

## **Director's notes for Familiarisation/Casting and proposed training courses July 2014**

### **The Winslow Boy - Terence Rattigan**

Ronnie (16) is dismissed from Navel College after an internal investigation without the knowledge of his parents. There is no right of appeal and their decision is final and the boy's character is tainted for the rest of his life.

The Play, based on a real incident at Osborne Navel College, follows the families fight to clear Ronnies name, taking on the establishment when all other avenues are exhausted and the sacrifices (personal and financial) that they make in order to achieve this. Making it much more that just whether Ronnie was innocent or guilty, how far do you go to see that "right is done".

It is set over a two year period from 1914 - 1918 and has a cast of 11 (7 men and 4 women).

The ages range from 16 to approximately 70, most of which are flexible accept perhaps Ronnie who definitely has to look 16, Dickie who should be early twenties and Grace and Arthur who need to look as though they are old enough to have three children under 30.

This really is a fine play and Rattigan's use of language is extremely clever and it should be interesting getting everything out that he put in.

Performances - Main Stage - 9th – 20th September 2014

Familiarisation - **Monday 30th June 2014 7.30 p.m. Upper Foyer**

Reading/Casting - Sunday 6th July 2014 7.30 p.m. Upper Foyer

If people can't make the Monday night, then get them to email me rather than text or phone - [alisonjaynecahill@gmail.com](mailto:alisonjaynecahill@gmail.com). I don't have any scripts at the moment, but hopefully they will be there before Monday. If not I will have to get some copied.

### **The God of Carnage – Yasmina Reza**

Set in Paris (France). Two sets of parents meet to discuss why one Pair's son hit the other pair's son with a stick and what should now happen.

The action takes place over an evening and we start to see how their preconceptions and prejudices start to emerge – between each set of parents and between each husband and wife.

This is a comedy of manners. Those manners slowly start to disintegrate in front of us as they snipe and snap at each other, whilst trying to hide from their own failings.

Performance - Main Stage - 12th – 23rd May 2015

Familiarisation – Monday 19th January 2015 7.30 p.m. Upper Foyer

Reading/Casting - Monday 26th January 2014 7.30 p.m. Upper foyer

## **Translation - Brian Friel**

Set in the fictional town of Ballybeg in early 19th century Ireland, the play shows the interaction between the residents and their visitors - company of English Soldiers and map makers.

Brian Friel said that the play is about language and only language, but it does deal with other issues, including communication, irish history and personal relationships.

While we, the audience, can understand every word the actors say, as far as each is concerned they are either talking English or Gaelic.

This is really is a lovely play and fits the studio environment really well. There is a large cast 10 (7 men and 3 women), all ages, but some contemporaries will need to be approximately the same age.

Performances – Studio - 25th – 30th may 2015

Familiarisation - Monday 16th February 2015 7.30 p.m. Upper Foyer

Reading/Casting - Monday 23rd February 2015 7.30 p.m. Upper Foyer

## **Note on Review Performance and Marketing**

This Season we have produced:

Three 5-Star Reviews

Six 4-Star Reviews

One 3-Star Review

	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>
<b>5-Stars</b>	2	3	3	3
<b>4-Stars</b>	7	3	4	6
<b>3-Stars</b>	1	2	3	1
<b>2-Stars</b>	0	0	0	0

The above doesn't particularly correlate with the successful sale to audiences. There has been a steady reduction of audience attendance.

## **Development of skills**

**Note on the need for more people** to look at taking up the role of directing and acting – to this end I will be putting together a directing workshop using a number of the existing directors in a mix of discussion, application of technique and exercises to cross-fertilise from the various successful productions that we have....

*NH,*

*Ian Appleby*

*Denise Phillips*

*Faye Hatch*

*Liz Parry*

We will also look at putting some acting workshops together, again, using the input of a number of our key actors/directors.

*NH*

*Martin Walker*

*Jayne Lunn*

*Denise Phillips*

**Note on Walking project for Sutton Vesey Ward** – possible options:

- Working with Ben Waddington (Still Walking) to produce a theatrical performance that can be carried during the walk that is linked to it and enhancing the walk subject/theme.
- Subject and/or theme(s) can be about anything relevant to Vesey Ward (it can go into an adjoining ward)
- Looking for people to join in on this project.
- To be carried out March 2015
- Anyone interested should contact NH