



SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB PRESENTS

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 221585



HINDLE WAKES



HINDLE WAKES

by

**STANLEY
HOUGHTON**

~

Directed by
**ROBIN
HIRSCH**

~

19th - 27th
SEPTEMBER

EACH EVENING AT 7.45

NEXT
SDC PRODUCTION

EMLYN WILLIAMS 'CUCKOO'
17TH -25TH OCTOBER

THE LITTLE THEATRE

Houghton Street, Southport
Telephone 01704 530521/530460

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TREE TOPS

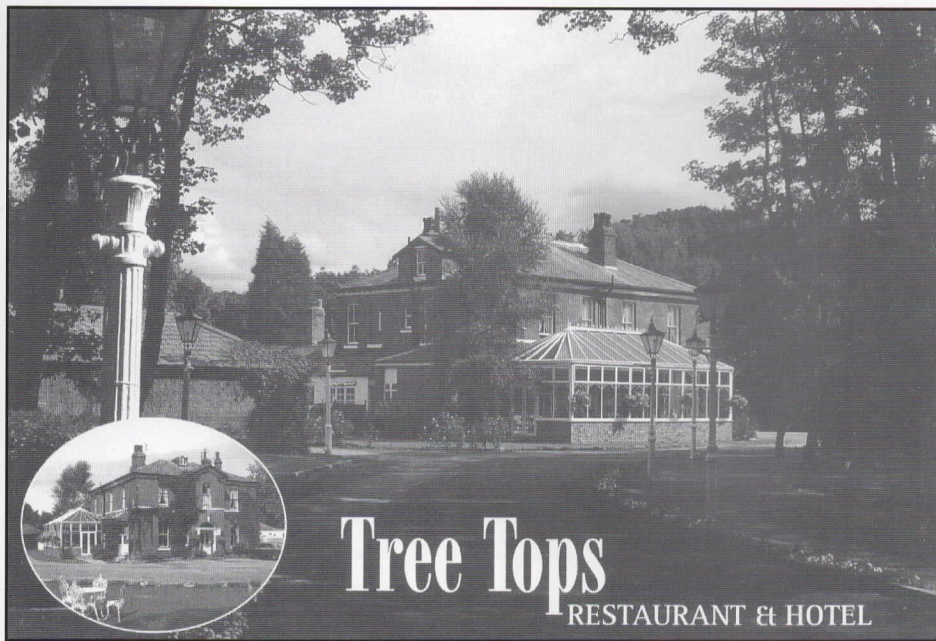
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Tree Tops
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From the Chairman

Dear Patron,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to our Diamond Jubilee Season at the Little Theatre.

The Southport Dramatic Club is very proud of its own Little Theatre which opened in September 1937. We are looking forward to the next 60 years.

As usual, we offer you a selection of plays including classic comedy, thrillers and pantomime.

Our opening play is a story of Lancashire folk set in the early 1900's. Please sit back and enjoy yourselves, tonight and throughout the season.

I thank you for your continuing support on which the S.D.C. is so dependent.

Yours Sincerely

Alan Newport

Merseyside's leading firm of independent chartered accountants is delighted to be able to support the Southport Dramatic Club's latest production.

With a history in Merseyside dating back for 110 years, DSG's Southport office is going from strength to strength. Our success is based on partnership - by seeing our clients as individuals, we can help them find the best way to develop their business.

Why not call in and see us for an informal chat? We are always happy to meet new people.

Enjoy tonight's performance.



*Richard Fraser (Manager),
J Paul White (Manager) and
Ian Douglas (Partner).*

DSG

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From the Director

Hindle Wakes' written in 1912 by Stanley Houghton, himself a Manchester man, has proved in rehearsal, to be a play to evoke memories ... two members of the cast particularly, have expressed vivid and happy remembrances stretching from childhood of their family connections with the then thriving cotton industry of Lancashire.

These memories have been invaluable in helping set the scene of the play we present to you tonight.

Contrary to the modern conception that "mill life" was nothing but drudgery and discontent - their memories of grandparents and parents are of an ordered existence, pride in achievement and great capacity for enjoyment in their leisure times - not least of which was "Wakes Week"... the time set aside for an entire mill or town to close down and take its annual holiday, creating a general exodus to local seaside resorts like Blackpool, Southport and Llandudno. It is around one of these "Wakes" that our story about conflict between the older and younger generation is set.

We are privileged to be included amongst the many S.D.C. members who will perform for you in the Diamond Jubilee Season of Plays celebrating sixty years at the Little Theatre and we wish you an enjoyable and memorable evening's entertainment.

Robin Hirsch

Director

HINDLE WAKES



by

STANLEY HOUGHTON

~

Directed by ROBIN HIRSCH

Cast in order of appearance:

CHRISTOPHER HAWTHORN.....	Les Gomersall
MRS. HAWTHORN.....	Betty Mook
FANNY HAWTHORN	Marilyn Fletcher-Hill
NATHANIEL JEFFCOTE.....	John Sharp
Mrs. JEFFCOTE	Fran Turner
ALAN JEFFCOTE	John Baldwin
SIR TIMOTHY FARRAR.....	Ray Mann
BEATRICE FARRAR	Pippa Dunnett
ADA.....	Debra Taylor

The action takes place:-

- Act I*
- Scene 1* The kitchen of Christopher Hawthorn's home - 137, Burnley Road, Hindle. 7.00p.m. on August Bank Holiday, Monday - 1912.
 - Scene 2* Nathaniel Jeffcote's House and Garden, Bank Top, Hindle Vale - 8.30 p.m. the same evening.
 - Scene 3* The same, three hours later - 1.00 a.m.

INTERVAL OF APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES

- Act II*
- Scene 1* Jeffcote's House and Garden, 6.00 p.m. the same Day.
 - Scene 2* The same, a few minutes later.

An induction loop is installed in this theatre for the benefit of

STAGING

STAGE MANAGER	Lindsay Haywood
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER (Book)	Margaret Jepson
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER (Cast)	Sandy Threlfall
PROPERTIES	Trudi Hirsch, Cherry Tenneson Kate Beswick
WARDROBE	Pam Dunnett
LIGHTING	Colin Wood
SOUND	David Tynan
SET DESIGNED	Robin Hirsch
SET PAINTED BY	Lindsay Haywood, Bill Davies & Ben Jones
PHOTOGRAPHY	Graham Sherriff

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Director wishes to thank

Walkleys Clog Mill, Hebden Bridge; Mr. Stan Marshall, Sefton Council
Greenhouse Services; North West Film Archives
for their assistance

For reasons of public safety we regret that the theatre cannot accept wheelchairs or their occupants. The Management reserves the right to refuse admission to this auditorium, after curtain up, until a suitable opportunity occurs. First aid facilities are provided at this theatre by St. John Ambulance Brigade, whose members give their services voluntarily.

SMOKING IS PROHIBITED IN THE AUDITORIUM.

The public may leave at the end of the performance by all exits and all exit doors will be at that time open. If the public leave in an orderly manner
THIS THEATRE CAN BE EMPTIED IN THREE MINUTES OR LESS.

We welcome patrons into our licensed bar which is open before and after each performance.

THEATRE LICENSEE CHARLES R. MOOK

earing impaired patrons. Please turn your hearing aid to 'T'.

The Author in Context

Stanley Houghton was one of the first English dramatists to live in, and write for, the provinces. Annie Horniman, founder of the famed Abbey Theatre in Dublin, had come to Manchester to open the Gaiety Theatre in 1908. The Gaiety is generally accepted to have been the first repertory theatre in Britain. In its first two years Annie Horniman produced no less than 45 plays, drawing around her a group of Northern playwrights who became known as the 'Manchester School'. Among them were Harold Brighouse, who is still known today for his *Hobson's Choice*, and Allan Monkhouse, whose greatest success was *The Conquering Hero*, an antiwar drama. Stanley Houghton is thought by many to be the most representative of this group of writers.

Born the son of a Manchester textile merchant, on February 22nd 1881, at Ashton-upon-Mersey, William Stanley Houghton went to Manchester Grammar School before working in his father's warehouse in Meal Street, Manchester. In his spare time he involved himself in amateur theatre and in writing. He first wrote articles and reviews for the *Manchester Evening News* and later for the *Manchester Guardian*. Then in 1908 his first play, *Dear Departed*, was performed in Annie Horniman's Gaiety Theatre.

He wrote two other plays for the Gaiety (*Independent Means* in 1909 and *The Younger Generation* in 1910) before *Hindle Wakes* went to the Aldwych Theatre in London in 1912.

The success of the play encouraged him to give up working for his father and to move to London as a writer. But he found London did not suit him and was not an easy place for him to write. Before long he moved to Paris where he began a novel, *Life*. But soon he moved on to Venice. There he became ill and, returning to Manchester, after only a brief period of 'freedom', died in December 1913, aged 32. Two further plays, *The Perfect Cure* and *Trust the People*, appeared in his last year.

Influenced by Gorky and Ibsen, Houghton and others in the Manchester School of writers described the life away from London which they knew well. Their themes were immediate and contemporary. They had a concern with class structure which was unusual in their day. Their particular interest in the conflict between older and younger generations was made all the sharper in their time by the clash between 'Victorian' and 'Twentieth Century' values. Thus the older generation's preoccupation with appearances and respectability is challenged not only by the younger generation in general, but by younger women in particular.

Sixty Years at the Little

Part one of a series of articles celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of our Theatre

Over the past sixty years thousands of patrons, young and not so young have passed a bronze plaque headed "Founder Members" on their way in and out of our precious theatre. Very few, perhaps, stopped to read this testimony to the vision and dedication of the people who made "The Little" possible.

Inaugurated by the Southport Dramatic Club and built for the members by the Liverpool Victoria Friendly Society the theatre was originally rented by the Friendly Society to the Dramatic Club on a 21 year lease. It was however, necessary to raise capital for seating, stage equipment and to provide a guarantee deposit under the lease. This amount was estimated at £6,000, a huge amount in 1936.

Founder members contributed at least £50 each towards this total and received life membership and a plaque on one of the splendid new seats. Fund raising followed time-honoured traditions and included a Garden Party at Meols Hall with two thousand people attending! The celebrations for the theatre's opening included invitations to the opening night to all those who had contributed not less than £2 to the theatre fund whilst those contributing not less than £1 were invited on the second night! The opening production was "Dear Brutus" by J. M. Barrie - more about this in a later programme.

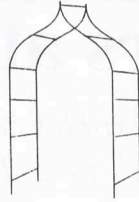
Local Newspapers of the time make fascinating reading with their fulsome descriptions of the official opening on September 30th 1937. This description of the auditorium comes from the Southport Visiter of 25th September 1937.

"The auditorium has a raked floor, segmental seating, a wide proscenium opening and the sight lines have been so devised that an uninterrupted view is obtained for every patron without any discomfort of cranium angles".

The architect had in mind, that it was imperative that every seat should be of value both as to vision and financial return, also that the stage should be placed at such a level that patrons and artistes would obtain the added advantage of intimacy, thereby the artistry of the actors and actresses would be seen and they would of necessity give of their best. We hope that you, our present patrons are still enjoying our lovely theatre and are grateful for your continuing support.

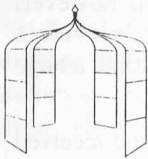
Pat Ball

Barrowby Ironwork

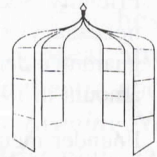


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The Little Theatre

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WHAT'S ON AT THE LITTLE THEATRE

1st - 4th October 1997

"42nd STREET"

Directed by Jack Donnelly
AN ORMSKIRK PLEASURE FOLK PRODUCTION

17th - 25th October 1997

"CUCKOO"

by Emlyn Williams
Directed by Alistair Hewitt



29th October - 1st November 1997
A MAGHULL AMATEUR OPERATIC SOCIETY
PRODUCTION *presents*

"KISS ME KATE"

Directed by Neil Townsend

28th November - 6th December 1997

"TAKE AWAY THE LADY"

by Jimmie Chinn
Directed by Fran Gregson



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22/23/27/29/30 Dec. 1997
2/3/5/6/7/8/9/10 Jan. 1998
Matinees:

27/28 Dec. - 1/4/11 Jan.

"BABES IN THE WOOD"

Directed by Hilary Thomson



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