FORTY
YEARS
ON.
Alan Bennett.
DIRECTOR’S NOTE

‘The plays of Alan Bennett’, wrote The Times, ‘have always been marked by an irrepressible gift for parody, underscored by elegiac melancholy.’

The emphasis tonight is undoubtedly on the comic, with a veritable parade of pertinent parodies from Wilde to Sapper and from Beerbohm to Bloomsbury. But this is not to say that there is not a more serious note underlying this affectionate review of Britain in the first half of the twentieth century. ‘You could say,’ argues Franklin as he explains the purpose of the school play, ‘that we are trying to shed the burden of the past’. ‘Why must we shed it?’ asks the Headmaster. ‘Memories are not shackles, Franklin, they are garlands.’

In search of background for the play, I recently revisited the school where, forty years back, I sat with Alan Bennett to sing the song which gives tonight’s play its title. Founded by Samuel Smiles, proponent of Self-Help and other manly virtues, as the Head was always reminding us in his prayers, the place looked friendlier now, even if the paint was flaking and the grass overgrown. ‘The School Song?’ echoed the Secretary incredulously as I asked after a copy. ‘We don’t have school songs now’. She remembered Alan Bennett vividly. ‘But a lot’s happened since then, you know. We’ve gone non-selective, comprehensive and mixed. And we’ve had a fire.’

I like to think that Alan Bennett would have appreciated that remark as a more widely applicable encapsulation of recent history. Whether you side with Franklin or the Head is up to you. But whatever the message, there’s a massive coating of sugar. So all you’ve got to do now is sit back and, in the words of Mr Bennett’s latest play – ‘Enjoy!’

JEFFREY SMITH

Programme cover design by John Stacey
FORTY YEARS ON
by ALAN BENNETT

CAST

HEADMASTER
FRANKLIN, a Housemaster
Michael Howard

FRANKLIN, a Housemaster
Michael Green

FRANKLIN, a Housemaster
Robin Duval

FRANKLIN, a Housemaster
Ruth Lister

HEADMASTER
FRANKLIN, a Housemaster

HEADMASTER
FRANKLIN, a Housemaster

MATRON
TEMPEST, a Junior Master
Betty Ogden

MATRON
TEMPEST, a Junior Master
Chris Waldock

MATRON
TEMPEST, a Junior Master
Gerry Blake

MATRON
TEMPEST, a Junior Master
Samuel Barbary

MATRON
TEMPEST, a Junior Master
Alexander Barber

MATRON
TEMPEST, a Junior Master
Colin Brown

MATRON
TEMPEST, a Junior Master
Jon Campbell

MATRON
TEMPEST, a Junior Master
Richard Cullen

MATRON
TEMPEST, a Junior Master
Timothy Ellis

MATRON
TEMPEST, a Junior Master
Richard Grimshaw

MATRON
TEMPEST, a Junior Master
Andrew Groves

MATRON
TEMPEST, a Junior Master
Stephen Heatherton

MATRON
TEMPEST, a Junior Master
Jason Hobart

MATRON
TEMPEST, a Junior Master
Richard Howlett

MATRON
TEMPEST, a Junior Master
Roger Kelly

MATRON
TEMPEST, a Junior Master
Nigel Lane

MATRON
TEMPEST, a Junior Master
Piers Langridge

MATRON
TEMPEST, a Junior Master
Nick Leibermann

MATRON
TEMPEST, a Junior Master
David Lohfink

MATRON
TEMPEST, a Junior Master
Rupert Mathew

MATRON
TEMPEST, a Junior Master
Dominic McCann

MATRON
TEMPEST, a Junior Master
Paul McConnochie

MATRON
TEMPEST, a Junior Master
Vicente McNeil

MATRON
TEMPEST, a Junior Master
Judd O’Connor

MATRON
TEMPEST, a Junior Master
Phillip Rutt

MATRON
TEMPEST, a Junior Master
Mark Salem

MATRON
TEMPEST, a Junior Master
Simon Skinner

MATRON
TEMPEST, a Junior Master
Oliver Wain-Ferns

MATRON
TEMPEST, a Junior Master
Jan Williams

MATRON
TEMPEST, a Junior Master
Tunji Williams

LECTERN READER
MISS NISBITT, the Bursar’s Secretary

LECTION READER
MISS NISBITT, the Bursar’s Secretary
Chris Walock

LECTION READER
MISS NISBITT, the Bursar’s Secretary
Michael Carver

LECTION READER
MISS NISBITT, the Bursar’s Secretary
Gerry Blake

LECTION READER
MISS NISBITT, the Bursar’s Secretary
Samuel Barbary

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Jan Williams

LECTION READER
MISS NISBITT, the Bursar’s Secretary
Tunji Williams

ORGANIST
COTTLE
TUPPER (treble)
MOSS
SALTER
LEDGETTER (treble)
MACILWAINE
BOTTOMLEY
SKINNER
WIMPENNY
GILLINGS
DISHORTH
CLARK
RUMBOLD
LORD (boy in bed)
SPOONER
PRINGLE
FOSTER
CRABTREE
JARVIS
GRUBB
BAXTER
CHARTERIS (prompt)
CARTWRIGHT
TREDGOLD (Rugby Captain)
COTTELL
WIGGLESWORTH
SIMPSON

Directed by JEFFREY SMITH
Set designed by JOHN STACEY
Costumes by LINDSAY UDELL
Lighting designed by PETE WALTERS
Sound by MURRAY COOKE

The scene is the Assembly Hall of Albion House, a public school on the South Downs.

Stage Manager
Deputy Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Managers

Construction by
assisted by

Prompt
Wardrobe Assistants

Lighting Operator
Sound Operator
Properties
assisted by
Printing by

Thanks to: Don Kincaid, John Davey, Vincent McCueen, Graham Cannings, Roger de Toney, Eric Kirby, Flora Ellis

and to:
Ealing Green School, Brentside High School, Montpelier Middle School, The Plymouth Theatre Company and Stoll Moss Theatre Ltd.
After each main Questors production, a public

DISCUSSION

is held, attended by the director and the cast, open to all
members of the audience, and led by some figure of
standing in the theatre. An increasing number of members
are finding this an interesting extension to their theatre
going.

The Discussion on Forty Years On will be held on
TUESDAY, 20th OCTOBER, at 7.45 p.m. in the Bernard
Shaw Room and will be led by

PETER DEWS

one of the leading theatre directors of the day. Peter
Dews started in the theatre at the amateur Bradford
Civic Playhouse, but after University rapidly made his
name as a director in the professional theatre. As Director
for six years of the prestigious Birmingham Repertory
Theatre, he was himself responsible for many productions,
not least the outstanding Hadrian VII which came to
London and with which he won the New York Antoinette
Perry best director award in 1969. His wide experience
also includes many productions at Chichester Festival
Theatre, of which he is currently Director, as well as in
such places as Durban, Stratford, Ontario, and Tel Aviv.

So why not come along, to join in or to listen?

Note the date

TUESDAY, 20th OCTOBER at 7.45 p.m.
in the Bernard Shaw Room

All are welcome Admission is free

During the run of Forty Years On – the ever-popular
ANNUAL GIFT STALL!!

The Gift Stall will be in the Main Foyer, and the Book
Stall in the West Foyer from 7 p.m. each evening and
daily from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Sunday 12 – 2 p.m.).
Gifts for the stall are still needed.

CAN YOU AFFORD TO MISS IT?
CONTINUING THE NEW SEASON...

IN THE MAIN THEATRE...

THE WINTER'S TALE
by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 18, 20, 21 NOVEMBER
One of Shakespeare's last plays which represent the summit of achievement of the world's greatest dramatist. A very moving play in which the elements of love, jealousy, friendship, loss and redemption mingle.

DIMETOS
by ATHOL FUGARD
5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12 DECEMBER
A chance to see this impressive play by the distinguished modern South African playwright. Should Dimetos withdraw from the mainstream of life? What are his reasons? Is he responsible to others? And what are his feelings for his young niece?

AND IN THE STUDIO THEATRE...

HANS KOHLHAAS
by JAMES SAUNDERS
28 OCTOBER – 1 NOVEMBER
James Saunders is well known as the author of many plays presented at The Questors, including Next Time I'll Sing To You, A Scent Of Flowers and The Borage Pigeon Affair. One of his most recent plays, Bodies, enjoyed a long and successful run in the West End. Hans Kohlhaas was first seen in a very exciting Studio production at The Questors in 1972, and is now to have a long-awaited revival. The original production was the result of extended co-operation between the author and the cast, and James Saunders is working with the new cast on a revision of the text. Not to be missed!

MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL
by T.S. ELIOT
19 – 28 NOVEMBER
This classic of the modern theatre, based on the murder of Thomas a Becket in the Cathedral at Canterbury is being given an extended run in the Studio Theatre.