configuration.

On Saturday 15 July a merry gang of workers assembled by Bruce descended on the Green Room and in one hour stripped the auditorium of 90 seats, 16 steel rostra and 28 side and back panels, and shifted all of them into the bar and foyer.

On Monday 17th at 7.30 am a large pantechicon edged into the Farmers Arms car park and the delivery team began unloading the new seating and staging. Two hours later another lorry arrived at our front door, and the happy WGR workers began to load up our old seating ready for its journey to the North East. At 10.30 the following morning, we got a call to say that it had arrived at The Peoples Theatre in Newcastle. By Wednesday, the retractable seating at the bar end had been installed and by Tuesday 25th Bruce and his crew put the moveable seating into place.

You will be able to judge the results for yourselves, but I think the Green room can be quite proud of the way all this has gone.



Diary & Notices



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| Saturday 30 September | Macmillan Coffee Morning Lots of homemade cakes and fun. Come and raise money for a good cause | 10.30 am - 12.00 noon |
| 7 - 14 October | KAFKA'S DICK by Alan Bennett | directed by John Chidgey |
| Saturday 25 November | Christmas Fair | Your chance to buy gifts. Details to follow |
| 2 - 9 December | THE WINTER'S TALE by William Shakespeare | directed by Mike Rogerson |
| Thursday 14 December | Brass Band Concert | More details to follow |
| 27 January - 3 February 2018 | BE MY BABY by Amanda Whittington | directed by Ian McBride |
| Thursday 8 February | Music Night | Details to follow |
| 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 |
| Summer 2018 | Gawsworth Celebration Evening | Dates and details to come |
| 23 - 30 June 2018 at the theatre, plus Friday & Saturday 6-7 July at Quarry Bank in Styal | WE ARE THREE SISTERS by Blake Morrison | details to follow |

WORKSHOPS

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

Congratulations -

GR members **Anna Sillitoe** and **Chris Simmons** were married this summer on 5 August - having met on-set during *Tommy Boy*. We wish them a very happy life together.



Contact us:

The Newsletter is edited by Chris Hills, and published by the Green Room Theatre, 85 Chapel Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5JH. 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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Registered Charity Number **1153665**

NB The next Newsletter will be published in November 2017