

TEDDINGTON THEATRE CLUB PRESENTS AN AMATEUR PRODUCTION BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH SAMUEL FRENCH LIMITED

# Dad's Army

By Jimmy Perry and David Croft

Directed by Sally Halsey

Sun 10 May - Sat 16 May 2015

£1.50





#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

For reasons of safety, glassware must NOT be taken into any part of the auditorium.

Latecomers will be admitted at the first convenient moment provided that no interruption or distraction to the performers might be caused.

All gangways, passageways and stairways must be kept free from obstruction. Persons are not permitted to sit or stand in any gangway.

The taking of photographs and the making of sound and/or visual recordings in the auditorium are not permitted.

An induction loop system is installed in the Main Auditorium to assist those who use hearing aids with the relevant setting.

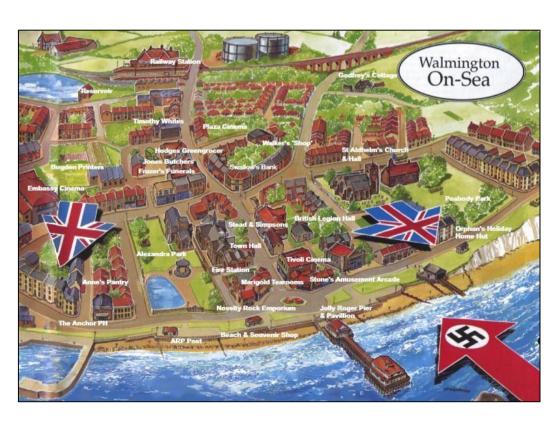
Wheelchair positions are available in both Stalls and the Balcony. The Box Office Manager will be happy to discuss your requirements.

TTC Ltd, as managers of the Playhouse, reserves the right to refuse admission and to make alterations to the programme and cast without notice.

## Dad's Army

There won't be many in the audience tonight who haven't seen at least one episode of the famous BBC comedy series 'Dad's Army' and there'll be even fewer who hadn't heard of it before booking their tickets. Written by Jimmy Perry and David Croft, the first episode shown in 1968 was followed by seventy nine further episodes over a period of nine years.

The series was set during World War II in the small fictional south coast seaside town of Walmington-on-Sea and focused on a group of men who had volunteered into the town's Home Guard – the name given to local defence corps established nationwide in June 1940 and made up of men under and over the age of active service in the armed forces.



The story centres around seven main characters, including some 'old campaigners' from the First World War, an 'under conscription age' and a 'draft dodger'. They are led by the pompous Captain Mainwaring, a local bank manager, who manages to get them involved in hilarious scrapes and exploits – all in the name of civil defence.

The strength of the programme came from superb script writing matched to a highly talented cast of actors able to portray their characters to perfection. There were elements of slapstick, irony, pathos, word play and nostalgia within the many episodes and, at its peak, it regularly attracted audiences of 18 million. Repeats are still shown worldwide today – watch out for those episodes being re-run on Saturday evenings on BBC 2.

'Dad's Army' is not just a TV series – a spin-off full length feature film was made in 1971, a stage show based on the series toured the UK between 1975 and 1981, and episodes from the series were also successfully adapted for BBC radio. A new film is currently in the making starring a host of major British talent, including Bill Nighy, Sir Michael Gambon, Sir Tom Courtney and Catherine Zeta Jones, and is due for release in 2016.





"Whistle while you work,
Hitler is a twerp,
He's half barmy,
So's his army,
Whistle while you work."

## Cast List

Captain Mainwaring **Sergeant Arthur Wilson Lance-Corporal Jack Jones Private James Frazer** Private Joe Walker **Private Charles Godfrey Private Frank Pike** The Colonel Mr. Gordon (Town Clerk) **ARP Chief Warden Hodges** Mr. Yeatman (The Verger) Mrs. Gray Mrs. Fox Mrs. Pike **Edith Parish Ivy Samways** Mrs. Prosser Miss Ironside Nora (Waitress) **Avril (Buffet Attendant) U-Boat Captain U-Boat Sailors** 

Steve Taylor Jeremy Gill Dave Dadswell Douglas McFarlane Andrew Shufflebotham Ken Mason Spiros Rapsomanikis John Bellamy Tim Shaw Phil Greenleaves Paul Barlow Sue Bell Joolz Connery Juliette Sexton Fiona Collins Millie Connery **Anne Delaney** Catherine De Roure **Rosie Cairns Lotty Tuck** Tim Shaw Millie Connery Anne Delanev Catherine De Roure Rosie Cairns **Lotty Tuck** 

## Crew List

**Director** Sally Halsey

**Production Assistant** Maria McAllister

Wardrobe Sally Cadle

Props Loz Keal

**Sound Design & Operation** Nick Eliot

**Set Design** Sally Halsey

**Set Realisation** Sarah Taylor

**Lighting Design & Operation** Colin Swinton

Stage Manager Mart Stonelake

**Assistant Stage Managers** Sam Sladden

Sue Birks

Rachael Bodin Vicky Horder

Sarah Taylor

Front of House Realisation Lottie Walker

#### Sally Halsey

Sally has directed numerous award winning plays including One Flew Over The Cuckoos Nest, Festen, Steel Magnolias, The Odd Couple (Female Version), Barefoot in The Park, Jeffrey Barnard is Unwell, Stags and Hens, The Talented Mr Ripley, Look Back in Anger, Cabaret, Kindertransport, Cinderella, Snow White, The Wizard of Oz, Joseph (and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat), and, most recently The Graduate. She has greatly enjoyed directing this production and working with such a talented cast and crew. Rehearsals have been a delight and she'd like to thank the cast for making her laugh so much over the last three months.

## The Bar is open after the show

The foyer bar remains open after the show and is well used by cast, crew and members. We extend a very warm welcome to everyone who has been to see the performance - it is an ideal opportunity to meet the actors you have seen performing, find out more about our theatre and our club or simply relax over a drink.



## Please don't spoil the performance

We respectfully request all members of the audience to make sure that mobile phones are switched off during the performance. Thank vou.

## Dad's Army Characters

#### Captain George Mainwaring

The pompous, yet essentially brave and unerringly patriotic, local bank manager, Rotarian and pillar of the community, Mainwaring has appointed himself leader of his town's contingent of Local Defence Volunteers. He has been a Lieutenant in the First World War but is embarrassed by the fact that he never saw combat, having been sent to France after the Armistice. His father, Edmund, was a member of the Master Tailors Guild. Born in Eastbourne in 1898, he was educated at the local grammar school and, upon leaving, found work at the local branch of Swallow Bank, working his way up to become bank manager in 1935.

#### Sergeant Arthur Wilson

The diffident and upper-class Wilson was privately educated at Meadowbridge Public School. During the First War, his background secured him a commission in the army to the rank of Captain, and he served with distinction in many battles. After the war, he went to work for Swallow Bank, rising to the post of Chief Clerk. He quietly questions Mainwaring's judgement ("Do you think that's wise, Sir?") and treats everyone, especially women, with the utmost courtesy and politeness. He is 'seeing' the widowed Mrs Pike whose grown up son Frank is also a member of the platoon. Although Arthur has his own accommodation, it is suggested that he and Mavis cohabit - emphasised by Frank's comment that he [Uncle Arthur] leaves after he has gone to bed and returns for breakfast before he gets up! Wilson is presumed to be Frank's father (confirmed by the writers) although this is never explicitly stated.

#### Lance Corporal Jack Jones

Born in 1870, Jones is an experienced soldier with many years service (and medals) to his name. He enlisted as a drummer boy aged 14 and participated as a boy soldier in the Gordon Relief Expedition of 1884 and as a soldier in Kitchener's campaign in the Sudan in 1896. Jones is very fond of 'the cold steel' and often refers to the fact that 'They don't like it up 'em'. Jones runs the local butchers shop and his delivery van has been converted for use as transport by the platoon. Apart from killing Nazis, Jones has only one ambition in life – to marry Mrs Fox.



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#### **Private Charles Godfrey**

The gentle and always polite Charles Godfrey worked in the gentleman's outfitting department of the Army & Navy Store in London. Probably the oldest member of the platoon, Godfrey is a quiet and unassuming gentleman. Living with his two sisters Cissy and Dolly, he spends most of his time tending the garden or visiting the clinic for his many complaints, the most noticeable being that of his weak bladder. Despite declaring himself to have been a conscientious objector during the First World War, he won the Military Medal for bravery during the Battle of the Somme, rescuing several wounded soldiers as a member of the Medical Corps.

#### **Private James Frazer**

A purveyor of doom and gloom; everything, according to Frazer, will turn into a disaster. He is the local undertaker who also runs the philatelist shop on the sea front during the summer. During quieter months he indulges his other hobby of hand making coffins. Frazer spent his youth on the wild and lonely Isle of Barra off the west coast of Scotland. He served in the Royal Navy, reaching Chief Petty Officer status, and has a wealth of stories to tell of adventure in exotic lands, and strange and supernatural happenings.

#### **Private Joe Walker**

If you need anything from whiskey to knicker elastic, watches or weapons, Joe Walker will get it for you. He is a typical cockney spiv, making his way through life ducking and diving, trying to avoid the law. Moving down to the south coast from his native Plaistow in east London to avoid call up, he was registered as having a reserved occupation (a banana salesman) until the authorities eventually caught up with him. Luckily for him, he was allergic to corned beef, which invalided him out of the army. Walker very rarely deals with money, relying on the bartering system to do business. One of the cleverest in the platoon, others turn to him for inspiration in tricky situations.

#### <u>Private Frank Pike</u>

At age 17, Frank Pike is the youngest member of the platoon. He was too young to enlist in the services, but jumped at the chance of belonging to the Home Guard, much to his mother's displeasure. Frank regards the Home Guard as an extension of the scouting movement, of which he was a keen member. He is a cosseted mother's boy, constantly wearing a thick scarf with his uniform to prevent illness, and often the target of Mainwaring's derision ("You stupid boy!"). He works for Mainwaring in his day job as an assistant bank clerk.

#### The Colonel

Keeping an eye on the Eastgate, Eastbourne, Dymchurch, Dymwhich & Walmington platoons, the Colonel visits from time to time. He is a very patient man, with a lot of military experience behind him. He is not one to dull the enthusiasm of anyone. He is certainly on the side of the Walmington-on-Sea platoon, and has cause to turn several blind eyes.

#### Mrs. Mildred Fox

A glamorous local widow to whom Jones is attracted. Jones' admiration is returned with little 'extras' being passed across the counter on her regular visits to his shop. Always looking her best and with her trademark fox fur draped over her shoulders, Mrs Fox helps the platoon with official functions. In the episode "Mum's Army", she gives her Christian name as Marcia, but in the final episode of the show she had become Mildred.

#### Mrs. Mavis Pike

Widow, mollycoddling mother to Frank Pike, and doting companion to Arthur Wilson, Mavis rents a house from Mr Hodges and looks after Arthur's ration books. She is not afraid of anyone, least of all Captain Mainwaring, of whom she is jealous because, as the war progresses, he is spending more time with her precious son than she is.

#### **Elizabeth Mainwaring**

George Mainwaring's reclusive, paranoid and domineering wife who is never seen on-screen. Her marriage with Mainwaring is not a happy one and Mainwaring does his best to avoid her at any given opportunity. The marriage is childless.

#### **ARP Warden William Hodges**

Mainwaring's greatest enemy - the local greengrocer with dirty fingernails who by night becomes the local Chief Air Raid Warden, ordering all and sundry to "Put that light out!". A 'common little man' according to Mainwaring and Wilson, he does his upmost to get one over on the platoon and regularly teams up with the vicar or the verger against the Captain. Hodges served in the army during the last campaign and acted as a guard in a prison camp, where he managed to learn German, and is well respected in the town as their best bowler on the cricket team.

#### Maurice Yeatman, Verger

Responsible for the upkeep of the church and hall, Mr Yeatman doesn't appreciate the platoon as he thinks they just create more work for him. He's a bit of a sneak, and always goes running to the Vicar to 'tell' on Captain Mainwaring. He's also the Sea Scout Leader.

#### Claude Gordon, Town Clerk

The fussing Town Clerk who attempts to bring some life into the town, arranging visits from Russian dignitaries, bazaars, a Spitfire Fund and themed events. Despite his vagueness, he manages to chair meetings, and control proceedings in the light of interruptions from those present. He is not liked by Jack Jones because he was 'stepping out' with Mrs Fox for some time, despite being a 'bald headed old duffer'. He has a weakness for fleshings and everything is "very nice, very nice indeed".

#### Mrs. Gray

Originally from Regents Park, London, Mrs Gray had to bring her mother down to Walmington-On-Sea because the bombing was too much for her. She now lives in Wilton Gardens and her life consists of "Morning coffee at Anne's Pantry" and "making the dahlias grow" that is, of course, until she volunteers to join the new women's section of the Walmington-On-Sea Home Guard and meets Captain Mainwaring.

## Cast Biographies



#### **Andrew Shufflebotham**

Dad's Army is Andrew's second show with TTC, having played Harry Clamacraft in the recent studio production of Alfie. Prior to that Andrew appeared as Don John in the Rose Theatre, Kingston production of Much Ado About Nothing, at both the Rose Theatre and the Wisley Arts Festival. He has also appeared in the recent productions of The Absence of War (Headlong Theatre Company) and The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas, again at the Rose Theatre. Andrew is thrilled to be making his TTC debut on the main stage with the legendary Walmington on Sea Home Guard.



#### Anne Delaney

This is Anne's third production with TTC, it follows *Beauty and the Beast* and *Snow Queen*. She has also performed in *Pirates of Penzance* with the Wimbledon Light Opera and most recently in *The Crucible* at the Lantern Arts Centre. Rehearsing with the cast of *Dad's Army* has been enormous fun and Anne is looking forward to sharing the laughs with audiences.



#### Catherine De Roure

Cat is a recent Computer Science graduate from the University of Bath. She has enjoyed performing from a young age and has a background in dance. This is her first production with TTC and she is very excited to have the opportunity to work with Sally and be a part of *Dad's Army*.



#### Dave Dadswell

Dave joined TTC as an acting member 12 years ago and has appeared in around 25 productions, the most recent being *The Snow Queen*. He has played a variety of parts including a tin man, a mechanical wooden doll and a twelve year old schoolboy. He is looking forward to the challenge of playing such a well-loved character as Lance Corporal Jones.



#### **Douglas McFarlane**

Douglas started studying drama in Glasgow in 1999 at Strathclyde University and Denise Borland Stagecraft in Edinburgh. He performed in many Glasgow musicals, Edinburgh Fringe comedies, ITV's *Taggart*, a broadband commercial and several independent films. His work in support of film and theatre earned him BAFTA membership in 2002 and he votes every year in the annual film and TV awards. Douglas was keen to return to the stage after making a documentary about Hollywood, and guest presenting on Sky News. He was therefore delighted when the role of Private Frazer came up, and has enjoyed learning the distinct accent.



#### **Fiona Collins**

Fiona became a member of TTC just over a year ago when she appeared in *The Snow Queen* as the crazy butterfly 'Penelope Peacock' which she thoroughly enjoyed. Over the last year she has helped back stage in *Dinner*, done a couple of shifts behind the bar and front of house selling ice creams, as well as being an enthralled member of the audience watching some fantastic TTC productions. She's delighted to now be appearing as an usherette in *Dad's Army*, an iconic production where she has learned a lot from the fabulous team, cast and director. What a fabulous and fun opportunity!



#### Jeremy Gill

Jeremy has been acting since 2006 for TTC and anyone who will have him. This is the second time he has been directed by Sally. Earlier this year he played a Policeman in *The Thrill of Love* for TTC and he has been known to frequent the RSS stage, but Mum's the word, eh? He wants to say that it has been awfully good fun being in this show, it really is most gratifying. Everyone involved has been just lovely really. I don't think one can say fairer than that.



#### John Bellamy

John is very happy to be part of this production, not least because, for once, he is not required to dye his hair in order to look younger! He has been active for many years now, as actor, singer, dancer and director, both with TTC and other local societies, as well as two operatic societies in France! His most recent appearance at HHP was in Lady Windermere's Fan (SMDG) in 2014, and for TTC in Pravda and Tons Of Money in 2013. He sincerely hopes that Dad's Army will not prove to be his swan song.



#### Joolz Connery

Joolz has been a member of TTC since 2000 and is currently Artistic Director, which means she doesn't usually get time to act in TTC productions but who can say no to *Dad's Army!* She has really enjoyed playing the 'wall flower' that is Mrs Fox and whilst *Dad's Army* isn't overly famous for female roles, this one is a corker! It's been a lot of fun rehearsing with the platoon and reminiscing about the classic TV series, which seems to still have such a loyal fan base! Joolz was last at HHP as Mrs Robinson in *The Graduate* and more recently as the murderess Patrica Donovan for SMDG. Joolz is dedicating this performance to Nanny Joan.



#### Juliette Sexton

Juliette is a relatively recent member to TTC and is excited to be playing the role of Mrs Pike in this production of *Dad's Army*. Her theatre experience with TTC includes a role in the Christmas production of *The Snow Queen* as well as working back stage supporting all things food related for the play *Dinner*. Prior to moving to Twickenham, Juliette had been involved in theatre groups in Lincolnshire, where she performed in productions of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Steel Magnolias, Pygmalion* and a variety of pantomimes.



#### Ken Mason

Ken joined TTC in the 1970's and has acted, directed, been a trainer on drama skills workshops, stage managed, designed lighting and sound and enjoys working on the bar! He has been chairman of the artistic committee and was TTC chairman during the transition from Hampton Court House to Hampton Hill Playhouse. He has edited Theatre and Theatre Stage Door, the Club magazines. He has acted and directed in various productions over the years, adapted and directed A Christmas Carol, with original music and lyrics by Will Williams and cowrote and directed a pantomime, The Diamond Princess. His latest acting role was as a decrepit waiter in Pravda and is now very happy playing young Godfrey.



#### **Lotty Tuck**

Lotty is 25, a graduate of interior architecture and is now a kitchen designer in London. She has been dancing since a very young age and took performance studies at school. She is no stranger to performing as she used to be a cheerleader for Crystal Palace, so has always loved the stage. This is her first time with TTC and is excited to be re-creating such a well know sitcom with Sally and such a lovely group of people.



#### Millie Connery

Having become a member of TTC in the last couple of years, Millie was last appeared at HHP in *The Linden Tree*, in June 2014 and previously as a Silly Girl in *Beauty & The Beast* in 2012. Having been somewhat strong armed into appearing in *Dad's Army* by her mum, she has really enjoyed being part of the production, so much so that she bought her friends Rosie, Lottie and Cat along to be involved too! Millie has loved being part of this wonderful, funny cast and is especially thankful for working with Sally.



#### **Paul Barlow**

Paul has only recently joined TTC and is pleased to be part of this *Dad's Army* production with such professional players. Paul started acting some years ago in Derby, when he joined a local drama group where he was a member for a number of years. He also became involved with a light opera company. He moved south and started work at Pinewood Studios as a props maker on the film *Snow White*. While watching the extras going through their paces, he decided to see if he could get into the action. He spoke to a director and got his wish and then spent four days on set as an extra. Having got the bug, he has now been an extra in a number of films, shows and commercials.



#### Phil Greenleaves

Phil has had drama as a hobby for as long as he can remember. He has done most of his work with Park Players. Most recently he was in a production of *Wake in the West* presented here in the Coward Room and then at The Adelaide Pub, Teddington, before going on to the Elmbridge Drama Festival. Phil's last appearance on the main stage at HHP as a member of TTC was in *Mary Queen of Scots*, but he also remembers with great pleasure his monologue *Chip in the Sugar* which he did under Ken Mason's direction a little while before that.



#### **Rosie Cairns**

Rosie is 24 and has just finished a Veterinary Nursing Bsc Degree at Middlesex University. In her spare time she enjoys horse riding and keeping fit. She always enjoyed performing while at school and jumped at the chance of partaking in *Dad's Army*. This is her first time on stage with TTC and she has found working with Director Sally Halsey a great pleasure.



#### Spiros Rapsomanikis

Having arrived from Corfu just eight months ago, Spiros has been a member of TTC for just a few weeks. It's the first time he has ever acted on stage – in fact, it's the first time he has ever acted in his life, having never had the opportunity as a child. Spiros has loved the whole experience, especially the people he's working with as he thinks they've all been really nice and very friendly. He's had lots of fun playing Private Pike but feels quite nervous about how the audience will react to his performance and he hopes they will enjoy it as much as he has.



#### **Steve Taylor**

Steve's adult drama career began with Gilbert & Sullivan - playing the full canon of comic baritones. He's appeared in many modern musicals, including most of the classics. Play credits are numerous and include: An Inspector Calls, Hard Times, Interior Designs, Albert Make Us Laugh, Chorus of Disapproval, Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell, The Dresser, and Dead Funny. Steve has Swan Best Actor awards for Siegfried Sassoon in Not About Heroes and Leslie/Maureen in A Different Way Home by Jimmie Chinn. He was most recently seen at HHP during 2014 in Brimstone & Treacle, My Boy Jack, The Rise and Fall of Little Voice and Blackbird.



#### Sue Bell

Sue has been a member of TTC for over 40 years. Her favourite roles have included Maxine in *Stepping Out*, The Witch in *Into the Woods* (Swan Award), the Countess in a *Little Night Music*, the Beggar Woman in *Sweeney Todd*, Linda in *Death of a Salesman* (Swan Nomination), Meg in *The Birthday Party* (Swan Award), Nurse Ratched in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and Reverend Mother in *Nunsense* (Swan Award), all for TTC. Other roles include Xenia (Q2-Swan Nomination) in the *Killing of Sister George* and Lady Jane in *Patience* (HLOC-Swan Nomination). She was last seen at HHP as Mrs Cotton in *The Linden Tree*.



#### Tim Shaw

Tim is delighted to be back at the Playhouse after 10 years of appearances, and although this is the first time he has acted with TTC, he did spend some time last year looking up their noses from behind a drum kit in the orchestra pit. He's sure these classic scripts will provide as much fun for the audience as they have done for us. If not, your name will also go on the ze list!

## Acknowledgement and Thanks

Captain William Robinson from the 1 RSME Regiment at Brompton, who joined us at rehearsal and drilled our soldiers to perfection.

What a memorable evening that was!

Mrs. Eliot for the loan of the desk from 'Caradean'.

Harveys of Hove for the hire of our military costumes.

TTC Box Office, Front of House, and Bar Staff for volunteering their time to support the club and this production.

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Teddington Theatre Club acknowledges with grateful thanks the practical and financial support given by local residents, businesses and community groups.



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This production is entered for the *arts*richmond Swan Awards for Drama and Musicals.

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Teddington Theatre Club is a Club Theatre open to members and their guests. It is easy to join as an audience member, or as a full performing and technical member.

Each month, details of forthcoming productions are mailed to each member together with Theatre, our club magazine and newsletter.

All are encouraged to help with the Front of House, Bar and Marketing activities of the Club and Playhouse. To find out more please visit our website www.teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk, call our Membership Secretary on 020 8287 2663 or complete one of the forms you will find in the Foyer.