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THE GRASS ROOTS

COURT THEATRE

AT PENDLEY TRING

Frayed Knot Theatre Company in association with Nick Hern Books Presents:

“Jez Butterworth’s wildly original hymn to eccentricity” The Mail on Sunday

“The best new play of the decade” The Times

JERUSALEM

by Jez Butterworth

20-23 November 2013

Curtain up 7.30pm • Tickets £12-15 (concessions available)



Get Tickets on line at: www.courttheatre.co.uk



In person at Beechwood Fine Foods 42 Frogmore Street, Tring, HP23 5AU Cash/cheque only - Open 7 days a week



By phone on 07543 560478 Please have your credit/debit card ready

Jerusalem

And did those feet in ancient time,
Walk upon Englands mountains green;
And was the holy Lamb of God,
On Englands pleasant pastures seen!

And did the Countenance Divine,
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here,
Among these dark Satanic Mills?

Bring me my Bow of burning gold;
Bring me my Arrows of desire;
Bring me my Spear: O clouds unfold!
Bring me my Chariot of fire!

I will not cease from Mental Fight,
Nor shall my Sword sleep in my hand:
Till we have built Jerusalem,
In Englands green & pleasant Land

William Blake

Director's Notes

I have been both thrilled and terrified directing Jerusalem. The play is so richly and deeply woven that even during this performance week I fear I have not delved adequately into the multitude of layers Butterworth has crafted. Paradoxically a rehearsal process begins simply with bare bones to which the actors and myself adhere flesh in order to understand the intentions of the piece. The cast worked with commitment, sympathy and adaptation to the continually evolving interpretation that developed through rehearsals.

Frayed Knot Theatre Company is indebted to Tring Arts Trust who generously committed to benefit us with a grant for the caravan. Frayed Knot strives to bring original and challenging work to The Court Theatre and without the support of Tring Arts Trust we would have been unable to surmount the financial barrier that this production presented.

Naomi Glasser, Chairman Frayed Knot Theatre Company

Cast

in order of appearance

PHAEDRA
MS FAWCETT
MR PARSONS
JOHNNY 'ROOSTER' BYRON
GINGER
PROFESSOR
LEE
DAVEY
PEA
TANYA
WESLEY
DAWN
MARKY
TROY
WHITWORTH THUGS

Lily Elborn
Fiona Quilter-Wood
Ben Holman
Dan Clucas
Mike Code
Andy Faber
Alfie Glasser
Mike Roebuck
Lucy Scott
Amy Dunstall
Dave Reece
Lucy Palmer
Rafael Precht
Steve Berry
Will Scott and Nigel Froment

ACT 1 England at midnight

INTERVAL

ACT 2 2 o'clock that afternoon

INTERVAL

ACT 3 5 o'clock that afternoon

Special thanks to:

We are indebted to the tireless endeavours of
Bob Randall and Lynda Randall for the production of the set
and unerring support during the production.

Thanks to

Evans Scrap Metal at Wiggington
Meads Farm Shop at Wilstone
Eileen Reece and Pinner Players

Cast Biographies

Lily Elborn recently played a principle role in 13 The Musical with Vivo D'Arte. She has also been in youth productions such as Fame, We Will Rock You, Hairspray & Jesus Christ Superstar. Lily is rehearsing for Chatroom with Vivo D'Arte, Noah the Musical with HHTC and Footloose with her school. This is her first Frayed Knot production.

Fiona Quilter-Wood trained at the Arts Educational School in Tring and made her first appearance at the Court back in the early 1980s. As Head of Drama & Dance in schools for the last 15 years, she has produced, directed and choreographed countless youth shows both in school and freelance. She was most recently seen at the Court Theatre in Calendar Girls and Talking Heads.

Ben Holman - Jerusalem is about these two council officials... This has been Ben's first production for Frayed Knot and he's glad to see amateur groups taking on new and exciting plays. He has popped up in a few productions at the court over the years, the most recent was Captain Darling in TFC's Blackadder. Prior to that was mostly Prospect Theatre Plays including Tom Wingfield in The Glass Menagerie.

Dan Clucas has appeared in many productions at The Court Theatre. Plays include: 'The 39 Steps', 'One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest', 'An Inspector Calls', 'The Sound of Music', 'Calendar Girls' and 'She Loves Me'. For Frayed Knot he has directed 'History Boys', 'See How They Run', 'The Titfield Thunderbolt' and 'Damages'. He also devised and directed last year's 'Hang On A Minute Lads I've Got A Great Idea'.

Mike Code started acting when he was 21 and since then has been privileged to work with some fantastic people on some brilliant shows. In the last couple of years he has been in 'The 39 Steps', 'A Christmas Carol', 'Calendar Girls' and 'West Side Story' to name a few. Jerusalem is one of the best plays Mike has ever read and he has very much enjoyed playing the role of Ginger alongside Dan Clucas's Rooster.

Andy Faber has appeared in and been involved with many productions at the Court Theatre. From appearing in such diverse productions as 'Into The Woods', 'Tommy' and 'Hi-de-hi' to directing projects such as 'Blithe Spirit', 'Calendar Girls' and 'She Loves Me'. His involvement has been persistent but, he hopes, not too irritating. Andy has appeared in several Frayed Knot productions, 'Lady Windemere's Fan', 'Talking Heads' and most recently 'Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell'.

Alfie Glasser is 16 years old and first appeared at the Court Theatre aged 8 in Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Since then he has appeared in many musicals here, and with Hemel Hempstead Theatre Company, Berkhamsted Theatre Company and Vivo D'Arte. He has also performed in the West End. This is the first play he has ever acted in and it has been great to have his young cousin Rafael in the cast.

Michael Roebuck's previous performances in the theatre include Rudge (The History Boys) The Court Theatre, Billy Lee (Bluebird) Squint Theatre Company, Andrey (Three Sisters) Questors Theatre, Wayne (Popcorn) Limelight theatre. He attended Reading University a while ago and is now playing Davey in this play.

Amy Dunstall studied Performing Arts at college and from the age of eight has appeared in numerous lead roles in many productions. She has now gone on to direct several successful musicals for the TFC Company including 'West Side Story', 'Footloose', 'The Wiz', 'Fame Jr' and 'Grease'.

Dave Reece - Since appearing in Half a Sixpence many moons ago Dave has appeared in many productions, mostly at The Court Theatre but also all over the place! Dave has played panto for 20 years taking in most of the traditional roles including MD. Other plays include Darling Buds of May, Porridge, Ain't Half Hot Mum, Allo Allo, Rebecca, Abigail's Party, Bells of Hell, Vicar of Dibley, Guards! Guards!, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead, and Frayed Knot's Marreau series.

Lucy Palmer - This is Lucy's first performance for Frayed Knot though she has been on stage numerous times with Berkhamsted and Hemel Hempstead Theatre Companies. Her previous roles have included Lily St Regis in Annie, to Grusha in Brecht's Caucasian Chalk Circle and her last appearance at The Court saw her as the murdering temptress in Jeffrey Archer's The Accused.

Rafael Precht is 9 years old and this is his first play. So he's very excited! Rafael's hobbies include Minecraft, football, & playing the fool. He also plays the violin really well, the piano really, really well, and sings in the choir at St Peter's Church which he is really, really, really good at!

Steve Berry is delighted to be taking part in 'Jerusalem', having first trodden the boards with FK as Angus in 'Neville's Island' in 2006. Steve plays the part of Troy Whitworth - one of the darkest characters ever, and is very much acting out of character as such a thoroughly nasty piece of work!

Jerusalem

Rooster's oddball friends weave their way in and out of the play creating hysterical comedy one minute, and terrifying intensity the next.

The motley crew includes naive Ginger, the 'underdog' of the group;

The Professor, who spouts intellectual prose whilst being dosed on LCD for most of the play; and the drunk and tearful local pub landlord.

There is also homely teenager Davey and his optimistic best friend Lee who contentedly enjoy Rooster's free drugs and alcohol supply.

All these characters are amongst many other complex and sublime characters in the show.

The play runs the gamut of emotions; it's hysterical one minute, tense the next, with plenty of vulgarity in between.

You never quite know what's coming next.

Production Team

DIRECTOR	Naomi Glasser
PRODUCTION	Naomi Glasser, Lynda Randall, Sarah Amsden
SET DESIGN	Bob Randall and team
SET CONSTRUCTION	Matthew Minors, Paul Stratford, Bob Williams
LIGHTING DESIGN	Chris Cooper
SOUND DESIGN	Nick Cooper
STAGE MANAGER	Sarah Amsden
ASST STAGE MANAGER	Sharon Allum and team
MAKE UP AND PROSTHETICS	Juliet Eve and Heather Sharp
COSTUMES	Naomi Glasser, Ellie Wilson, The Cast
ARTWORK	Simon Blanchard at Image House, Ian Gower
PRINTWORK	Rob Farrow
PHOTOGRAPHY	George Riddell, Naomi Glasser
GOLDFISH SUPERVISOR	Lucy Russell-Lebrett
RAFAEL'S CHAPERONE	Lynda Randall
TRANSPORT	Tim Amsden

Jerusalem

"In 1994, I moved to Wiltshire and met a man who was banned from every pub in the village. I picked him up and he was light as a feather. A month later I walked into him in the streets by mistake and it was like walking into a tree. Ten years earlier I worked on a market in St Albans, where a man walked past with a big ginger moustache, in a leather cowboy hat, boots and chaps, horse-brasses on his belt. He lived in a caravan behind Marks and Spencers and collected glasses in the pub. They tried to throw him off his patch, but he refused to go. The night before the police came to evict him, he doused his home in petrol, burned it to the ground, and disappeared. Fifteen years later I broke a finger playing cricket, went to the hospital, where I met a man who told me he was there to sell his blood. It was a rare strain, and he was the last person in England who had it. Seventeen years earlier I worked in an old hotel kitchen as a kitchen porter, where the old Welsh waiter told me that the previous night he had had a dream that he had been kidnapped by Nigerian traffic wardens. Ten years later I had a conversation with a publican over a hedge, who wept and told me he was trapped, that he could never, ever, set foot in his pub again. Then he went back there and worked another fifteen years. A year earlier I'd sat in a village hall and watched the outgoing May Queen hand her crown to the new May Queen. The Old Queen was very cool and aloof, until the moment came, whereupon she burst into tears, and ran out. Ten years earlier, to avoid doing cross country in the rain, each Thursday I visited an old lady who lived near my school. Each time she opened the door she would say "Hello Maureen". Twenty years later I met a man in a pub who killed 200 cows a day. He was 64 years old and had never left the West Country. In March 1980 a girl in my class at school went out to the dual carriageway, flagged down a lorry and ended up in Scotland. On June 1 2003 I was driving through rural Dorset when I came round a bend and there was a hand-painted sign that said "Rooster's Wood. Keep Out." The next day on the A30 outside Upavon, just past the Little Chef, I met a giant who said he built Stonehenge. That is, if you believe him..."

JEZ BUTTERWORTH