

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

24 - 25 April and 1,2,8,9,15,16 and 22 May – *Performance Starts at 11am*

The Twits by Roald Dahl adapted by Anne Collis and Justin Pearson

IN THE STUDIO

*A musical play for children from 8 to 80:- * World Premiere **

A weekend treat for children - and their adult friends. In 1997 Roald Dahl, the author of classics like James and the Giant Peach and Matilda, was voted Britain's favourite children's author of all time and this is one of his most wicked and funny stories. The Twits are the ugliest, stupidest, hairiest couple ever. This is what happens when Mugglewump the Monkey, and the Roly-Poly Bird plot to teach them a lesson.

8 - 15 May – *Performance Starts at 7.45pm*

First Post to Last Pint Memories of Ealing Green a *Playback Production*

IN THE STUDIO

Love, death and gossip - a century of real-life on Ealing Green

The famous PlayBack team returns with another show created out of the living history of Ealing. They have toured the country with their hit shows based on the world famous Ealing Studios, the Soap-Sud Island of Acton, and the great cycling boom of the 20s. Now they are hard at work re-creating the bustling life of Ealing Green between the wars. Not to be missed!

15 - 22 May – *Performance Starts at 7.45pm*

The Glass Menagerie Tennessee Williams

IN THE PLAYHOUSE

Fragile hopes and faded dreams A must for all students of English or Drama

Tennessee Williams has been described as America's greatest playwright. The Glass Menagerie when premiered in 1945 had an immediate impact thrusting Tennessee Williams to the forefront of American culture, where he shaped a generation of theatre, film and literature. Strongly autobiographical, it tells the story of a family torn apart; of a daughter cocooned in her fantasy world of glass ornaments; of her brother, Tom, a poet forced to work in a local shoe factory, spending his nights drinking in order to escape; and of the mother, a deluded, faded belle, whose dreams of the past will destroy her children's future.

12 - 19 June – *Performance Starts at 7.45pm*

The Crucible by Arthur Miller

IN THE PLAYHOUSE

The search for courage in the face of great evil

When a group of girls and Tituba, a slave from Barbados, start experimenting with the occult they accuse their village elders of witchcraft in order to cover up their misdoings. When the Witch Finder General Reverend Hale arrives, a court is convened to uncover the 'criminals'. As hysteria sets in people start to accuse others because of petty grievances and grudges or just because they have something to gain. When one man tries to step in to stop the madness, he finds himself embroiled in something that will ultimately destroy him, his family and his community.

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PROGRAMME NOTES

The popular story is that Queen Elizabeth I was so pleased with the character of Sir John Falstaff in Henry IV parts I and II, that she commanded Shakespeare to write another play about him. She supposedly asked Shakespeare to write the play showing him in love and to do it in fourteen days. This, however, is probably a myth, for the first printed account does not occur until 1702. There is little doubt though that The Queen saw a version of the play, which was probably written in 1597 and may have been meant for The Garter Feast of that year. Whether she did or did not has not affected the popularity of the play and it was one of the first plays to be acted after The Restoration in 1660 when Pepys saw it and approved of the "humours of the country gentleman (Slender?) and the French doctor" but did not like the actor playing Falstaff or "the rest". It survived drastic *improvements* in the early seventeenth century and achieved great popular success in its own right in the 1720's. It was seen in America as early as 1770 and has hardly been absent from the repertoire ever since. The Victorians bowdlerised it and several attempts have been made to modernise the setting, culminating in the famous Royal Shakespeare Company version where the wives met under hairdryers. We have chosen to maintain the Elizabethan setting, believing that the essence of the play lies in its portrait of life in an English country town. To discuss the theme of the play might be to use a hammer to crack an egg, for this is the most light-hearted and sunniest of Shakespeare's plays. If the themes of a jealous husband and an honest wife have serious undertones they are dissolved in a hilarious tangle of plot and counter-plot, which are themselves resolved when everyone goes home to "laugh this sport o'er, by a country fire."

For the technically minded we have used the Penguin Shakespeare Edition based on the Folio Edition of 1623, and we have also cut the whole of Act 4 scene 1 and about another 100 lines.

Alan Chambers

The Merry Wives of Windsor

by William Shakespeare

First Performance of this production 17th April 1999

Cast

in order of appearance

Justice Shallow	Norman WILKINSON
Slender	Mark REDRUP
Sir Hugh Evans	Phillip SHEAHAN
George Page	Michael GERRARD
Sir John Falstaff	Ray ORLEY
Bardolph	John TURNER
Pistol	Derek BULLOCK
Anne Page	Clementine SLOGGETT
Mistress Ford	Hilary SHEARING
Mistress Page	Cathy WALLACE
Peter Simple	Andrew JONES
Host of the Garter	Vincent WOOD
Mistress Quickly	Vivien KERR
John Rugby	Nigel WORSLEY
Doctor Caius	Ian BUCKINGHAM
Fenton	John ALCOCK
Frank Ford	Tony BROMHAM
Robert	Martin STONER
John	Ron ROBERTS

Crew

Director	Alan CHAMBERS
Designer	Norman BARWICK
Sound Designer	Nigel WORSLEY
Lighting Designer	Martin STONER
Music Devised by	William MORTON
Played by	William MORTON, Frank WATSON
Costume Design	Julia BRADLEY
Stage Manager	Jo BOOTH
Deputy Stage Manager	Bridgett STREVENS
Assistant Stage Managers	Katrina PLUMB, Helen CARTER Alec ATCHINSON, Catriona SMITH
Properties	Harriet SIMON
Prompter	Pam SMITH
Lighting Operators	Dwayne DAWSON, Mel PEREIRA
Sound Operator	Lizzie AVERILL
Costume Department	Bryanne MELVILLE, Tim HAYWOOD Grace CRADDOCK
Masks	Bron BECKFORD, Gerry BLAKE
Hair and Makeup	Zoe GILES, Deborah TILLEY
Set Construction	Jim CRADDOCK

Thanks to:

Tony Hill, Anthony Bridges, Christian Blood, Jon Webster, John Rolfe,
Margaret Wood, Julie Cruttendon

THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR