

newsletter@wgrsoc.org.uk

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THE WINTER'S TALE

by William Shakespeare
directed by Mike Rogerson
2 - 9 December

assisted by Linda Batson

NB early start time - 7.30pm

'A Sad Tale's best for Winter' - but come the Spring . . . ?

Our play for December is certainly one of two halves, with possibly the longest interval in the history of theatre - some sixteen years (which should be good for our ice-cream sales!)

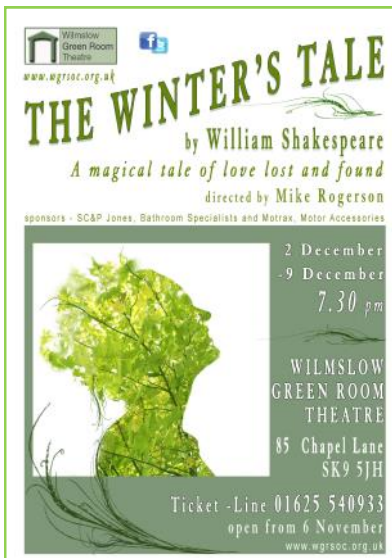
Called by most commentators 'a tragicomic romance', we move from a first half of sudden irrational jealousy, suffering and even death to a second of happy shepherds, young love, forgiveness and reconciliation.

We even move between two countries - from severe uptight Sicilia to hippy dippy Bohemia (with a splash of Warwickshire on the side).

A *Tale* to pass a *Winter's* night - of two kings, a tragically lost son and a magically found daughter, of bears and sheep but above all of our shared humanity.

That is Shakespeare's genius. The *main man* is back in the Green Room for Christmas with a cracking story and a host of fascinating characters.

Mike Rogerson



The cast includes

Jim Gillespie, Alison Fleming, David Reynolds, Fred Donnan, Celia Bonner, Simon Caporn, Ian Cole, Niall McGovern, Kirsty Turpin, Steve Williamson, Tim Cooper, Clare Lewis, Christine Unwin, Jane Hyde, Cherrill Wyche, Veronica Fleming and Linda Batson

BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS for THE WINTER'S TALE

Ticket prices - 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 6 November	members and general public
Box Office on four Saturdays	from Saturday 11 November	11 am till 12 noon
Postal bookings	send in at any time	will be dealt with after 6 November

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

- **The Weir:** We can report that Hamish Lawson will be directing the Weir.

- **Summer show:** The production at the Green Room from 23-30 June, to be followed by two outdoor performances in the grounds of Quarry Bank in Styal on Friday and Saturday 6 & 7 July, is **We Are Three Sisters** by Blake Morrison.

Charlotte, Anne and Emily Bronte are three remarkable, spirited young women who write and dream of greater things. This is a pearl of a play, coloured with tints of Chekov's **Three Sisters**.

The Play and Stage Committee would love to hear from any candidates for both Director and Assistant Director, who would like to take on this production. Preference will be given to those who have not already directed at the Green Room this season, and we are happy to consider people with no previous experience of directing outdoors, who feel they could meet the challenge of transferring from auditorium to lawn.

Please contact pscc@wgrsoc.org.uk to throw your hat in the ring, or to borrow a copy of the script.

Helen Bingle

- CHADS Theatre in Cheadle is presenting **When we are Married** by J B Priestly from the 21 - 28 October. It is interesting to note that the production is being directed by Green Room members Mike Bullimore and Jill Stringer, with Green Room actors Colette Fitton playing Lottie Grady, Ian McBride playing the Rev. Mercer and Atusa Sade playing Nancy Holmes. All of which is an indication of the generous cooperation that is needed between societies these days in order to get even the simplest of productions off the page and onto the stage.

Mike Bullimore

MARKET RESEARCH - QUESTIONNAIRE

Recently I surveyed over 80 members of the general public at the September Artisans Market, asking various questions about theatre. The response was interesting and helpful and will be used to help us formulate a season of plays for 2019 onwards. The members of the Executive have always said that we would always consult our members on all matters wherever possible. We will therefore be sending out to you all, via email, a copy of the research for you to complete and return to me for analysis in the near future. You can complete this as a word document to email back to me, or print it off and then return it to the theatre. I do hope you will take this opportunity to let the Executive know your thoughts.

Ian Cole - Chairman

YOUR SOCIAL EVENTS

Macmillan Coffee Morning 30 September

The Macmillan Coffee morning raised £173. A huge thank you to everyone who baked cakes, gave tombola prizes and was there on the day to make it such a success.

Christmas Fair Saturday 25 November

This event can only go ahead if there are enough stallholders. Stalls don't need to have a Christmas theme – crafts, cards, Christmas decorations, gift items, jewellery, toys, bric a brac, face painting, manicures, books – the possibilities are endless. If you are interested in having a stall at the event contact Di James, or any member of the Social Committee, **by the end of October please.**

Brass Band Concert Thursday 14 December

Tickets will be on sale at the Green Room between 11am till 12 on the following Saturdays – 18 & 25 November, 2 & 9 December. There will be mince pies and mulled wine, and the concert starts off the festivities with all your favourite Christmas songs and more besides, a real fun evening! Tickets are not available online for this event. If you are unable to come to the Green Room on the dates stated, please contact Di James to reserve your seats.

Music Night 8 February 2018

Chris McClory would love to hear from you if you would like to perform. Anything goes, play, sing, serious or comedy. Contact Chris.

Gawsworth Celebration

This is likely to take place in September 2018. We need photos, videos, stories and anecdotes to add to the event. Please contact Di or any member of the Social Committee.

Please note that the bar and games night planned for Thursday 26 October will not now go ahead.

YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE GREEN ROOM - A Special Feature

With the first term underway already for the new season's **Saturday Youth Groups**, we are pleased to promote this long-running facility at the Green Room, open to all young people aged 8 - 16, and to mention some of the young actors who have worked at the theatre. As you will read, young people acquire confidence, drama skills, and the pleasure of being part of a joint enterprise.

Youth Group graduate Ben Shotton took time out from his first week at Uni to write for us as follows:

My name is Ben Shotton and I have just started my first year at university studying English and Philosophy. In the last few years, I have been involved on stage at the Green Room in **Macbeth** (2011), **Experiment with an Airpump** (2015), and in **Tommy Boy** in 2016, as well as helping back-stage.

I joined the Green Room when I was around eight years old, having at that time very limited experience of acting but knowing I enjoyed theatre, music, and the arts. Over time, I learnt many incredibly crucial skills that have helped me over the course of my life: on a simple level, how to be confident both on a stage and in day-to-day life, and how to compete in public speaking and debating competitions.

My friendships with people within Stephanie Bishop's drama school have allowed me to branch out and enjoy musical theatre, dance, and painting. Perhaps the skill I am proudest of is my writing: I am now a published poet and playwright with my plays having been performed for the last three years at the Green Room. Both onstage and off, the Green Room has helped me grow as an actor and as a person, and I would recommend the junior sessions highly to any young person with an interest in theatre or the arts.

Stephanie says:

Niall McGovern is another member of the Youth Group, currently studying drama at the Sheena Simon Campus in Manchester. Niall is a second young person whose talent has soared over the last few years. Niall is brilliant at taking on board any direction and delivering a magical performance with very different characterisation. Niall will appear in **The Winter's Tale**.

Another Youth Group member, Niamh Phelan is due to make an appearance in the New Year as Mary in **Be My Baby**.

Stephanie Bishop, who runs the Saturday Groups, adds: *'I was delighted to know that Ben got into Uni, where I believe he will excel. Congratulations.'*

His play for the 2016 Summer School was called **An Evening at Bernadette's**. Set in the 1920s, the play had roles for nine actors, and featured a number of twists and reveals.

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Drama Groups 1 and 2 will be performing a small selection of mini shows for their last day of term on 2 December. There will be further details nearer the time.

If you know of anybody who would like to trial the drama sessions, we do have places available for all ages 8-16 years.

I am offering a special Christmas stocking filler idea - a 'Two Drama Session Voucher' for £10. Please contact me if you need any further information.

We are looking forward to seeing you all for the end of term show on 2 December.

Steph, John and Lesley 😊

Congratulations to Will Bishop who has now completed University, and is to take up a place at LAMDA. You might have seen Will at Gawsworth in **A Midsummer Night's Dream**, or on stage in **All My Sons** (2014) or **The Importance of Being Ernest** in 2013.

Following his years in the Youth Group and the Green Room more widely, Toby Jones has chosen to work in theatre

Toby appeared both at Gawsworth and in mainstage Green Room plays such as **Tartuffe** and **A Skull in Connemara** in 2007, following his debut in **Ernie's Incredible Illucinations** in 2001 when he was a Youth Group member. Whilst at Cambridge he made time to pursue his interest in directing plays, and then won an Arts Council funded role as a trainee at the Barbican Theatre in Plymouth, before taking an MA in Directing at Birkbeck; this involved a year working at the West Yorkshire Playhouse.

His professional name is now Tyrrell Jones. In 2013 he and actor-friend Sam Redway set up Knaive Theatre, and took their first play to Edinburgh, to great acclaim: **Bin Laden, The One Man Show**. This has also been produced at the Royal Exchange in Manchester, and at a fringe festival in the US. Tyrrell and Sam are working on other projects with the Exchange, and with other theatres, and like to specialise in immersive and unusual productions.

Diary & Notices



Saturday 25 November	Christmas Fair	Your chance to buy gifts. See p2
2 - 9 December	THE WINTER'S TALE by William Shakespeare	directed by Mike Rogerson
Thursday 14 December	Brass Band Concert	See p2
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 Hamish Lawson
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

Memberships

Welcome to new full members: Bryan Higgins, Linda Finlow and Veronica Fleming; and to new social members: David Bryant, Dorothy Harding, Joan Sawyer, Kathryn Carty and Lilian Grimshaw.

Please note that the reduced subscription of £25 ends on October 31 for full members who have not yet paid their subscriptions for this season. After that the full membership subscription of £30 applies.

Any social members who have not yet paid are reminded that their subscription of £13 is also due.

A membership form, which was sent with the last newsletter, should also be completed and returned with any subscriptions. The form can also be obtained from the website if necessary.

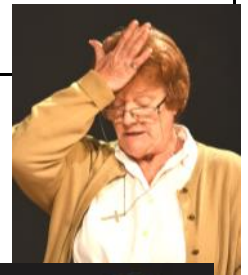
Please send any cheques, together with a completed membership form, to I H McBride

Ian McBride (Membership Secretary)

TALKING HEADS

Congratulations to John Chidgey, for his adept direction of the two monologues, the late substitute for our October production. And to Belinda Coghlan and Alison Fleming for stepping up into the roles of Susan and Lesley at such short notice.

Well done to all concerned.



Do you have any items for the newsletter, or comments to make about it? If so, please send any feedback or articles for publication to: newsletter@wgrsoc.org.uk, or post to the theatre, 85 Chapel Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5JH.

The newsletter is edited by Chris Hills for the Wilmslow Green Room - registered Charity Number **1153665**, and the next edition will be published in November.