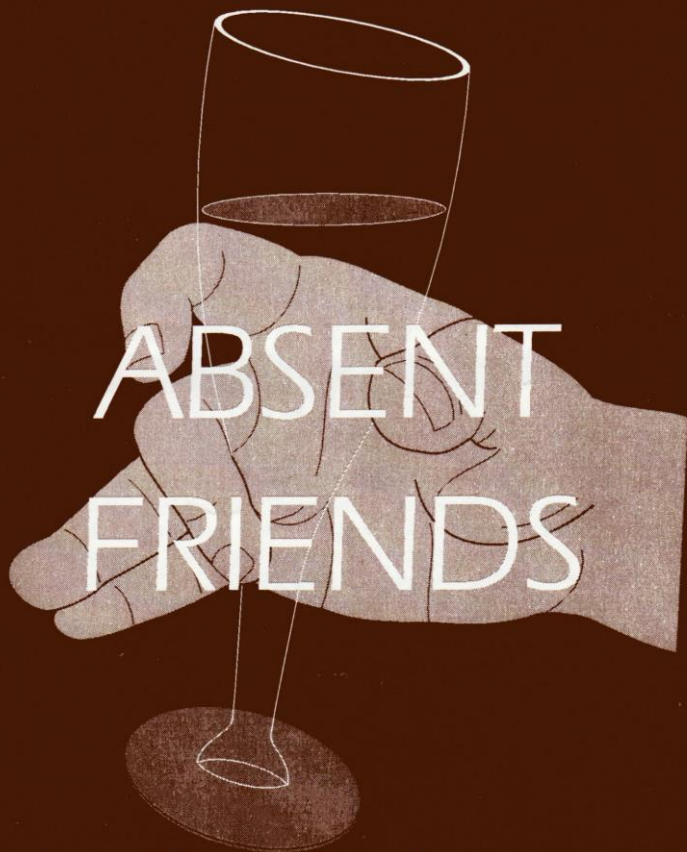


**THE
REP**

**73rd Season
1992 - 1993**

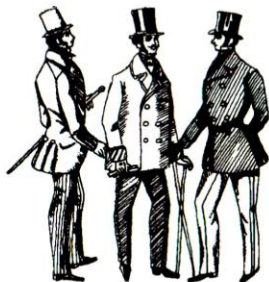
Programme 50p



by Alan Ayckbourn

DON'T MISS OUR NEXT PRODUCTION

London Assurance



by Dion Boucicault

Directed by Brian P. Hadley

When you witness the outrageous events which take place when a group of stuffy London fops invade the peace and tranquility of the English countryside the last thing you'll want to say is 'We are not amused'!

Set in Victorian times, 'London Assurance' is the delightful, witty, sparkling, surprise package of the season - and is OUR Christmas present to YOU !



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.

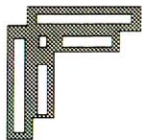
Confectionery: A full range is available, and on sale in the auditorium before the performance. May we respectfully ask you not to rustle confectionery wrappings during the action of the play, however, as it can mar the enjoyment of others.

Smoking: Smoking is not permitted in the auditorium.

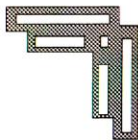
Photography: Photography and/or tape (including videotape) recording in the auditorium during a public performance is prohibited.

**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
LONDON ASSURANCE by Dion Boucicault
at the Rep 1st - 12th December, 1992



QUOTE - UNQUOTE



The author - on the play

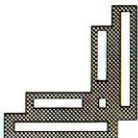
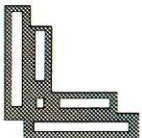
'ABSENT FRIENDS' was first produced in Scarborough in 1974. It followed 'The Norman Conquests', which to all intents and purposes was the end of my exploration of offstage action. Three plays, two of which were happening offstage simultaneously with one onstage, were quite enough. 'Absent Friends' was almost a drawing-in of forces. It was significant for me in several ways. Its use of time, for one. The stage action matches real time almost second for second. Most plays have their own time span where hours or months can pass quite happily in the space of minutes. The 'Absent Friends' time span, being what it is, had the intended consequence of making the play far more claustrophobic, almost oppressive.

Its single set, its small detailed action, helped. It is a play for small intimate theatre where one can hear the actors breathing and the silences ticking away. It was a terrifying risk when it was first produced. I'd never pitched anything in quite such a low key before. Happily, it worked. It has been produced all over the world and, on television, is possibly the most successful of my plays to have transferred to that medium.

And other quotes

'My work is about man's inhumanity to woman and woman's inhumanity to man. It is also about the whole world's inhumanity to us all.' (Alan Ayckbourn, New York Times, 1977.)

'The gap between what we are and what other people perceive us to be is at the core of this intimate, low-key, funny-painful play. You've heard of light comedy? This is light tragedy.....' (Michael Billington on 'Absent Friends' in his book on Alan Ayckbourn.)



Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre

presents

by special arrangement with Samuel French Ltd.

'ABSENT FRIENDS'

by Alan Ayckbourn

6th - 10th and 13th - 17th October, 1992

DIRECTED BY PETER LEGGE

SETTING DESIGNED BY TINA CAMPBELL

PRODUCTION MANAGER ... RICHARD MASTERS

Acknowledgements

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

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

ABSENT FRIENDS

by Alan Ayckbourn

CAST

Paul Derek Yeomans
Diana Alison Townsend
John Kevin Wyse
Evelyn Jane Procter
Colin Brian P. Hadley
Marge Judy Adams

* * * * *

The action of the play takes place in the open-plan living-room of a modern executive-style house.

Act One: Saturday 3 p.m.

Act Two: Immediately following

There will be one twenty-minute interval.

First produced at the Library Theatre, Scarborough, on June 17th, 1974 and subsequently at the Garrick Theatre, London, on July 23rd, 1975.

* * * * *

Smoking is not permitted in the auditorium

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager (for this production) BILL HANCOCK
Lighting Designers STUART CAMPBELL
Lighting Technician MIKE ADAMS
Sound Designer TED DUTTON
Sound Technician MARTIN ALLSOP
Assistant Stage Managers ROBERT BAGGALEY
GILL FRANKLIN
GEORGE GOODALL
BEVERLEY HALFPENNY
JAN JOHNSON
SHELLEY RIDDELL
YVONNE TIPPING
DANIEL WHIDDON

Wardrobe Mistress ALISON TOWNSEND
Properties MADELEINE POTTINGER
Company Photographer PETER CROFT
Theatre Bar Manager JUDY ADAMS
Front of House Manager ANDREW MORREY
Box Office Managers STELLA WOOLISCROFT
BRENDA SWANCOTT
Refreshment Organiser SANDY HOLLAND
Art Exhibition Co-ordinator PAUL M. CLARKE
Programme MADELEINE POTTINGER
TINA CAMPBELL

ABOUT THE AUTHOR...

ALAN AYCKBOURN

Alan Ayckbourn was born in London in 1939. He was educated at Haileybury School and on leaving there one Friday at the age of 17 he went into the theatre on the following Monday and has been working in it ever since as, variously, a stage manager, sound technician, lighting technician, scene painter, prop maker, actor, writer and director.

Founder member of the original Victoria Theatre Company here in Stoke-on-Trent, Alan Ayckbourn has since 1970 been Artistic Director of the Stephen Joseph Theatre in the Round, Scarborough - the theatre named after his mentor who first encouraged him to write. Of the thirty-five plays he has written to date, thirty-one of them have received their first productions at the Stephen Joseph Theatre and over twenty have subsequently been produced either in the West End or at the National Theatre.

His plays have been translated into 24 languages and have been performed on virtually every continent of the globe, on stage and television, receiving many national and international awards in the process.

Of his most recent plays, 'A Chorus of Disapproval' won all major Comedy Awards for 1985; 'Woman in Mind' was at one time playing in Holland, France, Germany and Australia prior to opening at the Manhattan Theatre Club.

Alan Ayckbourn was a BBC Radio Drama producer from 1965-70 and is now widely recognised as a theatre director as well as a writer. At the National Theatre he has directed his own group of actors in the twenties farce 'Tons of Money', Arthur Miller's 'A View from the Bridge', John Ford's 'Tis Pity She's a Whore' and his own own play, 'A Small Family Business'.

He was made a C.B.E. in the 1987 New Year's Honours.

... AND IN REHEARSAL



NEW THEATRE UPDATE

October, '92

CURRENT POSITION

- The theatre design has been revised to incorporate the results of the survey of the Leek Road site. The latest plans are on display at the *New Theatre Information Desk*, located at the front of the auditorium.
- Based on the modified designs a more accurate cost estimate for the project is being prepared by our Quantity Surveyor.
- An application for Detailed Planning Approval is being prepared.
- The Structural Engineer is preparing his initial designs.

WHY A NEW THEATRE ?

Since 1933 the present theatre has served The Rep well, and we are all extremely fond of it. The building is approaching its 114th birthday and is, unfortunately, coming to the end of its useful life. To preserve the building's life beyond the 1990's would require expenditure of several hundred thousand pounds.

The theatre has therefore committed itself to a future that will last well beyond the year 2000 in the form of new, purpose-built premises located on Leek Road, a few hundred yards from our current location.

For further information please do not hesitate to ask at the *New Theatre Information Desk*.

FUND RAISING

Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre is an amateur organisation and, since its founding over 70 years ago, has operated without significant financial subsidy. The Rep does not have the capital reserves to construct a new theatre on its own and we have therefore turned to the local area for support.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Would you donate, say, £5 a month by **Deed of Covenant**, allowing the Rep to reclaim 33p from the Inland Revenue for each £1 donated ?
- Would you like to have a seat in the New Theatre named after yourself, a loved one or your company ? Seats are available for £100 as part of our '**Buy a Seat**' scheme.
- Do you know of a firm that might be willing to provide **sponsorship** or donations in the form of cash, goods or services ?
- Would you make a direct **donation** to the Building Development Fund.
- Do you know of a **contact name** in a company that we could approach directly for assistance ?

If you would like to help in any of the ways outlined above, or in any other way, please make yourself known at the *New Theatre Information Desk*, located at the front of the auditorium.

MERCHANDISE

For the 1992-93 season we have launched a range of REP merchandise. Initially this includes REP sweatshirts, REP mugs (limited edition), REP pens (rollerball), and REP car-window stickers.

All items are available at the *New Theatre Information Desk*.



THE REP

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

73rd Season 1992/1993

ABSENT FRIENDS by Alan Ayckbourn
6 - 10 and 13 - 17 October, 1992
Box Office opens 30th September

LONDON ASSURANCE by Dion Boucicault
1 - 5 and 8 - 12 December, 1992
Box Office opens 25th November

CHRISTMAS AT THE REP
19 December, 1992

MY MOTHER SAID I NEVER SHOULD
by Charlotte Keatley
2 - 6 and 9 - 13 February, 1993
Box Office opens 27th January

OUTSIDE EDGE by Richard Harris
23 - 27 and 30 March - 3 April, 1993
Box Office opens 17th March

THE CRUCIBLE by Arthur Miller
18 - 22 and 25 - 29 May, 1993
Box Office opens 12th May

THE YOUNG REP
- details to be announced -

BOX OFFICE

OPENS
4.30 p.m.

TELEPHONE
44784

CLOSES
7.00 p.m.