

THE WORTHY PLAYERS

AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY



Todd

THE BARBER



JUBILEE HALL KINGS WORTHY

17th 18th 24th 25th April 2015

7-30 pm

TODD THE BARBER



Being of a somewhat dark turn of mind, and the occasional reader of 19th Century Gothic tales, I came across a copy of the original text of *Sweeney Todd* by James Malcolm Rymer.

Sweeney Todd was originally published as a serial in eighteen weekly editions from late 1846 until spring 1847. It was such an instant success, that in 1847 it was reissued in ninety-two weekly editions and was strung out as long as anybody wished to buy it! Even this was not as long as another of Rymer's works, *Varney*, the story of a gentleman vampire, which ran to rather more than 220 chapters. It has been conjectured that both *Sweeney Todd* and *Varney*, were the inspiration for Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, published much later in the century, with which they share many plot twists and mix of characters. Rymer himself might have been inspired by John Polidori's *The Vampyre* written in about 1818, following Polidori's holiday with Percy Bysshe Shelley, Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley and friends, on Lake Geneva, which also spawned *Frankenstein*.

As with *Eastenders*, each installment of a Rymer novel ended with a cliff-hanger, to ensure the sales of further copies. There were often huge numbers of characters, and a great deal of drama and much regurgitation of old material and stories within stories, inserted by the publisher, like as not, to cover up the late-submission of the next installment. Rymer's readers expected a dark image of a bygone age, a curious mix of what *he* fancied was period speech and mores. And so that's what we give you! Some characters and events have been changed and many have disappeared, not having a cast of thousands, but I believe we have remained true to the original tale, not the reinvention rendered in the West End or on the silver screen! It is a Gothic horror, a detective story and a story of enduring love. Take your choice!

MICHAEL EDWARDS, DIRECTOR AND AUTHOR

THE CREW

Book, Direction and Design — Michael Edwards

Set construction — Members of the group

Stage Management — David Woolford and members of the cast

Costume and Wardrobe — Shirley Lovell and Alison Woolford

Lighting and Sound — Richard Aldous

Rehearsal and Performance Prompt — Carol Pannell

Box Office — Janine Blackmore and Richard Aldous

Publicity, Posters and Fliers — Michael Edwards

Front of House Manager — Julie Pettigrew

Bar Manager — Barbara Kearns

THE SETTING AND ACTS

Our play is centred on events at the small barber's shop of Sweeney Todd in Fleet Street, and the nearby pie shop belonging to Mrs. Lovett, somewhere around the turn of the 19th century. The action is continuous, and we are transported seamlessly from place to place, and time to time.

ACT 1 DISAPPEARANCES

ACT 2 RESOLUTION

There will be a 20 minute interval after ACT 1, when teas, coffees, soft drinks, and alcoholic beverages will be available to purchase.

THE CAST

Sweeney Todd



Tim has been involved in amateur dramatics since 1987, in far too many productions to count, but he is pretty certain that this is the first villain (unless you count first murderer in *Macbeth*). This is the third time he has performed with the Worthy Players, and the second time he has had words to say. He is looking forwards to the challenge.

Tim Ellwood

Mrs. Lovett



Kirsty has enjoyed appearing in a number of shows for The Worthy Players, in a great variety of roles. Outside of theatre, she also enjoys crafts, cinema, and baking. Though she says if she were you, she'd steer clear of her pies, as you never know what might be in them!

Kirsty Turner

Tobias Ragg



Although this is only Maisie's second production with the Players, she is delighted to be playing Tobias, Todd's young assistant, in a 'breeches' role. She feels she has settled in well and is eagerly looking forward to future productions with the group.

Maisie Flight

Mrs. Ragg and Hector the dog



Eileen has played a Suffragette, and the Empress of China, and now for her third appearance with the group she has the role of young Tobias' mother, and of Hector the dog! Plenty of tea (and dog-biscuits) will be on hand. It makes a change she supposes.

Eileen Bellamy

Thornhill and Man



Each production should present its cast and audience with something new, and *Todd the Barber* is no exception, giving the actors an opportunity to show their more serious side, but not without a few, darkly comic moments. Playing two characters is an exciting challenge, which Douglas hopes he will meet; it is his most emotionally complex role with the Worthy Players to date and he is very much enjoying it!

Douglas Mackie

Johanna Oakley



Fiona has acted in a wide variety of roles for the Worthy Players - everything from an innocent child to a robber with a psychotic edge - and, while the part of Johanna has its challenges, she is happy to finally be cast into a play where her backstage, 'razor'-sharp wit is fully appreciated!

Fiona McLoughlin

Captain, Blunt and Mundell



Nick has been a Worthy Player for over 20 years and has enjoyed playing all sorts of roles over that time, but never a money-lender or a magistrate. His favourite role was the hapless Inspector Pratt in *Murdered to Death*. This time it's a rare excursion into serious drama.

Nick Kearns

Jeffrey and Mr. Wrankley



Having played panto villains for the last two productions that he has been involved in, Peter is glad to be able to play the nice guy for a change. It is also good to get the opportunity to do something different, and this play is certainly that!

Peter Wooldridge

Mrs. Oakley, Jeweller and Chorus



This is Janine's twentieth year with the Worthy Players. Over the years she has tackled numerous tasks both on and off stage. Now she's really looking forward to taking two roles in a more dramatic play.

Janine Blackmore

Cook and Chorus



Todd the Barber Anna's second production with the Worthy Players, following chorus in Aladdin last Christmas, and she has very much enjoyed it. Anna says it is nice to be part of such a supportive and inclusive group, and she hopes to stay a part of it for many years to come.

Anna Flight

Mrs. Wrankley and Watchman



This is Connie's sixth production with the Worthy Players. Since taking the role of the princess in the last pantomime, Aladdin, Connie is taking on a couple of smaller roles. She has enjoyed working with the cast and hopes you're all now sitting comfortably!

Connie Barnes

OUR PROGRAMME FOR 2015

It had been a tradition of the Worthy Players to try to stage three or even four shows throughout the year, which gave a great variety both for us to perform and for you to enjoy. For a multitude of reasons, not least the increasingly busy lives of our members, this was reduced some time ago, to a maximum of two shows per year. After several years when we have presented two shows a year, we have decided that we are ready once again to put on three shows. This will give our up and coming young talent more opportunities to get their acting teeth into. It will also give us the chance to entertain you with a greater range and variety of offerings.

Todd the Barber is the first, and rather quirky, piece for 2015, which occupies a slot normally given over to a gentle farce or a whodunit. Of course last year in the spring slot, we were very proud to present *The Militants*, a story of the Suffragette movement, produced by Shirley Lovell, giving our talented actors, costume makers and stage-designers a great challenge as well, which they undertook with considerable aplomb and great artistic and technical success.

AND FOR OUR NEXT PRODUCTION.....

***Murder by the Book*, by Duncan Greenwood and Robert King. Directed by Clare Walker and Peter Wooldridge**

When vitriolic thriller writer Selwyn Piper crosses swords with his venomous ex-wife Imogen, his secretary finds herself caught in the crossfire, and the young man next door has to come to her rescue. The Worthy Players are delighted to introduce this clever and witty thriller, where crisp dialogue exchanges and clever plot twists will keep audiences laughing and guessing right up to the final curtain. Black comedy at its best.

Performance Dates 16th/17th and 22nd/23rd August.

Welcome and thanks to all our patrons

Thank you to all of you, our patrons, for coming to see our play. Without you, we would have nothing. There would be no play. We would also like to thank a number of other organizations who have contributed to our success in putting on this performance.

Wessex Windows for providing overflow car parking; The Worthys Community Website and to The Parish Magazine for help with publicity; ADH Printing, Kings Worthy for printing our programme; The Jubilee Hall Committee and Secretary for their help in accommodating our needs; The School of Performing Arts for their help in moving Friday night classes.

It only remains for us to thank all those members of The Worthy Players who have helped to make this show possible; Shirley Lovell and Alison Woolford, for their imaginative costuming; Richard Aldous for the amazing lighting and sound, and of course the cast for being patient with constant changes in rehearsal and for telling the director where he had got it all wrong! The set-builders and painters, front-of house, stage-management, ticketing and all those other busy bees who have done their bit to pull this presentation together are deserving of praise. If you enjoy our rendition of *Todd the Barber* then they, as well as our talented cast, are the ones who deserve your applause.

The Worthy Players are always looking for new people to join the group. Apart from the acting, there is always opportunity for anyone looking to do some scenery painting and building, costume making, directing, technical, publicity or front of house. We also have a number of social activities during the year ranging from the annual dinner and (spoon) awards, quiz nights, trips to other theatres and groups, picnics, bowling evenings and get-togethers, usually down the pub!

So if you fancy joining us, whether you are young or not so young, talk to any of our Front of House staff or visit our website or Facebook page. www.theworthyplayers.co.uk or www.facebook.com/theworthyplayers



Here's some we baked earlier!!

1973	Dick Whittington.	1987	The Chalk Garden.		Music Hall.
1974	Double Bill. Mother Goose.		Music Hall. Do Not Disturb.	2000	Cinderella and the Football Boots.
1975	Swithen. Puss In Boots.		Babes In The Magic Wood.	2001	Outside Edge. Black Comedy/Red Letter Day.
1976	2 One Act Plays. Bonaventure. St George And The Dragon. A Worthy Tale.	1988	Something To Hide. There Goes The Bride. Pinocchio.	2002	Dick Whittington. Play On. Visiting Hour. Aladdin.
1977	2 One Act Plays. Murder At Key Cottage. Jack And The Beanstalk. Antigone.	1989	Blithe Spirit. Music Hall. 3 One Act Plays Jack and The Beanstalk.	2003	Bedroom Farce. Lettice & Lovage. Robin Hood.
1978	FlatSpin. 20's Revue. Deadly Record. Sleeping Beauty.	1990	The Other Fellow's Oats. Music Hall. Pardon Me Prime Minister. Sinbad The Sailor.	2004	it's Those Worthies Again (ITWA). Laying The Ghost. Beauty And The Beast.
1979	Ladies In Retirement. Sailor Beware. 3 One Act Plays. Pantomania.	1991	Confusions. Music Hall. Breeze Block Park. Robinson Crusoe.	2005	Party Piece. Stage School(y). Present Laughter. A Christmas Carol.
1980	When We Are Married. Music Hall. Suddenly At Home. Hickory Dickory Dock.	1992	84 Charing Cross Road. Music Hall. The Secretary Bird.	2006	The Darling Buds Of May. A Murder is Announced (y). Snow White. Confusions.
1981	Nothing Legal/Black Comedy. Music Hall. The Edge of Darkness. Mother Goose's Golden Christmas.	1993	When we are Married Farndale Ave-Murder Mystery. Music Hall.	2007	Youth III (y). Kindly Keep It Covered. King Arthur & The Nuts. The Importance of Being Ernest.
1982	Rose. Music Hall. Don't Just Lie There SaySomething. Dangerous Corner.	1994	A Month Of Sundays. Farndale Ave-S.S. We Found Love. Music Hall.	2008	A Bolt From The Blue. Jack and the Beanstalk. Holiday Snap. Robinson Crusoe.
1983	Revue, We'll Meet Again. Move Over Mrs Markham. Aladdin.	1995	One for the Road. Living Together. Music Hall.	2009	'Allo 'Allo. Once Upon A Time. Suddenly At Home. Music Hall.
1984	Rock-A-Bye Sailor. Music Hall. Not Now Darling. A Right Christmas Caper.	1996	Murder In Company. Local Affairs. Panto Trek.	2010	How The Other Half Loves. The Snow Queen. Murdered To Death. Old Mother Hubbard.
1985	End Of The Honeymoon Music Hall. Key For Two. Cinderella.	1997	Gaslight. Mixed Doubles. Relatively Speaking. Music Hall.	2011	The Militants. Aladdin.
1986	Table Manners. A Tomb With A View Music Hall. Dick Whittington.	1998	Farndale Ave- Haunting Breath Of Spring. Music Hall	2012	Todd the Barber
		1999	Business of Murder. Educating Rita. The Last Of The Red Hot Lovers.		