

Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre

**An
Enemy
of the
People**

**by
Henrik Ibsen**

**Adapted by
Christopher Hampton**

A powerful drama
on the subject of
political corruption

Directed By Ken Lowe

80th Season

programme

£1

Welcome to the Stoke-on-Trent Rep. We hope that you enjoy your evening with us. A little information about us that first time visitors may find helpful. The car park will be open from 6.30pm on performance evenings until the theatre bar closes. Overspill parking is available in the Staffs University car park. Neither the Rep nor the University can accept responsibility for damage or loss of vehicles. The bar is open from 7.00pm on show nights - until 11pm - drinking up time is 20 minutes afterwards. Coffee, tea & confectionery are available in the foyer from 7.00pm. All interval drinks may be ordered before the performance. Smoking is not permitted in the auditorium, nor is photographing or taping the performance.

Cast

(In order of appearance)

Billing, a journalist:	John Macleod
Katherine, wife to Dr. Stockmann:	Alicon Wicks
Randine, maid to the Stockmanns:	Louise Challinor
Peter Stockmann, brother of Tomas,	
Mayor, Chief of Police, Chairman of the Baths:	Richard Masters
Hovstad, Editor of 'The People's Messenger':	James Freeman
Dr Tomas Stockmann, Medical Officer of the Baths:	Charles Bartholomew
Morten Stockmann, his younger son:	Ben Leese
Ejlif Stockmann, his elder son:	Nicki O'Brien
Captain Horster, a sea-captain:	Bernard O'Reilly
Petra Stockmann, a teacher, his daughter:	Sam Sutton
Morten Kiil, Katherine's father:	Louis Sassi
Aslaksen, a printer, Chairman of the Property-Owners Association:	Trevor Barlow
Mr. Vik, ship owner:	Peter Croft
Two town councillors:	Peter Dutton, Geoff Legan
Four citizens:	Richard Robards, David Finn,
	Steven Damjanovic, Keith Williams
Two women workers:	Paula Nixon, Gill Pollard
Two town tradesmen:	Philip Hall, Matthew Waters
Three bystanders:	Jackie Clarke, Melanie Hayes,
	Suzanne Murphy
A young girl:	Malia Nixon
Two young boys:	Richard Forrester, Kyle Mountford
A drunk:	Ted Forster

The action of the play takes place in a town on the southern coast of Norway.
Early Spring 1882.

Act 1: The living room of Dr. Stockmann's house. Evening.

Act 2: The same. The next morning.

Short pause

Act 3: The editorial office of 'The People's Messenger'. That afternoon.

Interval (20 Minutes)

Act 4: A large room in Captain Horster's house. Two days later.

Act 5: Dr Stockmann's study. Early next morning.

(Music for the play is taken from the works of Sibelius.)

Friends of the Rep

Our aim is to fill the theatre by raising public awareness of the Repertory Theatre. We also organise informative and social events for FRIENDS throughout the year. For more details please contact the Box Office on **01782 209784**

The Stoke-on-Trent Repertory Theatre is staffed entirely by unpaid volunteers. This includes all Front of House and Bar Staff.

We are indebted to the St. John Ambulance Brigade whose members voluntarily attend all our performances.

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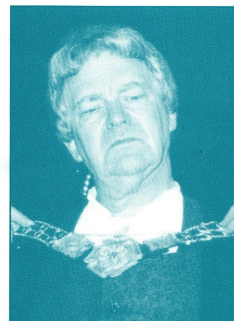


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The Director: Ken Lowe

Born in Stoke-on-Trent, Ken joined the Rep in 1956, after two years National Service, having previously attended Bristol University, where he graduated in Drama, English and Geography, the first person from Stoke-on-Trent to gain a Drama degree. He taught at Longton High School for fifteen years before becoming Deputy Principal of the Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College from 1970 - 1981, after which he was appointed headteacher of Trentham High School, retiring in 1993. He is the Chairman of Examiners for G.C.S.E. Drama and Theatre Arts, Chairman of Stoke Secondary Schools' Sports Association and has been an Anglican Lay Reader for forty-five years.



At the Rep Ken has appeared in thirty-six productions and directed twenty-three. He last appeared as Thomas More in 'A Man for All Seasons' in 1994 and has enjoyed playing in 'Cleuth', 'Separate Tables', 'The Dresser' and 'The Sunshine Boys'. He has directed Arthur Miller's four most famous plays - 'Death of a Salesman', 'The Crucible', 'A View from the Bridge' and 'All My Sons'. Last Year he directed 'The Winter's Tale', the Rep's first ever Shakespearean production. Ken is a Principal Executive, in charge of programme and planning.

With other societies Ken has played Hamlet and Othello with a former local group, The Etceteras, the King in 'The King and I' with North Staffs Operatic Society and Professor Higgins in 'My Fair Lady' with Stoke Operatic Society. He directed 'Rock N'ativity' as the first production of the Stoke Operatic Society's Youth Section in 1979 and revised it at the New Vic Theatre for their tenth anniversary in 1989. For them he co-wrote a musical, 'Francis, Boy of Assisi' and they also performed another original musical of his, 'Moses', first produced at the Sixth Form College.

Whilst at Longton High School Ken directed fifteen plays and musicals, most memorably 'The Winter's Tale' and 'The Duchess of Malfi' and at the Sixth Form College he directed, among eight productions, 'The Royal Hunt of the Sun', 'The Roses of Eyam' (in which Charles Bartholomew appeared) and 'The Front Page' (in which Neil Mornsey of 'Men Behaving Badly' took a lead).

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We are pleased to support the Arts and regularly cover local events on the Stephanie Hazeldine programme, Monday to Friday between 4pm and 7pm.

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An Enemy of the People

The Story

Having spent many years in unexplained poverty in the wilds of Northern Norway, Dr. Tomas Stockmann and his family have recently returned to his small native town, now established as a health resort, where his brother Peter, the Mayor, has helped to procure for him the post of Medical Officer at the newly-opened Baths. The town is now hoping to attract thousands of visitors to partake of its medicinal waters. The doctor, an idealist with a passion for scientific truth, has attracted the admiration of Hovstad, the young editor of the radical local newspaper, and his even younger and excitable assistant, Billing, and the friendship of a young sea-captain, Horster. The doctor, however, discovers that the town's health-giving waters are polluted by waste from the local tanneries, especially those owned by Morten Kild, Stockmann's father-in-law. The doctor's belief that the town will praise him for discovering this truth before the first visitors arrive is supported by Hovstad and Billing and also by the politically 'moderate' Mr. Aslaksen, chairman of the Local Property Owners' Association, a member of the Temperance Society and the owner of the printing press where Hovstad has his office and credit-free facilities. The Mayor, however, is not so pleased and the situation develops into a powerful, though at times farcical, confrontation between the two brothers and their opposing attitudes.

The Issues

'An Enemy of the People' is Ibsen's most political play, revealing the corruption and hypocrisy of a small-town community. As the nature of politics never changes, the exposure of deception and self-interest is as relevant today as in 1882, when the play was written. Ibsen's previous play, 'Ghosts', had graphically presented the psychological agonies of a young man dying of syphilis and had created outrage and scandal, with not only the conservative newspapers but even more so the radical liberal press accusing him of corrupting the young and undermining the basic values of life. Angered and bitterly disillusioned, Ibsen wrote 'An Enemy of the People' as an answer to his critics. In it he daringly suggests that the majority of society, the ordinary masses of the people and their leaders, is ignorant and conventional, clinging to old fashioned ideas, whereas all progress, with its search for truth and enlightenment, depends on a very small number of brave, uncompromising individuals. This is obviously an extremely unpopular belief but is presented powerfully by Dr. Stockmann in the fourth act of the play, in one of Ibsen's rare crowd scenes.

The Author

Ibsen is one of the most important and influential playwrights the theatre has ever known. Born in 1828 in a small trading town in Norway, a merchant's son, he became apprenticed to a chemist before moving to Christiania, the capital, now renamed Oslo, to attend university. He was, however, soon engaged at the Bergen Theatre to 'assist as a dramatic author' and in 1857, at the age of twenty-nine, he was appointed Artistic Director of the Norwegian Theatre in Christiania. In 1864 he left Norway, spending the next seventeen years abroad, first in Italy and then Germany. His early plays deal with epic, grand-scale portrayals of Norwegian history, followed by two highly poetic verse-dramas, 'Brand' and 'Peer Gynt', both extremely difficult to stage. He then turned his attention to realistic presentations of social issues, with 'A Doll's House', 'Ghosts' and 'The Wild Duck', plays which radically changed the nature of European theatre and championed in Britain by George Bernard Shaw. In 1891 Ibsen returned to Norway and settled in Christiania, where he wrote his final plays which deal with profound issues of human nature and self-fulfilment, including the masterpieces 'Hedda Gabler', 'The Master Builder' and 'John Gabriel Borkman'. On his death in 1906 he was given a state funeral.

The Play in Production

First performed in Christiania in 1883, 'An Enemy of the People' was subsequently presented in Bergen, Stockholm and Copenhagen, then later Berlin (1887), Berne (1888), Vienna (1890), Paris (1893) and Moscow (1900). In 1905, Stanislavski, the great Russian actor-director, played Stockmann and the play became a favourite with the revolutionary movement in spite of its condemnation of the majority of the people - it applauded the ideas of freedom and truth.

The first production in London, at the Haymarket theatre in 1893, starred Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree as Stockmann and later toured America. Roger Livesey played the lead at the Old Vic Theatre in 1939 and Sir Donald Sinden at the Chichester Festival Theatre in 1975. Arthur Miller made a special adaptation of the play, setting it in America with an anti-Communist slant, which was first staged in New York with Fredric March as Stockmann, then filmed with Steve McQueen, and given a brilliant production in 1988 at the Young Vic Theatre in London with Tom Wilkinson establishing himself as a leading actor of the day in the main part.

The Royal National Theatre commissioned this present adaptation from Christopher Hampton, best known for his adaptation of 'Les Liaisons Dangereuses', receiving its first performance in 1997, but returning in 1998 owing to its phenomenal success. Stockmann was played by Sir Ian McKellen in a production by Trevor Nunn.

Spotlight on a Rep Member

Tina Campbell and the Rep

I was inspired to join the Rep in 1981, after seeing and being very impressed by their production of 'Sleuth'. A passing comment to a work colleague, regarding the set design, produced an invitation to go to the Rep on a Monday evening (the normal work party and members' night) to show my portfolio and discuss my desire to become a set designer. Not knowing what to expect, I went down dolled up to the nines - Oh, how wrong can you get! Next week, what was my task - getting up to my elbows, dipping canvas 'leaves' in green paint to act as camouflage for the set of 'The Long, the Short, and the Tall'. During the run of the production I helped out Front of House, selling programmes and serving coffee in the auditorium.



My second job was Lighting Technician for the following production, 'Angels in Love'. I was exceedingly nervous at having such a responsible role in my first full show for the Rep and could frequently be found wearing out the carpet at the back of the auditorium, pacing up and down nervously (in counter-time to the show Director, Roy Holland) as curtain-up approached. Following this production, I operated the lights for virtually every production over the next five years. But what of my desire for Set Design? Well, twelve months after joining I finally got my chance with 'Birds on the Wing' and have not looked back; at one stage designing every show for a period of six years, due to a lack of other interested parties. I am happy to say that we now have a team of designers who share the burden.

One of my most demanding tasks at the Rep was to take on the role of Stage Director, just as the Rep was preparing to move from its old home in Beresford Street, when the appointed Stage Director was posted overseas at short notice for nine months by his employer (where he joined the Doha Players). It was a trying time, organising the fit-out and decoration of the entire backstage area, managing the move from Beresford Street to Leek Road, putting on the first Rep production in a new building and providing technical support for visiting companies (as well as sourcing specialist theatrical materials required by the Doha Players, for the ex-Stage Director).

As to other roles in the theatre, I have absolutely no desire to act, but am very happy working backstage in any area: including stage management, lighting and sound, props, costumes, construction, etc. With the exception of one show in 1988 (when I took time off to move house and finalise my marriage arrangements with Stuart) I have been involved in every Rep production, in one capacity or another, since joining and we both look forward to continuing for many years to come.

My favourite productions to date, 'Penny for a Song' was pure fun to work on: 'All My Sons' for the technical details, superb production and feeling of tension in the audience; 'Gaslight' for its set design representing an authentic Victorian room; and 'Noises Off' (Beresford Street production 1989) as an example of what could be achieved in restricted space and with limited resources.

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An Enemy of the People

The Crew

Director:	Ken Lowe
Associate Director:	Alan Clarke
Set Design:	Jayne Blake
Stage Manager:	Martin Allsop
Lighting Design:	Malcolm Rushton
Sound Design:	Mike Adams
Sound Technician:	Alex Archer
Prompts:	Shelley Riddell, Gill Franklin, Beverly Halfpenny, June Hodson, Jan Johnson
Stage Crew:	Bill Hancock, Mike Adams, John Beeston, Martin Allitt, Yvonne Tipping, Lyndsay Rushton, Stuart Campbell, Tina Campbell
Scenic Artist:	Colin Chesterton
Props:	Janet Clarke assisted by Dawn Birks & Glennis Rushton
Costumes	provided by Midland Costumes (Crewe)
Company Photographer:	Peter Croft
Front of House Director:	Trevor Barlow
Front of House Manager:	Pauline Turner
Box Office Managers:	Stella Woolliscroft & Brenda Swancott
Refreshment Organiser:	John Cooper

Artist in the Gallery

Debbie Jenkins is a professional photographer whose work embraces all kinds of photography including documentary work covering local and social issues. She is a lecturer at Stoke-on-Trent College.

Her first exhibition, in the Gallery, shows the demise of Hem Heath Colliery as a working mine.

The photographs document the inter-relation between man and machinery, politics and power - the true heart of a 'man's world' and its destruction.

Today the site remains barren and unused.

Thank you for the loan of your work Debbie.

Charles **Bartholomew**



Born in Stoke-on-Trent Charles has worked extensively as an Actor, Director and Teacher. After training at Manchester Polytechnic School of Theatre he performed with companies such as Contact Theatre Manchester, The Belgrade Theatre Coventry, Oxford Playhouse and Hull Truck as well as roles in Television and Film.

He lectured in Drama at Liverpool and Newcastle Colleges before becoming Programme Manager for Music and Performing Arts at Stoke-on-Trent College in 1998.

Previously at The Rep Charles has performed in "Ring round the Moon" as well as directing "An Ideal Husband".

He was first directed by Ken Lowe as a student 21 years ago in 'The Roses of Eyam'.

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Brian Clarke

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