



TEDDINGTON THEATRE CLUB PRESENTS AN AMATEUR PRODUCTION
BY ARRANGEMENT WITH NICK HERN BOOKS

My Boy Jack

By David Haig

Directed by Wesley Henderson Roe and Jennifer Laney

Sun 29 Jun – Sat 5 Jul 2014

£1.50



Hampton Hill Playhouse

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90 High Street
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www.hamptonhillplayhouse.org.uk

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.



JOHN KIPLING

17th August 1897 – 27th September 1915

In the build up to the outbreak of World War 1 patriotism is high, with the writer Rudyard Kipling one of its most eloquent and passionate voices. Kipling is immensely proud of his only son John, who despite being under age and cripplingly short-sighted is determined to join the war effort and fight for King and Country. As both the Royal Navy and the Army had rejected John as unfit for service due to his poor eyesight, Kipling uses his close friendship with Field Marshall Lord Roberts to gain John a commission in the Army. Lord Roberts' intervention resulted in John being awarded a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant, 2nd Battalion, Irish Guards, in August 1914. Carrie, John's mother and Elsie, his sister are appalled by Kipling's enthusiasm and support for John's enlistment, as they fear that Kipling's devotion to King, Country and Empire blinds him to the dangers John will face in France.

The 2nd Battalion, Irish Guards had been stationed in France for three weeks, when on 27 September 1915, in the pouring rain, John Kipling was killed at the Battle of Loos aged 18 years 6 weeks.

During and after the war John was officially recorded as "missing". His name is engraved on the Loos Memorial, which lists the names of 20,610 British and Commonwealth soldiers who fought at the Battle of Loos and who have no known grave. For many years a distraught Rudyard Kipling searched for John, visiting hospitals, interviewing veterans and anyone else who may have seen John at the time of the battle. Despite his connections and personal influence with the political and military figures of the day, Kipling died in 1936 without knowing the whereabouts of his beloved son.

In 1992 the Commonwealth War Graves Commission confirmed that it is confident that the body of an unidentified Irish Guards Lieutenant, found near Chalk Pit Wood in 1919 and reburied in St Mary's A.D.S. Military Cemetery is that of Lieutenant John Kipling. However, other research suggests that this grave may be of another officer, that of Arthur Jacob of the London Irish Rifles.

A headstone inscribed with the name John Kipling stands over the grave of the unidentified Lieutenant found near Chalk Pit Wood.

THE DIRECTORS



JENNIFER LANEY

Jen's theatrical career began in the early 1950s when still at nursery school where she was cast as a Grumpy Pixie in a production of *The Fairy Wood* - her career was never again to reach such heights! Before joining TTC in 1992, Jen appeared in a number of productions for other groups and companies - *St Joan, As You Like It, Twelfth Night, Abelard and Heloise, The Barretts of Wimpole Street, Charley's Aunt, The Cocktail Party, and Oliver!* - to name but a few. For TTC she has appeared in *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, Agnes of God* (Swan Award nomination for Best Actress), *The Madness of Esme and Shaz, and WIT*. In March 2000 she directed a Studio production of *Still Life*. The following year she directed *The Heiress*, and in 2002 she directed *84 Charing Cross Road* (Swan Award for Best Production).



WESLEY HENDERSON ROE

Like many Wesley discovered theatre while still at school and it has plagued him ever since. He trained as a drama teacher and was inexplicably appointed Head of the Corona Stage School shortly before it closed! He dabbled in professional theatre as an actor/stage manager while still remaining active in amateur drama and musical theatre, and spent several years on the Hounslow Council for the Arts holding various senior posts. Having re-trained as a set designer he spent ten years working professionally in musical theatre and opera during which time he also held senior posts on the BROS committee and was for several years a London NODA area representative. He was appointed Theatre Hirings Administrator here at HHP in 2007 and began directing for TTC in 2009 receiving a number of Swan Nominations and several Awards, both as a Director and Set Designer. Last year he was awarded the *artsrichmond* Accolade for services to local amateur theatre. He saw this as a hint to retire and has been considering this ever since.

THE PRODUCTION IS INDEBTED TO THE FOLLOWING FOR INVALUABLE ASSISTANCE

The staff at Batemans for arranging a private tour out of season and providing extensive background information.

The Imperial War Museum for First World War information specific to the Irish Guards and the Battle of Loos.

The National Army Museum for details on uniform and kit worn in 1915.

The Irish Guards Museum for uniform clarifications.

Richmond Shakespeare Society for wardrobe assistance.

Harvey's of Hove & Khaki Devils for uniforms.

Shepperton Wigs for moustache hire.

Alan O'Shea for services as an Irish Voice Coach.

The portrait of Josephine Kipling is after the original at Batemans painted by Emerline Holbrook

SCENE LIST

ACT ONE

September 1913	Batemans
Later the same day	The Army Medical Board
That evening	Batemans
October 1914	A Recruitment Rally
Two weeks later	Batemans
September 1915	Western Front Forward Trench
2 hours later	Western Front Forward Trench
25 minutes later	Western Front Forward Trench

INTERVAL

ACT TWO

October 1915	Batemans
September 1917	Batemans
1924	Batemans
1933	Batemans

WARNING

Cigarettes will occasionally be smoked during this play

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 you.



Please
Turn off Your
Mobile Phones

CREW LIST

Directors	Jennifer Laney Wesley Henderson Roe
Stage Manager	Charlotte Priestley
Deputy Stage Manager	Jack Tidball
Assistant Stage Manager	Caroline Bradshaw
Lighting Design	Gary Stevenson
Lighting Operator	Gary Stevenson
Lighting Technicians	Rob Foot Colin Swinton Mike Elgey
Sound Design	Charles Halford
Sound Operators	Charles Halford Megan Hird
Sound Technician	Harry Jacobs
Wardrobe & Costume Hire	John Gilbert Margaret Williams
Wardrobe Assistance	Alison Barker Sally Cadle
Properties	Penny Heighes
Portrait Artist	Jim Stitch
Props Maker	Mart Stonelake
Set Design	Wesley Henderson Roe
Production Carpenter	Alan Emsden
Construction Team	Alan Corbett Terry Stevens Barry Evans Jeremy Gill Colin Swinton Jack Tidball
Production Assistant	Clare Henderson Roe
Production Photographers	Jojo Leppink Stephanie Mott
Publicity Image	Jennifer Laney
Rehearsal Bookings	John Gilbert
Artistic Link	Val Wilding

CAST LIST

Rudyard Kipling <i>Author & Poet</i>	Steve Taylor
John (Jack) Kipling <i>His only son</i>	Jacob Taylor
Carrie Kipling <i>Rudyard's Wife</i>	Christina Graham
Major Sparks <i>Army Doctor</i>	Bob Trimble
Col. Rory Pottle <i>Army Medical Board Representative</i>	Jeremy Gill
Elsie (Bird) Kipling <i>The Kipling's only surviving daughter</i>	Elsbeth Adam
Guardsman McHugh <i>Member of John's Irish Guards platoon</i>	David Wheatley
Guardsman Doyle <i>Member of John's Irish Guards platoon</i>	Sam Hope-Evans
Guardsman Bowe <i>Member of John's Irish Guards platoon</i>	Peter Hill
Mr. Frankland <i>Friend of Guardsman Bowe</i>	Matt O' Toole
BBC Voice Over	Barry McDonald
Dressed Crew	Jack Tidball

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



STEVE TAYLOR

Steve's adult drama career began in G&S – HLOC and The Young Savoyards - playing the full canon of Comic Baritones (Ko-Ko, Sir Joseph Porter, John Wellington Wells, Jack Point, Duke of Plaza Toro, Lord Chancellor etc). Modern musicals include *Carousel* (Jigger), *Oklahoma* (Curly & Jud), *Sound of Music* (Rolf & Von Trapp), *South Pacific* (Cable), *Fiddler on the Roof* (Tevye) (BROS TC Richmond Theatre), *A Little Night Music* (Lieder), *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Ciaphas), *Return to the Forbidden Planet* (Prospero), *Evita* (Peron), *City of Angels* (Stone). Play credits include: *An Inspector Calls*, *Hard Times*, *Interior Designs*, *Albert Make Us Laugh*, *Sylvia's Wedding*, *Round and Round the Garden*, *Living Together*, *Relatively Speaking*, *Dead Funny*.



JACOB TAYLOR

Being age 17, *My Boy Jack* seemed like the appropriate choice for his first production at TTC. Whilst Jacob is an accomplished musician, playing guitar, composing and performing solo as well as in a band, his only previous acting experience was earlier this year for The London Oratory School's production of *Guys and Dolls*, playing the part of Nicely-Nicely Johnson. He looks forward to playing many more roles in the future for TTC.



CHRISTINA GRAHAM

Christina joined TTC in 2002. Productions as an actor include: *What the Butler Saw*, *Cabaret*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Albert Make Us Laugh*, *The Summer of the Seventeenth Doll*, *An Inspector Calls*, *The Price*, *Private Fears in Public Places*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* and *Richard III*. She was also choreographer for *The Drowsy Chaperone* and co-directed *The Rover* with David Wheatley for Youth Action Theatre. It has been an exciting challenge to work in this dedicated company on *My Boy Jack*; a play which explores through one family's true experience, the bravery, nobility and ultimate sacrifice of so many who served in the First World War. Christina originally trained at Arts Ed and Goldsmiths' College and is currently Director of Drama at Notre Dame Senior School in Cobham, where she is looking forward to the summer holidays..!



BOB TRIMBLE

Bob Trimble came to acting late but is now smitten. He has done some twenty shows mostly for the Richmond Shakespeare Society. He usually plays, cops, drunks or Americans – sometimes all three at the same time. His first show for TTC was in *Snow White* last Christmas as one of the comic idiots. His most recent performance was in *Othello* at the RSS. Biggest gig to date was the Olympics Closing ceremony where he was dancing in a wheelchair on the back of a truck!

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



JEREMY GILL

Jeremy has very much enjoyed this production of David Haig's wonderful play. He is just old enough to remember seeing his grandfather's reaction to the 1960s BBC documentary series *The Great War*, made especially poignant for his granddad by the memory of the four bullets he took in his backside at Gallipoli. Jeremy still feels guilty about all the times he put 'whoopee cushions' in his chair and sabotaged his cigarettes with small explosive joke shop novelties. Mind you, he never batted an eyelid. Makes one proud to be British.....



ELSPETH ADAM

Elsbeth trained in musical theatre at Arts Educational Schools London and has appeared on stage with several local companies. Her performances with TTC include *We Happy Few*, *Peter Pan*, *The Country Wife* and most recently *Children's Hour*. She is thoroughly enjoying playing the part of Elsie and exploring the effects of *The Great War* on family life during such a poignant time.



DAVID WHEATLEY

David has been associated with many different theatre groups as an actor, playwright, director, set designer, fight choreographer and dramaturge. His writing credits include: *Nescience*, *Frock Horror*, *The Cutter*, *Genghis Khan*, *Urban Shaman*, *Widows*, *The Falcon's Feather* and several other shorter folk tales. Co-writing/dramaturgy credits include *Cover Story* and the First World War play *Passion Dale* for Enzyme Theatre. He has recently completed a commission to write a play about the life of St Jeanne de Lestonnac and also assists with devising drama scripts for GCSE and A level. Acting roles include: *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, *Dracula*, *Cabaret*, *Glengary Glen Ross*, *Macbeth*, *Bloody Poetry*, *Death of a Salesman*, *Long Day's Journey into night*, *Into the Woods*, Charlie Shorrocks and Mr Leatherbottle in separate productions of *Albert Make us Laugh* and Tom in the YAT production of *The Accrington Pals* in 1985 and Sgt Rivers in TTC's more recent revival.



SAM HOPE EVANS

My Boy Jack is Sam's stage debut with Teddington Theatre Club. His last role was as Edgar in *King Lear* with the Network Theatre. Sam's actor training began with classes at Richmond Drama School and continued with part time courses at RADA and LAMDA. He is relishing using the skills he has developed down in the front line trenches! Sam is delighted to have the opportunity to further his stage experience with TTC in this commemorative World War One play with such a great cast and crew.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



PETER HILL

Peter was in the TTC production of *The Country Wife* in January and recent OHADS productions include *Feelgood*, *Audience with Murder* and *Dead Funny*, during which he has impersonated Tony Blair and (not necessarily cause and effect) been poisoned, molested, stabbed, forced to strip, had trifle emptied over his head and pretended to be a eunuch. He also played Oskar Rolfe in *Judgement at Nuremberg* at the Tricycle Theatre in London. His wife and daughters continue to be patient – but for how much longer?



MATT OTOOLE

Matt is making his theatrical début as a fully-grown (I'm taking his word for that) adult, after finishing (and thoroughly enjoying) an acting course at the City Academy in 2013. So, be nice! He may be a big lad, but we all have feelings! Here's hoping he won't be asking for his course fees back!

Teddington Theatre Club Ltd

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



Teddington Theatre Club is affiliated to the Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain and to **artsrichmond**.
This production is entered for the **artsrichmond** Swan Awards for Drama and Musicals.

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Telephone enquiries open 2 weeks before each production.
Call: 0845 838 7529 (10am - 8pm)

For up-to-date information on TTC and the Playhouse check our website
www.teddingtontheatreclub.org.uk

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.