

The Winslow Boy



Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre
College Road, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent
Telephone: Stoke-on-Trent 44784

by
Terence Rattigan
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Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre
present

The Winslow Boy

by Terence Rattigan

Directed by Ken Lowe and
Brian Hadley

Setting by John Collier

Lighting by Brian Hadley

Master Carpenter John Shenton

The Repertory Theatre gratefully acknowledges the help of the following:
Alan Bromley, 166 Edleston Road, Crew for the loan of wigs.
The Territorial Army, Meir & British Telecom, Hanley.

The Winslow Boy

CAST

Ronnie Winslow	JOHN COLLIER
Violet	NANCY JAMES
Grace Winslow	SUZANNE DAVIES
Arthur Winslow	BRIAN RAWLINS
Catherine Winslow	DEBBIE MOUAT
Dickie Winslow	CRAIG NICHOLS
John Watherstone	JOHN WOOD
Desmond Curry	HOWARD GOODALL
Miss Barnes	ALINE LEWIS
Fred	PAUL WOOD
Sir Robert Morton	BRIAN HADLEY

The action of the play takes place in Arthur Winslow's house in Kensington, London and extends over a period of two years preceeding the war of 1914-1918.

Act I

Scene 1 A Sunday morning in July.

Scene 2 An afternoon in April (nine months later).

Act II

Scene 1 An evening in January (nine months later).

Scene 2 An afternoon in June (five months later).

PRODUCTION CREDITS

General Stage Manager	Richard Masters
Stage Manager (The Winslow Boy)	Norman James
Costume Supervisor	Alison Townsend
Properties	Gill Chesworth Jan Goodall
Assistant Stage Managers	Margo Perkins Ted Watkins Bill Hancock Sarah Walker George Goodall Karen Crooks Nick Bloor Tina Richardson Madeleine Pottinger
Company Photographer	Peter Croft

Car parking

The Rep does not own any parking space and patrons are respectfully requested to observe the usual bye-laws regarding parking in the neighbouring streets and to avoid inconveniencing local residents as much as possible. No responsibility for parking can be accepted by the Stoke Repertory Theatre.

Refreshments

The theatre bar is open from half an hour before the curtain rises until the end of normal licensing hours. Interval drinks may be ordered before the performance.

Coffee will be served to patrons in their seats during the interval. Coffee tickets are available from attendants before the performance and a full range of confectionary is also available.

Smoking

Smoking is permitted during the interval only. Please use the ashtrays provided. Smokers on the front row should ask an attendant for an ashtray.

The Archer-Shee Case

Terence Rattigans's 'The Winslow 'Boy' is based on the celebrated Archer-Shee Case which occupied the British public at various times between 1908 and 1911. It now seems incredible that the alleged theft of a five shillings postal order by a thirteen year old boy should have become a cause célèbre which concerned the greatest legal minds of the age and, at the end, interrupted the business of parliament for three hours during a crucial debate.

Obviously to George Archer-Shee's father, Martin, the major objective was to clear his son's name. Since, however, he had never been charged with any criminal offence and therefore never brought to trial unusual means had to be found to obtain redress. These means were to involve questioning the right of the crown to dismiss anyone in its service without giving any right to sue for damages. George Archer Shee's dismissal from the naval college at Osborne was used to challenge a cherished royal prerogative.

Not only this but the challenge would contain the allegation that the staff of the college had acted improperly and in bad faith by apparently denying the boy the protection of the law. Were this to be proved, heavy damages might ensue.

Thus when, after lengthy delays, the case eventually came to trial the 'Petition of Right' involved for more than alleged petty theft. The seriousness of the issues at stake was reflected in the celebrity of those taking part. Sir Edward Carson, perhaps the most brilliant advocate of his day, appeared for Archer-Shee and none other than the Solicitor General (Sir Rufus Isaacs) appeared for The Crown.

The transcript of the trial shows Carson's advocacy to have been stunning. His aggressive cross questioning of witnesses, his outbursts of righteous indignation and his inspired eloquence have all the marks of a great actor in a great role.

Whether great advocacy always leads to justice is the subject of tonight's play.

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