

SINGLE SPIES

by Alan Bennett

directed by Linda Batson and Helen Bingle

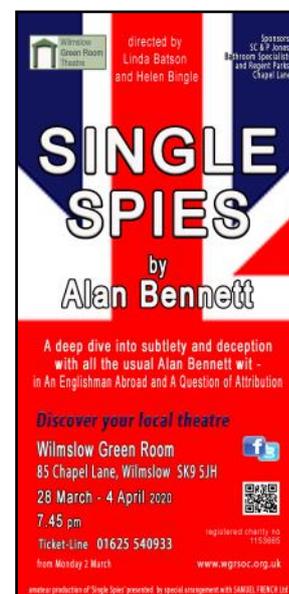
28 March - 4 April

A wonderful double bill, *Single Spies* focuses on two individuals, Guy Burgess and Anthony Blunt from the famous Cambridge Five, a ring of spies recruited in the 1930s.

The first play, *An Englishman Abroad* is based on a real-life encounter, in which the actress Coral Browne, touring in *Hamlet*, paid a visit to the exiled Burgess in his Moscow apartment in 1958. Bennett's script is sharp and humorous yet he captures the sadness of a man caught between two worlds – East and West.

In the second play, *A Question of Attribution*, Bennett ingeniously weaves the intrigue that surrounds a painting by Titian. What lies beneath that which is visible to the naked eye? Who is the third man? In parallel, he uses this as a vehicle to explore the character and isolation of the spy Anthony Blunt. Known to be a double agent, he was given immunity from prosecution. An eminent art historian and professor and Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures, Blunt lived under constant scrutiny and questioning by MI5 but still worked on as part of the Queen's Household. There is an imagined encounter between Blunt and the Queen in the Palace, full of subtle double entendres which suggest that HMQ was aware of his treachery.

Linda Batson and Helen Bingle



CARD READER NOW AVAILABLE - Please note that we now have a card reader available at the theatre; payments in person for bar drinks and tickets can now be made by card.



BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS for SINGLE SPIES

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 - 2 March	members and general public
Box Office on four Saturdays	Saturdays from - 7 March	11 am till 12 noon
Postal bookings	send in at any time / priority given to members	processed from - Monday 2 March

Please note that the on-line booking facility will close two hours before a performance, and that all reserved tickets must be paid for 30 mins before the show, or such tickets will be deemed available for resale

GREEN ROOM BUILDING PROJECT

First of all, thanks to those of you who attended the recent EGM and gave your support to raise the £50,000 over the next 18 months to enable us to start the building of the Single Storey Storage Building at the back of the building which will hopefully start in August of next year (2021).

As reported, the Building Regulation Plans have been approved so we just need to raise the money.

The Fundraising Garden Party Launch has been confirmed as **Saturday 16th May at 7pm** at Belinda and John Coghlan's garden on Manchester Road. The event will include entertainment by a Professional String Quintet, refreshments, a plant sale and a 'Pledge Auction'.

The Pledge Auction still needs eight more people to pledge to undertake a task or give a gift - two people have already pledged their skills. You can pledge anything which will then be auctioned with all money raised going towards the new build.

Finally the response to people joining the Easyfundraising web site has increased but we need more as every time you spend money online a percentage goes to the new build fund.

This explains how it works and how to set it up:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FdLjsJCwmJU>

This one shows how to buy online - and select the retailer:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sn2dsQGAe_w

If you need any further information or want to pledge towards the auction please contact Ian Cole.

Ian Cole

The **Film Club** organising group has asked that any profits made from film nights should be directed to the Building Fund. This is a great idea. We hope that this might be another good reason for you all to support the Film Nights, knowing your contribution to funds is most welcome.

AF

MEMBERS' MEETING AND EGM

28 January 2020



As previously advertised an EGM and Members' meeting was held on 28 January, with around 40 people attending. The EGM agreed to adjust the Society's administrative and financial year to coincide with the artistic season meaning that the 2019 - 20 AGM will be held in September.

At the members' meeting Ian Cole provided an update on fund-raising (see previous column). Members were then given a brief summary of the information gathered from the questionnaire circulated at the end of last season and were invited to participate in two exercises - firstly to write down ideas on the Society's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats and then to give opinions on another 10 topics. I'm glad to report that these activities were entered into with great enthusiasm and created a real buzz in the room.

At the time of writing the considerable amount of material that was generated is being collated and analysed and the Executive will be considering next steps in due course. Members will be pleased to know that even at this early stage it is evident that the high quality of our productions is seen as one of our major strengths but conversely a lack of acting members in the 20 - 40 age range is becoming a serious problem.

There is no magic solution to this but we have ideas to take forward and more detailed feedback will be provided in a later newsletter.

Al Fowkes, Chairman

Society Rules

Following the EGM, the Rules of the Society are now formally changed. You can find copies of the new Rules on the website - go to 'About Us' in the menu bar, and then to 'Constitution, Rules and Policies' page.

PLAY & STAGE NEWS

April in Paris will be done and dusted by the time you read this, but it seems to have been a good choice of play from both a production and audience point of view.

Single Spies is next and we hope the majority of our members will support this interesting choice. Then we have the prestigious production of **Nell Gwynn** to round off the season.

We have had problems with our choice of play to start next season and it looks like **Hindle Wakes** will be replaced by **The Messiah**. But that rather depends on getting hold of massed choirs and a suitable organ... Seriously though, it's a great Christmas themed play to do in October !!!

Next season now looks as follows:

The Messiah by Patrick Barlow	10 - 17 October 2020
Improbable Fiction by Alan Ayckbourn	5 - 12 December
These Shining Lives by Melanie Marnich	13 - 20 February 2021
God of Carnage by Yasmina Reza	17 - 24 April
Murdered to Death by Peter Gordon	12 - 19 June

John Chidgey, P&S committee

NODA

Green Room joins NODA from January 2020

We are delighted to confirm that the Green Room has just signed up to become a new member of NODA for 2020. NODA is the National Operatic and Dramatic Association whose members produce both musical and drama productions. The country is split into 11 regions of which the North West is one.

The Green Room has been a member of the Greater Manchester Drama Federation for many years, and will remain as such. Our new membership of NODA means that the Green Room's three remaining productions of our current season **April In Paris**, **Single Spies** and **Nell Gwynn** will be visited by their representative and receive a full NODA adjudication; also these productions will be considered in NODA's 2020 Awards season. We hope that our NODA membership will help us to create even more visibility and awareness of what we do and interest from the acting community in South Manchester - from where we have traditionally drawn our acting membership - to audition and perform at the Green Room.

We have already received a very warm and enthusiastic welcome from NODA.

Mark Jephcott and Al Fowkes



FILM CLUB

The next Film Club night will be on **Friday 13 March**. Films start at 7.45 pm, but come early as the bar is open.

As members your tickets cost £5; bring friends for £6.

Early booking via the GR website is now available.

The March film is **All at Sea**, starring **Brian Cox** and **Lauren Bacall**.

A madcap adventure ensues when an old seadog attempts to honour the last wish of his friend, to be buried at sea.

Do come along to support us.

*Ewan Henderson, Hilary Pinnock
and Anne Cichocki*

WHISKY GALORE

Our adjudication from GMDF complimented the diverse costumes, various sound and lighting effects, props and music that added to value to this production. The ensemble cast brought out the humour and joy of the play, well directed by

Victor Hassan to use the acting space,



keep up the pace throughout, and provide an entertaining evening at the Green Room.



Diary & Notices

Friday 13 March	<u>Film Night</u> - All at Sea	7pm for 7.45
28 March - 4 April	SINGLE SPIES	7.45 pm
23 - 25 April	JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH	SEE BELOW FOR DETAILS
Saturday 9 May	Chad's Centenary Ball	See below
Saturday 16 May	Building Project - Garden Party	details tbc
Friday 5 - Saturday 13 June	NELL GWYNN	7.45 pm

CHADS BALL -

Chads Theatre in Cheadle Hulme are holding a Centenary Ball on Saturday 9 May at the Hallmark Hotel in Handforth. 7.15 for 7.45 pm. Black tie. 3-course meal, table magician, and dancing. Tickets are £35 to include a welcome drink. **Would YOU like to join a table of Green Room members who are attending? If so, please contact secretary@wgrsoc.org.uk**

YOUTH GROUP

Please note that information about the current arrangements for Thursday classes for young people can be obtained direct from the organiser, Nicola Preston.

JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH

We are pleased to announce the first Wilmslow Performing Arts production at the Green Room - produced by Nicola Preston with members of her Thursday Youth Group WPA members on **Thursday 23 - Saturday 25 April** (Thurs 7pm / Fri 7pm / Sat 3pm and 6.30 pm)
Tickets are £5 - available on Ticketsource - Suitable for all the family

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We would like to welcome as new full members of the Society: Jane Paros, Steve Berrington, and Kim Armston; and Christine Noden as a social member.

If you have queries about subscriptions - as to whether you have paid or not, what the current rates are - please contact the Membership Secretary direct:

Ian McBride, email: membershipsecretary@wgrsoc.org.uk

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**.
The next edition will be published in late-April.