



BE MY BABY

by Amanda Whittington

directed by Ian McBride

27 January - 3 February

It's England, in 1964 when we meet Mary, who is seventeen, single and seven months pregnant.

Mary is bundled off to St Saviour's - a Church of England-run mother and baby home - her mother having arranged for the baby to be adopted immediately it is born. Mary and the other girls there find comfort and strength in each other's friendship, but ultimately they must face their individual circumstances alone.

Set to the uplifting sounds of '60s girl-group pop music, **Be My Baby** follows Mary and the others as they cling to youthful fantasies of romance and marriage. In reality they are drawn inexorably towards outraged, powerless adulthood.

Be My Baby is by the author of the award-winning writer of **The Thrill of Love**, which was produced at the Green Room in 2015.

Ilan McBride

The cast includes:

Niamh Phelan,
Jessica Trimble,
Emma Pythian,
Atusa Sade,
Colette Fitton and
Jill Ollerenshaw.

BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS for BE MY BABY

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 1 January	members and general public
Box Office on four Saturdays	from Saturday 6 January	11 am till 12 noon
Postal bookings	send in at any time	will be dealt with after 1 January

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

In memory of Bob Stewart

from the tribute at Bob's funeral, given by Ronnie Dykstra

Ronnie described how Bob joined the Green Room in 2008, and became a very active member, chairing the Theatre Management Committee and then the Executive Committee, which he headed up with a 'benign authority'. 'He worked tirelessly as a skilled set builder, operated sound for many productions, was Stage Manager several times, Front of House Manager on many occasions and he was fully involved in virtually every Green Room initiative during the period of his membership, often leading the way. For example, it was very much due to Bob's urging that the Green Room adopted an on-line ticketing system in 2013. This proved immediately popular with patrons and has been a great success . . . With his genial nature and sense of humour, Bob was deservedly popular and respected.'

He appeared in eight plays, and 'in his last appearance, as recently as last March, he was the kindly, sometimes bemused, Constable Macdonald in **The Ladykillers**. 'Nice work' said the adjudicator . . .

'Sometimes we are told that we need to move on. And we do. But we do not discard the memories of past friends and we all regarded Bob as a friend. Now he has left our world and, for some, the Green Room will never be quite the same again.

'We say 'Goodbye'. Too soon. We miss you, Bob, and we always will.'



Remembering **Graham Boswell** 1944 - 2017

Many friends and colleagues attended Graham's funeral service of thanksgiving at St Philip and St James Church in Alderley Edge. We learned, most of us for the first time, about his love of motor racing, and were reminded of his long association with the Green Room, which he joined in the early '80s. In addition to family tributes and readings, long-term friends and fellow-walkers Mike Rogerson and Steve Williamson recounted some of Graham's achievements and contributions to the theatre - a 'double-act' delivered on the day in a light-hearted manner.

Graham served as Chairman of the Society; he took excellent rehearsal photographs, most recently of the casts of **Handbagged** and **Vincent in Brixton**; he acted, for instance in the 1988 version of **The Winter's Tale**, and in 1992 in **Up and Under** (see photo, with Geoff Hinde); and he directed plays, one example being **The Deep Blue Sea**; and he designed and helped construct sets for productions such as **Tommy Boy** in 2016, and **Man of the Moment** back in 1995 - remarkable for its inclusion of a swimming pool on stage.

Graham's wide-ranging contribution to the Green Room will be very much missed by us all.



SOCIAL EVENTS

As the Newsletter goes to press, it is great to be able to report that Brass Band tickets are fully sold.

Music Night 8 February 2018

This is always a fun evening showing the amazing talent at the Green Room.

Chris McClory is coordinating so contact her if you'd like to take part.

Gawsworth Celebration

This is a celebration of the Green Room's many years of taking part in the Gawsworth summer season and is likely to take place in September 2018, with the exact date to be confirmed soon.

Please contact Di James if you have pictures, videos or stories to share.

PLAY AND STAGE

Important information

"CREW? MOI? But I'm an ACTOR daahling!!"

One of the responsibilities of the Play and Stage Committee is to recruit backstage crew for each production. Over recent seasons it has become increasingly difficult to fill these roles, and/or we are having to call on the same small pool of people to help out backstage in order that the production can go ahead. Indeed, we have already had to reduce the number of plays in our 2018/2019 season because of this problem. The committee therefore urges all members to consider volunteering backstage. If as many people took a role backstage as did onstage, we would have no such problem!

AF

WE ARE THREE SISTERS

This will be the final play for the season at the Green Room next summer, and then at Quarry Bank in Styal. A Northern Broadside production from 2011, with references to and loosely in the style of Chekhov's Three Sisters, the play tells the tale of the Bronte sisters and their spoilt brother. It takes place in the parsonage at Haworth in 1848.

John Chidgey is to direct, assisted by Victoria Johnson, and auditions will be held on 9 January - see Diary on p8. Any expressions of interest or requests for scripts should be made to a Play & Stage committee member, or emailed to pscc@wgrsoc.org.uk

Characters:

- Patrick Bronte – Irish born father of the family – 71
- Charlotte Bronte – a budding author - 32
- Emily Bronte – another budding author - 30
- Anne Bronte – yet another - 28 on this day
but not long for this world
- Branwell Bronte – gambler, drinker, womaniser – 32
- Doctor – a 'lonely old man'
- William – Patrick's new curate – thirty something
- Teacher – principal master of the local school
- Lydia Robinson – a spoilt married woman and mother,
object of Branwell's lust
- Tabby – housekeeper to the Bronte household

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YOUTH GROUP

It has been a great term but the weeks have passed far too quickly.

For the Christmas end of term, the Youth drama groups 1 and 2 prepared some mini shows for their parents and friends. It has been nice to have been able to re-introduce the shows and we will continue to do this for groups 1 and 2 at the end of each term.

It is always a pleasure to see the confidence and skills of the group members develop.

To become a member of the youth group, there is no acting experience required. We work on improvising or with scripts for those who choose to.

We will be doing a Camera Workshop during next term, as this is also a great skill to have in addition to Theatre skills.

The drama sessions cover a lot of skills which will be used in life, not necessarily just focusing on acting. All of the sessions are always aimed at having fun and this is the key point we emphasise.

If any members have friends who would like to come along and trial sessions, please do get in touch.

You can find all the details about the group on our website <http://qtschoolofdrama.wix.com/qt-school-of-drama>

Thank you so much to parents for all their support and also to the Green Room; you have all been fantastic.

May I wish you all the very best for an amazing Christmas and best wishes for a wonderful 2018.

Steph, John and Lesley x

Sponsoring a seat

We still have some seats in the new set-up which we would love to see 'adopted' by a sponsor. Might this be you or your family? Sponsorship is £50 per seat and plaques can have up to four lines of writing, each of up to 22 characters. We will shortly be ordering another batch of plaques, so if you would like to contribute, drop in a note at the theatre as soon as possible, or email Bruce Williams - theatremanager@wgrsoc.org.uk

Diary & Notices



9 January	Audition for We Are Three Sisters	Wilmslow Green Room 7.30 pm
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 Green Room, plus Friday & Saturday 6-7 July at Quarry Bank in Styal	WE ARE THREE SISTERS by Blake Morrison	directed by John Chidgey assisted by Victoria Johnson

Memberships

Welcome to new full members: Kirsty Turpin, Simon Parker, Bill Nolan and Cherril Wyche, and to new social member, Pauline Bushnell. We look forward to seeing more of them at the Green Room.

Is your membership about to expire?!

Members who have not yet paid this season's membership subscription are reminded that this should be sent in by **31 December** at the latest, after which membership of the Wilmslow Green Room will be deemed to have expired. Anyone not renewing in time will have all the membership benefits withdrawn, e.g. discounted ticket sales.

The full membership rate is £30 and that for a social member is £13.

Members are also reminded that a subscription must be paid prior to them being involved in any of the society's productions – whether on stage or backstage.

A cheque, together with a completed membership form, should be returned as soon as possible to the Membership Secretary. Anyone who does not have a membership form can find this on the society's website, www.wgrs.org.uk.

Ian McBride

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 February.