# POST



# HAPPY AS A SANDBAG

Monday 22nd to Saturday 27th July at 7.30 p.m.



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





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### HAPPY AS A SANDBAG

by Ken Lee

Director	. RAY JOHNSON
Musical Director	. LES NEAL
Choreographer	. FRAN JOHNSON
Set Designers	RAY JOHNSON JAMES DEEGAN
Lighting and Sound Designer	NICK CHARLES

The theatre gratefully acknowledges the kind assistance of:
No. 1 (Stoke-on-Trent) Area Army Cadet Force, Royal Air Force, Stafford,
Quartermaster Stores Ltd., Hanley, Photostatic Copiers Ltd., Martins Hobby World.

#### THE COMPANY

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ROSEMARY HULME KEN LOWE

FRAN JOHNSON JOHN WALLEY

JULIE MELLOR

#### with guest contributions from:

JACKIE CLARKE GEORGE GOODALL

LINDSAY KENNERELL RICHARD MASTERS

The Musicians ..... LES NEAL (Piano)

NICK MURRAY (Drums)

ALAN BENNETT (Double Bass)

Stage Manager.....RICHARD MASTERS

Deputy Stage Manager.....BILL HANCOCK

GEORGE GOODALL

PAUL CLARK

Construction Manager ...... JOHN SHENTON

Assistant Stage Managers	NICK BLOOR
3	HOWARD GOODALL
	MADELEINE POTTINGER
	SHELLEY RIDDELL
Properties	GILL CHESWORTH
	MARGO PERKINS
	ALISON WEBSTER
Costumes	ALISON TOWNSEND
Lighting Technician	
Sound Technician	GKADAM MOUAT

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 licencing 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 confectionery 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 Lights Go On Again

The European phase of the Second World War ended forty years ago. As with all wars society's collective memory has filtered and refined the horror and cruelty and now nostalgic glances are cast back to a time of national unity and patriotic endeavour. The terror of the Blitz, the deprivations of food rationing, the anxiety of parting have entered into folk-lore to be re-lived and celebrated.

The war made such an impact on ordinary people partly because of the universal influence of radio. Radio had no competitors in its task of informing (or misinforming) the people, of instructing and entertaining them and, most important of all, of building morale to achieve a positive image of 'the home front'.

The treachery of William Joyce (Lord Haw-Haw) the charismatic broadcasts of Winston Churchill, reports from the various theatres of war all reached an eager radio audience. Each branch of the services had a light entertainment programme dedicated to it and shows such as 'Garrison Theatre', 'Navy Mixture' and 'Ack Ack, Beer Beer' (Anti-aircraft and barrage baloon crews) were avidly awaited each week.

Humour seemed to thrive on catchphrases and the forces programmes together with the now-sadly-dated ITMA added to the stock at regular intervals. Sayings such as: 'Mind my bike!', 'Can I do yer now sir?', 'I dont mind if I do' and T.T.F.N. (Ta-Ta For Now) were just a few of the many which swept the country.

Radio also provided a steady flow of advice about how to cope in wartime, ranging from the homely tones of the Radio Doctor to the bizarre recipes provided in 'On The Kitchen Front'. With total seriousness listeners were introduced to the delights of Woolton Pie (principally vegetables and potatoes), lentil roast and carrot tart — glazed with lemon jelly to make a pudding.

Music, of course, formed a substantial part of the radio output. Cheery songs like 'Run Rabbit Run' were popular but the feeling of the time was for songs expressing the longing for reunions and the return of normality. 'We'll meet Again', 'The White Cliffs of Dover' and 'When The Lights Go On' captured the mood perfectly.

Eventually peace did come, the lights went on again and every street had union jacks and bunting welcoming home 'Our Bill' or 'Our Jim'. VE Day marked the end of a period of darkness. Unfortunately, a year leater, VJ Day marked both that and a shadow cast on the future.

Peter Legge

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