

Director's Note

When we were considering how to celebrate our 50 years, it was generally felt that the programme should include both work new to our company, - highlighted most, I think, in the Festival of One Act Plays last June - along with plays done successfully in the past. Of these *Guy and Dolls* ran its joyous and melodic way last Christmas, and *When we are Married* was the other chosen revival. This was one of the theatre's earliest productions; first performed here in December 1961, with our much loved John Hathaway playing Gerald Forbes!

I have long been a lover of Priestley and Stephen Daldry's production of *An Inspector Calls*, rightly still running after some years, has done much to bring his writing alive to a new generation. As in *An Inspector Calls*, Priestley has chosen in *When we are Married*, to look back from the point of writing, and set this in an earlier period where he could laugh at the pretensions and mores of another age.

Although Priestley aims to prick the pretensions of the smug and complacent, his touch here is a warm and affectionate one. It is 1908, and assured Maria is hosting this party; she simply wants it to be a success and flaunt her status and possessions along the way! Meek Annie dreams of a life of fun and sees release from her hectoring husband and the downtrodden Herbert finds the strength to assert himself against his domineering wife. All is resolved by the unlikely duo of a drunken photographer and a blowsy barmaid who have a more generous and clear-sighted view of the world.

It has been a delight to welcome the return of a very old friend Bob Morley to design the set. Those of you who saw and admired the set of *The Herbal Bed* will remember his remarkable skill and artistry. I am sure you will love his creation of the Edwardian parlour.

Helen Withers

Criterion Lottery Fund and Draw

Funds for the theatre are raised through our Lottery Fund.

Please consider buying a number (or more than one) for the small sum of £5 per number per month. Please contact Mike Tooley on **024 7667 3789** or **mike_tooley@hotmail.com** for details.

Remember... you've got to be in it to win it!



Our next production:

The Accrington Pals



This lyrical, absorbing play is set in Accrington during 1914-16. The "Pals" are the men from the local volunteer battalion who march high-spiritedly off to the Great War with their experiences in the trenches contrasted with those of the women left behind adapting to new patterns of life and drawing together in the face of deprivation. At times funny, at times sad, the play paints a moving and powerful picture of the changes in civilian life during wartime.

BOX OFFICE (Direct)

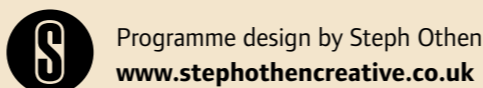
024 7667 5175

This is a notice to members

If you have any comments about your experience at the Criterion Theatre, please email Louise at comments@critteriontheatre.co.uk



Supported by Shortland Horne



WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF YOU
DISCOVERED AFTER 25 YEARS
THAT YOU'D NEVER BEEN
MARRIED AT ALL?

WHEN WE ARE
MARRIED
BY J.B. PRIESTLEY
7TH-14TH JULY 2012

Contains smoking on stage under
The Smoke-free (Exemptions
and Vehicles) Regulations 2007

Programme

Produced in association with Samuel French Ltd

**Nicol Cortese**

Nicol made her debut at The Criterion in 2001 playing her dream part of Juliet in Romeo and Juliet. She then went on to study drama at St Mary's University Twickenham. After graduating she played Tyra in Channel 4's Sugar Rush and played various characters for Fisher Price toys as a Voice over Artist. Nicol was thrilled to re-join the Criterion last year to play Sarah Brown in Guys and Dolls.

**Pete Gillam**

Pete first stepped on a stage in 2006 as the long lost father in Daisy Pulls It Off at the Criterion and has been an active both on and off stage ever since. Favourite roles include: The Shape of Things (Phil), It Can Damage Your Health (Charlie Palmer), Not About Heroes (Siegfried Sassoon) and Donald Duck in Blue Remembered Hills at the Talisman Theatre.

**Rachel Newey**

Rachel has been a member of the Criterion for several years and was fortunate enough in 2010 to enjoy playing Myrtle in Still Life; this year good fortune struck again in the plum role of Mrs. Northrop. Favourite roles include Mrs Blair in Inherit the Wind for the Loft Theatre and Thora Hird in An Evening of Alan Bennett for the Talisman.

**Stella Gabriel**

This is Stella's second stage appearance for The Criterion and is thoroughly enjoying it. Her first was as a Hot Box Doll in the Christmas production of Guys and Dolls. Stella has delved into many areas of the theater including props for Single Spies and prompting for Punk Rock. She hopes that she will continue to be involved on and off stage for many more productions for The Criterion.

**Pete Meredith**

Pete has been involved with the theatre for three years but has only become involved on stage recently. He has just completed an acting diploma from Stratford collage where he achieved straight distinctions. He is looking forward to spending more time at the theatre in his year out.

**Keith Railton**

Keith first joined the Criterion in 1965. His most recent appearances have been as Jagers in Great Expectations, Ronald in Absurd Person Singular, Richard in The Seafarer and Arvide in Guys and Dolls. He has also directed Treasure Island, Oh! What a Lovely War, Brassed Off, The Graduate and The Herbal Bed. Keith is currently Artistic Director of the Criterion.

**Steve Crump**

This is Steve's debut performance at The Criterion. A lifelong fan of the theatre, he first performed in 'Reg-Death of a pirate' in Nuneaton followed by the role of the Prince in Romeo and Juliet at Rugby theatre. Steve has learnt a lot from the talented cast and director and recommends the world of amateur dramatics to everyone - it's never too late to start.

WHEN WE ARE MARRIED

BY J.B. PRIESTLEY

Cast

Ruby Birtle
Gerald Forbes
Mrs. Northrop
Nancy Holmes
Fred Dyson
Henry Ormonroyd
Alderman Joseph Helliwell
Maria Helliwell
Councillor Albert Parker
Herbert Soppitt
Clara Soppitt
Annie Parker
Lottie Grady
Rev Clement Mercer

Nicol Cortese
Pete Gillam
Rachel Newey
Stella Gabriel
Pete Meredith
Keith Railton
Steve Crump
Emma Withers
Matt Sweatman
Rob Wootton
Chris Ingall
Gennie Holmes
Jan Nightingale
Trevor Gay

Director

Helen Withers

Stage Manager
Set Design
Set Build

Annie Woodward
Bob Morley
Bob Morley, Pete Bagley
Mike Tooley, Ben Woodward,
Kevin Woods, Viv Woods.
Simon Sharpe, Judy Sharpe
Gareth Withers
Debra Relton- Elves
Bob Morley
Emma Withers
Erica Young, Sally Patalong
Maureen Liggins, Pam Coleman
Candy Waddell

Songs arranged and taught by
Choreography
Set Paint
Set Dressing
Props
Wardrobe

Lighting Design
Lighting Operator
Sound design
Sound Operator
Prompt

Karl Stafford
Joe Fallowell
Matt Hadlum
Paul Forey
Carolyn Alcock

Thank you to Dave Cornish for all his help

**Emma Withers**

In her 22 years as a member at the Criterion Theatre this is Emma's 43 production on stage. She has also had an innumerable number of other jobs within productions during this time, including the set dressing for this production! Emma is delighted to be working with some new faces on the Criterion stage as well as some familiar ones.

**Matt Sweatman**

Matt has been a member of The Criterion Theatre for more years than he cares to remember. In this time he has played a number of roles, most recently tackling singing as Nathan Detroit in Guys and Dolls. This is his most challenging role yet as he will have to convincingly be married to his own wife!

**Rob Wootton**

Rob is looking forward to his debut at The Criterion in a play that he also performed in at The Talisman Theatre 4 years ago. Rob has also performed as Vanya in Uncle Vanya as well as many other roles at The Talisman. He has also appeared in several productions at The Loft Theatre including Ray Say in Little Voice.

**Chris Ingall**

Chris joined the Criterion in 2004 and has appeared in a wide range of productions and played a number of significant roles, including Jane in 'Speaking in Tongues', Martha in the two-hander 'The Unexpected Man', Paige in 'Dinner', and the Mother in 'The Monkey's Paw' in last year's Festival of One Act Plays.

**Gennie Holmes**

Gennie has gained many things during her 24 years at the Criterion, including a husband. This will be the first time she has had to pretend to be married to him.

**Jan Nightingale**

Jan found her love of the stage whilst at University and joined the Criterion soon after in 1995, as a prostitute in Threepenny Opera. She's gone on to play a host of tarts and floozies through the years (with relish) in plays such as Piaf, Abigail's Party and, most recently, as Adelaide in Guys and Dolls. Lottie is a welcome addition to the happy throng.

**Trevor Gay**

This is Trevor's debut performance at The Criterion. It seems appropriate that the Reverend Mercer is Trevor's first part in a 'proper' production, as he works as a manager in two churches! Though Trevor doesn't wear a dog collar at work some might expect him to have contacts in high places.