



GARRICK NEWSLETTER NO.6

2018/19 SEASON

Welcome to the Altrincham Garrick's third newsletter of the this 2018/19 season. Look out for a terrific variety of productions both on the main stage and in the Lauriston Studio, as well as one-night performances including Jason Donovan, Foden's Brass Band, Ann Widdecombe and many more.

Full details of the season are available on our website where you will also find details of the many ways you can get involved in the life of the theatre.

<http://www.altrinchamgarrick.co.uk>

'LEST WE FORGET' 11.11.2018



Altrincham Garrick
PLAYHOUSE

To commemorate the ending of World War 1, a hundred years ago, the Garrick put on a concert on Armistice Day, to raise money for charity. It was performed on the set of Blackadder and the audience was given a complimentary programme and flag- and boy, did they use them. The concert was a moving yet uplifting tribute to all those who 'for our tomorrows' gave their today. Huge thanks go to all those involved and to those members and visitors who supported the event. It was really worthwhile as around £2000 was raised for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Stage Manager: Paul Downham Assistant Stage Manager: Mark McEwan

Performers: Master of Ceremonies - Bill Platt; Lindsey Barker; David Beddy; Megan Brassington; Peter Brassington; Mark Butt; Alison Davenport; Alison Davis; Chris Eastwood; Sam Evans; Steven Finney; Liz Fraser; Charlie Gallagher; Arthur Hulse; Stephanie Niland; Fiona Primrose; Barry Purves; Maya Szlachetko; Beverley Stuart-Cole

Musical Director and Pianist; Dr. Doug McDonald Trumpeter; Beth Dilworth

Concert Co-ordinators: Bill Platt, Val Watkinson, Mike Shaw and Carole Carr

Sound and Lighting: James Merrington and Val Watkinson

Wardrobe: Mike Shaw and the Wardrobe Team

Thanks too to our wonderful Front of House, Kiosk and Bar Teams.



Dave Jones served in the Navy for over 30 years and can now be found regularly working our Front of House and behind the bar.

He is also a founder member of the Members' Committee.



(left) Dave in his New Zealand Navy dress uniform.



(right) Sally and Brian are pictured on The Mall before the march began.



One of our Life Members', Kiosk Manager, and 'Mr Ice Cream', Brian Moore, who served 10 years as a Royal Navy officer, sent his apologies for not being able to attend because of a prior engagement.

This turned out to be that he and daughter Sally were joining the People's March at the Cenotaph in London.

Brian we excuse and are proud of you.

NOEL WHITTLES MC PROGRAMME & EXHIBITION



A few weeks before our production of Blackadder Goes Forth, David Burrows contacted Neville Roby, our Theatre Manager, and said he had some sketches that his grandfather had drawn in the trenches during World War 1.

These had never been seen by anyone outside the family before and he was wondering if we could use them in some capacity. David had a meeting with Stephen Bradshaw, our Programme Editor, who was blown away by what he saw. Immediately, Stephen started to design a programme and foyer exhibition featuring the story of Noel Whittles MC.

David and his son Nick were guests of honour at the Tuesday performance of Blackadder and they were given the opportunity to meet the cast and crew afterwards in the bar. David was so impressed with the programme that he has sent out about 40 all over the world, not only to family and friends but also to World War I museums and cemeteries for their archives.

It was an honour and privilege to be able to bring to the life the previously unpublished and unseen work of this brave Altrincham man. A few copies of the programme are still available. Ask Stuart Slade if you would like a copy, for a small donation to the Poppy Appeal.



Altrincham Garrick
PLAYHOUSE

LET THE MAGIC BEGIN

'Blackadder Goes Forth' was a memorable show for Team Garrick.

Everything about it from the acting, directing, casting, lighting, sound, effects, props, costume, stage managing, bar service, kiosk, front of house, programme, box office, theatre dressing, advertising and publicity was simply superb.

However special mention must go to the workshop and the stage crew. Two reviewers described the set as 'West End Quality' - a rare tribute for a 'humble, back street, provincial, amateur playhouse'. Designed by Stephen Bradshaw, the set was mammoth and so clever. Where did the actors go when they went over the top? It took 30 pallets to build and many days to finalise.



The build begins



It's nearly up!



Props & furniture appear



Our lighting department work their magic!

However the strike (taking the set down and clearing it away) had to be accomplished in just two days to allow the build of another huge set for Absurd Person Singular, designed by Margaret Norris.

This play requires three different kitchen sets and making that work involved a revolving stage and many self-built kitchen cabinets made from scratch by our carpenter Trevor McKie.

What the volunteers manage to achieve in such a short time is simply staggering and here is the visual proof. It truly is MAGIC!



The set of 'Absurd Person Singular' taking shape during the build weeks

The stage crew consists of Stage Director Phil Gleave and Head of Stage Paul Simpson with Trevor McKie; Bob Green; Dave Bailey; John Murphy; Steve Rigg; Andrew McHugh; Mark McKewan; Paul Downham; James McKie; Marcus McKie and occasional other volunteers.

Thank you, each and every one of you.

In future newsletters we will be featuring the work of all the departments. In the next newsletter we shall be visiting the Props Department.

SPOTLIGHT ON BARRY PURVES



A week of awards for Barry Purves.

Barry is an actor, director and designer and a valued Ordinary Member of the Members' Committee.

However, like many others, he has a life outside the Garrick.

Early in November he was at the Royal Television Society North West awards at the Hilton, where the CBeebies series, Twirlywoos, on which he was an animation director, won the very prestigious Craft award, prompting a ten minute colourful monologue by Johnny Vegas

extolling the joys of Twirlywoos.

The next day, Barry was on stage as part of the Garrick's 'Lest We Forget' concert. Two days later, the

Twirlywoos themselves accompanied Barry to BBC Breakfast at Media City to talk about the Manchester Animation Festival where he had an event celebrating 40 years as an animator. He was somewhat taken aback to be stopped mid flow and presented with a Fellowship award by the Animation Festival. Words almost failed him, save for a rather inadequate 'gosh'.

That evening, he was back at the Garrick for auditions for 'Bronte', the production he is directing in March, and then it was off to Cuba for some workshops- all in the space of a couple of weeks.

Barry will be setting his usual impossible Christmas quiz at the social event on December 22nd so do come along and have a chat to him. He will be delighted I am sure to meet you.

No autographs, please.

In future editions, we will highlight the life outside the Garrick of other members and volunteers.

Next, it is our joint Head of Sound, Colin Woods. What does he do? You'll have to wait and see.

ALTRINCHAM TODAY MAGAZINE

PANTOMIME PHOTO FEATURE



(above) THE LATEST EDITION on display, in our Foyer, pick one up when you are next in there!

David Prior, editor of the Altrincham Today Website and magazine and sponsor of A Murder has been Arranged, contacted Stuart Slade to say he wanted to do a photo feature about our pantomimes. Vishal Sharma, our professional photographer, provided David with recent colour photos. He then asked if we had any older ones. Jeannie Honeyman our archivist who retires at the end of the season, immediately dug out photos dating back to the first Garrick pantomime from the Christmas of 1964. Neville Roby says he was in that one! You can see the end result in the latest edition of the Altrincham Garrick Magazine. They are free and you can pick one up from the foyer or bar.

If you are interested in taking over from Jeannie please speak to any member of the committee, Neville Roby, or Jeannie herself. She has said she will give help and advice to anyone taking over this vital role

MEMBERS' FESTIVE EVENTS

Xmas Social Evening

Saturday 22nd December.

8pm in the bar

Members and guests only.



Carols, Barry Purves Christmas Quiz, mulled wine and mince pies plus an in-house raffle.

Good quality donations for the raffle very welcome by early December to Ann or Brian Moore.

This is a great way to get into the festive mood - Christmas jumpers not obligatory but always welcome!

New Years' Eve Party

7pm to 12.30am in the Bar

If you are considering seeing in the New Year at the Garrick, it is important you register by texting

DAVE JONES on 07990 065442 with your name, email address and contact details.

He will then email you back

If you are willing to provide any entertainment please also let Dave know.
Depending on the number who register, some light snacks and refreshments will be provided.

To cover costs you will be asked for a £5 deposit payable before the night.

Please do come along and help to make this a special 'Garrick Night to Remember'.
Selfies are compulsory.



OTHER NEWS!

SOCIAL INCLUSION AND ISOLATION TOUR

The Garrick is taking on a new initiative working with various local organisations.

To this end, we are offering a private tour on January 14th to show people who might feel socially isolated what the Garrick has to offer in a volunteering capacity.

It will be run, as usual, by Barry Purves and we are waiting for people to respond.

For those who keep asking if there are more tours planned for members and guests, watch out. There will be at least one in the New Year with the date to be announced.

Hopefully we will have a date planned but it is difficult at the moment because of Barry's directing commitment and such a packed Garrick programme.



GIFT VOUCHERS

For those of you struggling to find a different and fun gift for a friend or member of the family, why not give them a Garrick Gift Voucher. These are available from the Box Office. They would be ideal in so many ways and not just at Christmas- that surprise birthday present, or simply a thank you for being a friend, for example. Whoever you give them to, they are sure to have a great time and you never know, they may become regulars.



PUBLICITY QUESTIONNAIRE

The publicity and marketing team will shortly be sending out a questionnaire by email. Rest assured it will only take a maximum of 5-10 minutes to fill in but will be really helpful in allowing them to evaluate how effective their work is.

They will also value any comments or suggestions you might have as well. If you do not want to take part simply ignore but please don't unsubscribe because otherwise you will disappear from our email list and you will not receive anything from the Garrick at all.

Thank you in advance.

NEW MEMBERS' COMMITTEE

Following the Annual Members' Meeting on November 18th the following were elected to the Members' Committee.

Chair - Stuart Slade; Vice Chair - Geoff Scullard; Secretary - Jude Ledger;

Assistant Secretary - Celia Bonner;

4 Ordinary Members - John Gibson, Barry Purves, Dave Jones and Stephen Bradshaw

If you have any ideas or would like to help the theatre in any capacity, please have a word with them. Also, check out the noticeboard on the wall outside the bar for any up to date information.



FESTIVE GOOD WISHES

Finally, may we wish you all a fab-u-lous festive season from everyone at the Garrick, especially our wonderful volunteers.

After a great first half to the season, we hope to see you all enjoying yourselves at your local theatre, both at Cinderella and in the New Year from the Newsletter team...

Stuart Slade, Celia Bonner, Stephen Bradshaw, Geoff Scullard.



Come and join our amazing team of Garrick Front of House and Bar Staff volunteers to help make a real contribution to the shows.

Volunteers are needed for all shows and you can book in to help when it is convenient for you. Most volunteers work one or more performances of a show run and love it!

They are a friendly bunch, from all walks of life, and it is a great way of making new friends, learning new skills and just doing something different; as well as a great way of seeing some great shows.

- **Ushers – to check tickets, open/close auditorium doors, look after and help the public whilst in the Auditorium and theatre**
- **Kiosk shop sellers – to run the foyer shop before the show and at the interval**
- **Ice cream seller – to sell ice creams from a tray at the interval in the auditorium**
- **Coffee bar – to make the coffee in the bar and to sell it before the show and during the interval**
- **Bar staff – to assist in selling drinks and clearing up glasses**

Full training will be provided for each role and you can then help with any or all of the roles on a regular basis, once trained, just by joining the rota. You will very quickly become one of the Garrick team that people love to see and chat to and you will make many new friends.

For more details and to arrange to come and try it for yourself, please email Neill Walker, the Front of House Manager,

n.walker@altrinchamgarrick.co.uk

or contact the Box Office on 0161-928 1677 and leave your details so we can get in touch.

Your assistance is urgently required to help over the extremely hectic Pantomime season.

Please get in touch if you can spare some time. Thank you



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