

Frayed Knot Theatre Company in association with Samuel French (London) Ltd present

THE HISTORY BOYS

by Alan Bennett



22-25 April 2009

The Court Theatre, Pendley



the
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Frayed Knot Theatre Company

Why not join us?

We're always on the lookout for actors, directors,
producers and backstage crew

Previous experience is not required but enthusiasm is a must!

Membership is £5 per year – Give us a call

Naomi Glasser (Chairman)
Kate Blanchard

07720 295852
07971 404465

or email on frayed-knot@hotmail.com

Acknowledgements

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Matthew Homes

Crew

Director	Dan Clucas
Producers	Naomi Glasser and Sarah Amsden
Stage Manager	Derek Rookley
Light and sound	Chris Cooper
Musical co-ordinator	Lyndsay Stafford-Smith
Choreography	Chris Dearden
Make up	Paint by Numbers
Set design	Dan Clucas and Lee Marsh
Photography	Andy Davies
Box Office	Ian Wells
Poster design	ImageHouse
Set construction	Rob Farrow, Ian Wells, Dave Barratt, David Wells
Front of House	Keith and Margaret Evans and friends

Thanks to Kate Blanchard, Jamie O'Shea at Berkhamsted Framework Specialists, Dundale School, Eileen Reece, The King's Arms, Linda Pegrum, Specsavers Tring, Rob Farrow, The Evans family, John Tyrrol.

Biographies

Kevyn Connett - Irwin

Kevyn is starting to feel his age. In a show full of boys he is cast as the sensible adult. Oh well, it was fun while it lasted!

Dave Barratt - Hector

This is Dave's third outing with Frayed Knot, including a number of on and off stage characters in last year's double bill, and he is delighted to tackle this famous part in a play which has only recently become available to theatres like ours.

Other recent performances at The Court Theatre include Abigail's Party, Brassed Off, and Dream Nights. Dave has also played in two recent award-winning plays at the Boxmoor Playhouse.

Eileen Reece - Dorothy Linttot

This is Eileen's second production with the Frayed Knot Theatre Company and it is also her most challenging role to date as she rarely treads the boards. She has worked backstage with Tring Festival Company for over 20 years for whom she has directed "The Talented Mr Ripley", "A Streetcar Named Desire", "Alfie" and "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest". She is planning to direct "Rebecca" in October of this year. Eileen has found it a privilege to work with such a talented group of actors and under the direction of Dan Clucas from whom she has learnt much.

Richard Ward - Headmaster

Richard trod the boards for the very first time with a very minor open air Shakespeare role in the early 1990s, but it was his first Court Theatre outing in "Dad's Army" in 2002 which really fired him to go further and he is absolutely delighted to be part of such a talented cast in Bennett's great play.

He subsequently trained as a professional actor at Drama Studio London. Theatre credits include "We The People" (Shakespeare's Globe) and "The School For Scandal" (Bridewell Theatre). TV and film includes "Midsomer Murders" and a short film for "Blue Peter". Richard also specialises in rehearsed play readings, reads audio books and undertakes corporate role play. Spotlight 9376-9059-3054.

Matt Bowles - Dakin

Cheeky chap Matt has thoroughly enjoyed going back to school and is very happy to be playing the part of Dakin and pleased to be re-igniting his 'removal man' partnership with James a.k.a Scripps. Matt has performed in a wide variety of shows at the Court theatre since the age of 15 and at the age of 21 is becoming a bit of a veteran! Roles include Rick (A Slice of Saturday Night), Andy (Brassed Off), Idle Jack (Dick Whittington), Nick & Joe (Fame), Narrator (Blood Brothers).

Andy Crisp - Posner

Like Posner, Andy was often the class swot at school and had a particular fondness for singing (hymns mostly – no Barbara Streisand or Gracie Fields!). That's where the similarities end though, because he also had a fondness for girls - unlike Posner.

The History Boys is a break from the norm for Andy, after appearances in Fame and The Full Monty in recent years, the latter with Frayed Knot. This move away from musical theatre has been challenging, but ultimately enjoyable, and Andy hopes that the audience has as much fun watching this production as we did putting it together.

Michael Roebuck - Rudge

Aged 19, Michael is in his first year of studying Film and Theatre at Reading University. Aside from school and university productions, Michael has also played the lead in Ben Elton's Popcorn at the Limelight Theatre in Aylesbury. A keen and passionate sportsman, Michael rarely goes a day without exercise and is a member of the University rowing team. Later this year he will study for a semester abroad at Rutgers University, New Jersey.

Joe Payne - Timms

Joe has had to really pull his fingers out for this show, literally! As he hasn't touched a piano for the last fraction of his existence, there has certainly been a challenge involved, for this show. If any of you cultured audience participants are curious about Joe as a singer, please visit <http://www.myspace.com/tramptiquetteofficial> for a listen! xxx

James East - Scripps

This is the second show James has done at the Court Theatre. He last performed here in Little Shop of Horrors, where he played several roles including, Customer, Patrick Martin and Removal Man. He is also looking forward to playing opposite his removal man partner again in this production.

James is also a long standing member of Chipperfield Theatre Group, has recently played Dozy Den in Jack and The Beanstalk and is going to be playing Billy, a Sailor, in the September production of Sweeney Todd.

Éamonn Borg-Neal - Lockwood

Éamonn has been part of the Court Theatre family for four years now and has enjoyed every minute since first appearing in Noah The Musical. He has since been part of shows such as Robin Hood, Breakfast With Jonny Wilkinson, Alice In Wonderland, Macbeth and is looking forward to playing Lockwood in The History Boys. Elsewhere in his life Éamonn is an active musician, claiming to be competent at the Guitar, Glockenspiel, Melodica and the Synth. he plays Guitar for his band 'The Marble Archers'

Alan Kerr - Crowther

Alan developed a love for the theatre and drama as a student at Tring school. He has been involved in a few shows with Frayed Knot but his acting has mainly been done at school.

Sadly, he has recently changed his career path to film production but the draw of the stage is still strong in him! And he looks forward to future productions at Pendley.

Sid Sagar - Akhtar

'The History Boys' is Sid's first performance with Frayed Knot Theatre Company. He has really enjoyed getting to know the rest of the cast and has found the role of Akhtar great fun to perform. He has performed with Berkhamsted Youth Theatre, the last production being 'Macbeth' in November 2008, and also takes part in a number of school productions. Besides drama, Sid has a passion for singing and performed in the Pepper Concert last summer. In a couple of weeks Sid will be taking his GCSEs, drama being one of them.



Previous Productions



1991	Marreau and the Chocolate Policeman	1999	How the Other Half Loves
1992	Marreau and the African Moon		Trivial Pursuits
1993	Marreau and the Curse of Cardiff D.F.C./Moby Dick : Double Bill	2000	Habeas Corpus
1994	Marreau and the Bloody Carpet Blithe Spirit		They Came From Mars...Farndale Ave
1995	Marreau and the Sword of Carthage Sweeny Todd, The Demon Barber	2001	Requiem for Marreau
1996	Farndale...Macbeth Marreau and the Clouds of Death Party Piece	2002	Lady Windermere's Fan Marreau & the Tregalleon Inheritance
1997	The Importance of Being Earnest Three Comedies Farndale...A Christmas Carol	2003	Saving Ardley Fish out of Water
1998	Arsenic and Old Lace A Murder Has Been Arranged	2004	Marreau and the Terror of Tring A Tomb with a View
1998	Marreau & the Chocolate Policeman	2005	Lend Me A Tenor
		2006	The Full Monty Neville's Island
		2007	An Inspector Calls See How They Run
		2008	Darlings, You Were Wonderful!/Black Comedy Guards! Guards!

The History Boys

Members of Parliament

Sarah Amsden, Naomi Glasser,
Derek Rookley, Chris Dearden
Kevyn Connett
Dave Barratt
Eileen Reece
Richard Ward
Matt Bowles
Andy Crisp
Michael Roebuck
Joe Payne
James East
Éamonn Borg-Neal
Alan Kerr
Sid Sagar
Naomi Glasser

Irwin
Hector
Dorothy
Headmaster
Dakin
Posner
Rudge
Timms
Scripps
Lockwood
Crowther
Akthar
Television Director

Both acts begin in the present and revert to a grim and grey
Grammar School in 1980s Sheffield
There will be an interval of 15 minutes between the acts.

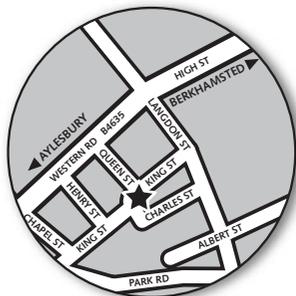


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Director's Notes

Thanks to a tip-off from Eileen regarding the availability of this play and prompt action by Frayed Knot's chairman, I do believe that is the first non-professional company to present Alan Bennett's latest work in the UK. So, being in that privileged position, I hope we have done the play justice. Like all good works of literature, as explained by Bennett, sometimes a hand comes out and grabs you and makes a connection between the writer and the reader even if they have never met.

It has been great fun rehearsing this play. Thanks especially to the production team for making this all possible. It has also been fun working with new faces as well as old. The play offers some great parts for new young actors and we were all very pleased by the response to auditions for this work. I hope that newcomers to the company feel sufficiently inspired by the experience to want to take part in future productions at this theatre. So this is our working of the play. We hope that you enjoy it. Pass it on.

