

The Recruiting Officer



A play in a week

By George Farquhar

Saturday 25 - Sunday 26th September 2021

A play set in Shropshire in 1705,
just after the Battle of Blenheim





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A Welcome from our Artistic Director - Lottie Walker



Welcome one and all to the Recruiting Officer, a restoration comedy that couldn't be better timed!

We've had such an uncertain time in the theatre, and the productions we "planned" to return with after reopening were by necessity small cast. And we really wanted our celebration of proper reopening to involve as many people as possible. What this madcap "play in a week" scheme has proved is that plenty of people want to be involved and it's been an absolute delight to welcome so many new people to the team – both offstage and on – as well as welcoming back old friends.

There has been an atmosphere of unbridled joy in the theatre this week, and such energy that I'm thinking we should pile the pressure on more regularly! The team have worked incredibly hard to make this evening happen and it's been a delight to pop in during the week and see how quickly things have progressed.

It just remains to say a huge thank you to everyone involved, especially Matt for steering the ship with his inimitable positive, calm approach and wonderful sense of humour. And a final thank you to you, our audience for joining in the fun and continuing to support us. It means an awful lot.

Prepare to be amazed at what can be achieved in 37 hours!

Huzzah!!

Director's Notes—Matt Beresford



The play you are seeing today began rehearsals at 10am last Saturday. The week has, of course, been intense and great fun and I have been bowled over by the energy and creativity of the teams both on and offstage. The further challenge on the amateur stage of course is that we didn't have a week, rather 37 hours, due to the minor inconvenience of day jobs...

We were set this challenge by the TTC board as a celebration of the re-opening of the theatre and as the first large-scale production from the company as most Covid restrictions come to an end. We were keen to produce a piece of comedy and George Farquhar's *The Recruiting Officer* offered an opportunity to indulge my love of farce and also to bring a parallel from one 'restoration' of the theatres to another. The play is a raucous celebration of theatre with a satirical edge on sexual politics and war, as relevant now as it was in Farquhar's time.

Despite the huge time constraints, we have tried to give our actors as full a rehearsal process as possible. Fortunately, I have been able to double our rehearsal time with the assistance of both Douglas, my assistant director, and Laurie, production manager, who have been superb - enabling 'me' to be in several places at once and every minute of rehearsal time to be well-utilised. If you would like to learn more about the history of the play and hear more of both mine and Douglas's thoughts check out his podcast *The Play Podcast*, where we discuss the work in the latest episode.

As a director the play has brought huge challenges in how to schedule effectively to allow the actors as much rehearsal time as possible. I have been mindful of the balance between giving further 'notes' and allowing things to go; to avoid overwhelming actors already navigating moves, costume, props, set and the irritating alternative perspective of the director. Their incredible hard work, good humour and positivity has led to the show that we trust you will enjoy today.

The set has been designed by Fiona Auty, who has created a world in a week with her wonderful team. That world is lit by Bob Gingell, making his lighting debut at TTC, after working with other local companies. Another debutant is Laura Duke who collected our props together in super-quick time. Zoe Harvey-Lee and her brilliant and dedicated team have worked their magic with the TTC wardrobe to dress the actors and finally, our stage manager Harri Osborne who is running the show across our performance weekend and has been a positive and calm presence throughout.

My thanks go to all of them for their contributions this week.



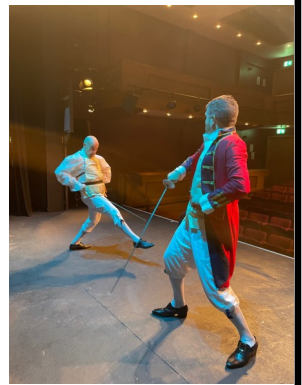
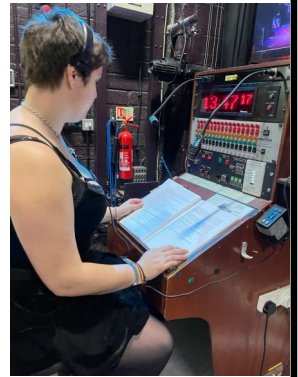
Cast (in order of speaking)

John Wilkinson Serjeant Kite
Joshua Bosman Costar Pearmain
Matt Ludbrook Thomas Appletree
David Shortland Captain Plume
John Mortley Mr. Worthy
Roberta Cole Melinda, Sylvia's cousin
Jane Stephenson Sylvia Balance
Suzanna Steward Lucy, Melinda's maid
Vaughan Evans Justice Balance, Sylvia's father
Christopher Gibbs Balance's Steward
Stephanie Harvey Rose, a Country Girl
Lara Parker Bullock, Rose's Brother
Alistair Brown Captain Brazen
Filippos Dimitriou The Smith
Christopher Gibbs The Butcher
Julia Allen Justice Scale
Christopher Gibbs The Constable
Matt Ludbrook Justice Scruple
Enid Gayle Prisoner's Wife
Filippos Dimitriou The Prisoner

The week that was



The week that was



Creatives and Crew

DirectorMatt Beresford
Assistant DirectorDouglas Schatz
Production ManagerLaurie Coombs
Stage Manager Harri Osborne
Props and ASM Laura Duke
Fly Operator.....Priya Virdee
PromptAlice Fordham
Set Designer Fiona Auty
Set build team Fiona Auty,
..... with Alan Corbett, Abigail Barratt, Priya Virdee,
.....Emma Carter, Sam Blackburn & Harri Osborne
Lighting DesignMike Bradbury & Rob Arundel
Lighting OperatorBob Gingell
CostumesZoe Harvey-Lee
.....with Lesley Alexander & Gillian Parsons
Photography Christine Wayman

WED 27 OCT— SUN 31 OCT 2021

CINDERELLA MEETS THE MONSTERS

By **Loz Keal**

WED 17 NOV— SAT 20 NOV 2021

STONES IN HIS POCKETS

By **Marie Jones**

An amateur production by arrangement with Nick Hern Books.

TUE 7 DEC— SAT 11 DEC 2021

LOOT

By **Joe Orton**

This amateur production is presented by
arrangement with Concord Theatricals
Ltd, on behalf of Samuel French Ltd

TUE 25 JAN— SAT 29 JAN 2022

TEECHERS

By **John Godber**

This amateur production is presented by arrangement
with Concord Theatricals Ltd, on behalf of Samuel French Ltd

CINDERELLA MEETS THE MONSTERS

By Loz Keal, directed by Marc Batten,

An old-fashioned spooky Halloween pantomime for children of all ages.

Join us for a fun-filled pantomime but this time Halloween-ified! Cheer Cinderella, laugh at the ridiculous Ugly Sisters and hiss the Wicked Witch Stepmother as we spookily re-imagine the best-known rags to riches story ever told.

STONES IN HIS POCKETS

By Marie Jones, directed by Wesley Henderson Roe

Two actors and 16 roles - can they do it?

Back by popular demand the return of this 2018 sell out production. When Charlie, from Co. Antrim, and Jake, from Co. Kerry, meet as extras on a Hollywood film shoot in Ireland they strike up an unusual friendship. As the days tick by and their pay adds up they learn more about themselves, their local community and the people who have arrived in it than either would have imagined.

LOOT

By Joe Orton, directed by Nigel Cole

Our alternative Christmas show – a riotous slapstick meets dubious morals in Orton’s outrageous comic masterpiece.

Two young friends stash the proceeds of a bank robbery in an occupied coffin, attempting to hide their spoils from the attentions of a psychopathic policeman, a serial-killer nurse and a grieving widower. In the ensuing comic carnage, Orton creates a world gone mad, wielding a satirical sledgehammer to conventional English morality. Join us for an evening of glorious black farce from one of Britain’s finest and filthiest playwrights.

TEECHERS

By John Godber, directed by Asha Gill

An A* classroom comedy from one of Britain’s most popular playwrights.

This frantic play within a play sees students Gail, Hobby and Salty pay homage to their idealistic drama teacher Mr Nixon in an end-of-term play. *Teechers* depicts life in a modern school with all its social politics for both teachers and students alike. Far too many characters played by far too few actors, in this fast-moving and highly entertaining play.



www.thelittleboxoffice/teddingtontheatreclub/



020 8410 4546 (5pm - 8pm Mon - Sat)

*Over the Hills and O'er the Main,
To Flanders, Portugal and Spain,
The queen commands and we'll obey
Over the Hills and far away.*

Teddington Theatre Club is resident at Hampton Hill Theatre.

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