



71st Season 1990/91

PROGRAMME 40p

**A
Chorus
of
Disapproval**

by **Alan Ayckbourn**



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GOOD EVENING

**... and welcome to the
Repertory Theatre
we hope that you will enjoy
your evening with us**

Here is a little information about our theatre which first-time visitors may find helpful:

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 can be accepted by the Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre.

REFRESHMENTS

Theatre Bar: This is open from half an hour before the curtain rises until the end of the normal licensing hours. Interval drinks may be ordered before the performance.

We must urgently advise patrons that our licence restricts the consumption of Bar refreshments to that area of the theatre only. Persons under the age of 14 years are not permitted to enter the Theatre Bar for refreshments.

Coffee: Coffee will be served to patrons in their seats during the interval. Coffee tickets are available in the auditorium before the performance.

Confectionery: A full range is available, and on sale in the auditorium before the performance. May we respectfully ask you not to rustle confectionery wrappings during the action of the play, however, as it can mar the enjoyment of others.

Smoking: Smoking is no longer permitted in the auditorium.

Photography: Photography and/or tape (including videotape) recordings in the auditorium during a public performance are prohibited.

The Rep is a member of the Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain and is affiliated to the British Theatre Association.

We look forward to seeing you at our next production

**Tennessee Williams's
CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF
4th - 15th December, 1990**

About the play

If, in a hundred years' time, anyone mentions Alan Ayckbourn, it is unlikely that anyone will ask "Alan who?", for Ayckbourn is one of the twentieth century's most prolific and innovative playwrights.

"A Chorus of Disapproval", which won a Best Comedy award in 1985 and a Best Actor award for Michael Gambon, contains more music than one has come to expect from this playwright (if one can expect anything but surprise from this playwright!), but the familiar theme of man's inhumanity to woman is still well to the fore, as is the situation of one caught up in events of his own making.

Comedy, however, is the prime ingredient of this play, as we witness the efforts of an amateur company to put on "The Beggar's Opera". We share their problems and their trials, but never doubt their earnestness, for we have avoided in this production the old cliché, so beloved of professionals, of sending up the achievements of real people trying to do their best.

We, too, of course, have been encountering our own problems during the preparation of this production, and we hope that we have overcome them well enough for you, our audience, to enjoy the play to the full. And as this is my first production for the Rep, may I take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped me to feel so much at home.

Fill every glass!

John Fox.

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A c k n o w l e d g e m e n t s

Specialist Wardrobe Care and Dry-cleaning for the Repertory Theatre
courtesy of **Central Cleaners**, 163, Hamill Road, Burslem.

Furniture by **Gimbert of Manchester**

Lindsay Advertising, Hallfield Buildings, Festing Street, Hanley -
for sponsoring our administration.

Printing for the Repertory Theatre by

Panda Press (Stone) Ltd. 1 Newcastle Street, Stone, Staffs. Tel. 815110

**WE ARE INDEBTED TO THE ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE,
WHOSE MEMBERS VOLUNTARILY ATTEND ALL OUR
PUBLIC PERFORMANCES.**

Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre

present

by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

A CHORUS OF DISAPPROVAL

by Alan Ayckbourn

**9th - 13th and 16th - 20th
October, 1990**

DIRECTED BY JOHN FOX

Musical Director..... Graham Simons

Assistant to the Director..... Angela Fox

Choreography..... Alex Green

Rehearsal Pianists:

Angela Alcock and Jeanette Gentleman

SETTING DESIGNED BY BRIAN P. HADLEY

GENERAL STAGE MANAGER..... RICHARD MASTERS



'A CHORUS OF DISAPPROVAL'



CAST

by Alan Ayckbourn

PRODUCTION TEAM

Guy Jones.....	JOHN WALLEY
Dafydd ap Llewellyn.....	BRIAN P. HADLEY
Hannah Llewellyn.....	ALISON TOWNSEND
Bridget Baines.....	EMMA WARD
Mr. Ames.....	GRAHAM SIMONS
Enid Washbrook.....	DERETH BAILEY
Rebecca Huntley-Pike.....	JOAN BENNETT
Fay Hubbard.....	CAROLINE WEST
Ian Hubbard.....	PAUL DEAVILLE
Jarvis Huntley-Pike.....	GORDON TOON
Ted Washbrook.....	DAVID FINN
Crispin Usher.....	PAUL MILLER
Linda Washbrook.....	WENDY J. TURNER
Other "Palos" Members.....	JUDY ADAMS
	JANINE GOODALL
	BILL HANCOCK
	DANIEL MERCER
Raymond.....	RICHARD MASTERS

Stage Manager (for 'A Chorus of Disapproval')..	RICHARD MASTERS
Master Carpenter.....	JOHN SHENTON
Lighting Technician.....	TINA CAMPBELL
Sound Technician.....	GEORGE GOODALL
Assistant Stage Managers.....	MARTIN ALLSOP
	MIKE ADAMS
	JUDY ADAMS
	GILL FRANKLIN
	BEVERLEY HALFPENNY
	BILL HANCOCK
	JAN JOHNSON
	GRAHAM MOUAT
	DEBBIE MOUAT
	SHELLEY RIDDELL
Wardrobe Supervisor.....	RICHARD MASTERS
Properties.....	DEBBIE ROWLEY
Music Adviser.....	TED DUTTON
Company Photographer.....	PETER CROFT
Front of House Managers.....	JOHN WOOD
	ANDREW MORREY
Box Office Managers.....	STELLA WOOLLISCROFT
	BRENDA SWANCOTT
Art Exhibitions Co-ordinator.....	PAUL M. CLARKE
Press & Programme.....	MADELEINE POTTINGER

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The role of **CRISPIN USHER** will be played by **IAN MAYER**
on Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th October

* * * * *

The action takes place in and around a small provincial theatre,
between the first rehearsal and first performance (February - May)
of an amateur production of Gay's '**The Beggar's Opera**'.

The time : the present

There will be one twenty-minute Interval

'A Chorus of Disapproval' was first produced at the Stephen Joseph Theatre
in the Round, Scarborough, on 22nd May, 1984, directed by the author.
It was subsequently presented in the Olivier auditorium of the National Theatre
on 1st August, 1985, again directed by Alan Ayckbourn, and with
Michael Gambon in the role of Dafydd and Bob Peck as Guy.
It was voted Best Comedy in the London Standard Drama Awards of 1985.

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Smoking is no longer permitted in the auditorium

REP NEWS

It is with great sadness that we record the recent death of two of our friends and colleagues, Joan Willshire and Trevor Lancaster.

Although a Rep member for only a relatively short time, having been introduced to us by her daughter, Sue, Joan's contribution to the theatre was invaluable, with her lovely personality and her constant hard work as one of our Refreshment Committee.

Trevor acted at the Rep over many years and was an especially keen supporter of the Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain, having been our representative at Guild Conferences on many occasions along with Pat, his wife, one of our Refreshment Committee's longstanding key members.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to both families.

THE YOUNG REP



Are you between 11 - 18 years of age?

With an interest in the Theatre (Acting or Backstage)?

Why not join The YOUNG REP?

We usually meet every Wednesday at 7.30 p.m.
at the theatre.

Interested?

Then write to John K. Collier c/o the Rep —
and he will get back to you!



Are You Feeling Lucky?

You will know of our plans for the future from the Chairman's message in our annual playbill - to achieve our aims the hard work must start NOW!

We therefore announce our

GRAND DRAW

to be drawn on 17th December
from which ALL proceeds will go to the
REP DEVELOPMENT FUND

Tickets: 20 pence each (in books of five)

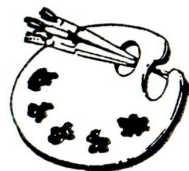
Prizes include:

Food Mixer • Cut Glass Bowl • Malt Whisky
Mantel Clock • Executive Case • Set of Towels
Aynsley Powder Bowl • Wedgwood Box • Bottle of Rum
Rechargeable Lantern • Soft Toy • Automatic Toaster

COME ON —
BUY A BOOKFUL AND
— MAKE OUR DAY!

ART EXHIBITION

'Coloured Wools' by Paul Clarke



We are especially delighted to tell you that the Art Exhibition held during the run of this Production is the work of the Rep's own resident Art Maestro, Paul Clarke.

Born in Nova Scotia of English parents, Paul was brought back to this country when still an infant and remembers having had an interest in art since his very youngest years. His favourite artist? "— Rembrandt, definitely, although were he alive today I think he'd paint in a very different manner, with today's understanding of light and the prism."

Before the war ("an annoying interruption — it stopped me painting for six years — had to help the army out a bit, you know") he was employed as a graphic designer in the world of Advertising and Design, and recalls how after work every day he would "tear off round the corner to study Art properly" in the evenings. Passing his exams, of course, Paul trained further at Watford and Croydon Schools of Art, and after the war went to study at London's Royal College of Art, where he was awarded his A.R.C.A. with Silver for special distinction in painting.

The opportunity to fill in for a year at Burslem School of Art, for a member of staff on a 12 month sabbatical to Italy, first brought Paul to Stoke-on-Trent. That was in 1949, and he's stayed here ever since! He retired from his full-time teaching career in 1981, and over the years has had his work exhibited at the Royal Academy, the New England Art Club, Keele University and many other Galleries in addition to the City Museum in Hanley, which permanently houses several of his paintings including a very early one, from "must be thirty-odd" years ago, which has recently been on show.

Paul met his wife, Jackie, when both were living in London. "I remember it very clearly. My best friend gave a party and, well, there she was — and that was that." Besides being well known to Rep audiences as one of their very favourite actresses, Jackie is very much a devotee of her husband's work. She did, however, find herself unable to resist her now famous quotation: 'I sat on his palette one day and got an abstract of my bottom — the best abstract he ever did!'

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Paul calls this Exhibition simply 'Coloured Wools'.

As with all our Art Exhibitors, you are able to contact Paul personally should you so wish. Please telephone him on Stoke-on-Trent 392445 — or do of course alternatively write to him c/o The Rep.

N. J. Tostevin & Son THE PIANO PEOPLE

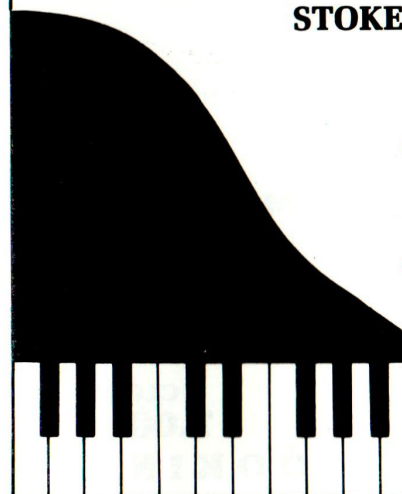
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THE REP

Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre,
College Road, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent. ST4 2EX
Telephone (0782) 44784

71st Season 1990/1991

A CHORUS OF DISAPPROVAL *by Alan Ayckbourn*

9 - 13 and 16 - 20 October, 1990

Box Office opens 3rd October

CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF *by Tennessee Williams*

4 - 8 and 11 - 15 December, 1990

Box Office opens 28th November

CHRISTMAS AT THE REP

22nd December, 1990

THE UNEXPECTED GUEST *by Agatha Christie*

5 - 9 and 12 - 16 February, 1991

Box Office opens 31st January

LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN *by Oscar Wilde*

9 - 13 and 16 - 20 April, 1991

Box Office opens 3rd April

THE SUNSHINE BOYS *by Neil Simon*

4 - 8 and 11 - 15 June, 1991

Box Office opens 30th May

THANKS FOR THE MEMORY

by Peter Dutton & David Revitt

July, 1991

BOX OFFICE

OPENS
4.00 p.m.

TELEPHONE
44784

CLOSES
7.00 p.m.

FOR TELEPHONE BOOKINGS