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Amy's View

by Sir David Hare
directed by John Sharp

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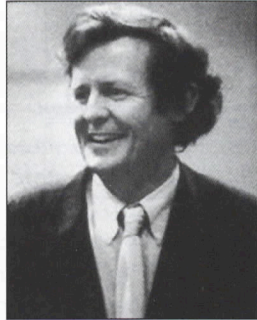


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Sir David Hare

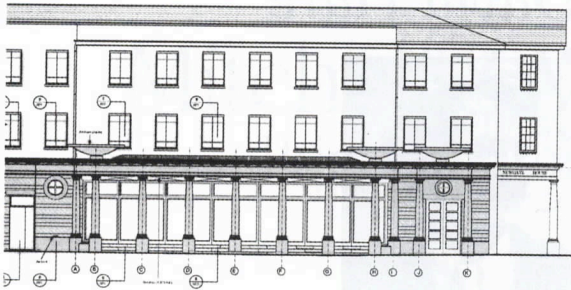


'My purpose on writing Amy's View was to do something blindingly simple and yet still distressingly rare: to put women's lives on the stage in a way which I hope women might recognise.'

David Hare was born in Sussex in 1947 and educated at Jesus College, Cambridge. In 1968 he formed an experimental touring group and was soon actively engaged in writing and directing plays. Amongst his early works were 'Slag' and 'Knuckle'. He became more widely known in the 1980s, particularly as his plays often dealt controversially with current political and social issues. Much of his work was seen as a critique of contemporary life. In this period he also directed plays in several West End theatres. Many of his plays were performed at the National Theatre in London and on Broadway, including 'Plenty', 'Skylight' and 'The Judas Kiss'. He also wrote plays for television and the cinema. 'Wetherby' (1995) was both written and directed by him. 'Amy's View' was first performed in 1997 and it was regarded as a perfect vehicle for the talents of Judi Dench, who played the leading part. Now available for amateurs, it has been a popular choice amongst Little Theatre groups across the country. Amongst his most recent work is the adaptation of 'The Hours' for the cinema. David Hare was knighted in 1998.

'Doggedly I remain starstruck by the transforming power of art. I am more passionately convinced than ever of its potential importance in giving shape and purpose to our lives.'

John Sharp
Director



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David Hare

Routinely referred to as one of Britain's leading playwrights (along with Harold Pinter and Tom Stoppard), David Hare had four new plays on Broadway in a 12-month period. At last count, Hare has written 22 plays, many of which he directed, including 'Plenty', 'Racing Demon', 'Skylight', 'The Blue Room' and 'The Judas Kiss'. He's also written seven feature films (including the adaptation of 'Damage' directed by Louis Malle), as well as various other projects.

Hare's plays are bitingly funny and politically engaged. Among the performers who've appeared in his works are Nicole Kidman, Liam Neeson, Anthony Hopkins, Vanessa Redgrave, Michael Gambon, Meryl Streep and Judi Dench.

In 1998, Hare became an actor himself, something he hadn't attempted since he was 15. The vehicle for his 'return' to the stage was 'Via Dolorosa', a one-man play about the present state of the State of Israel, written after a trip to the Middle East to research a play about the British Mandate.

His writing career began accidentally '...with a typewriter on my knees, while travelling in a van with an itinerant theatre group Tony Bicât and I had founded, called Portable Theatre', when a playwright failed to deliver a play for a performance four days hence. In an interview with his Faber & Faber editors, published as a foreword to the first volume of his collected plays, Hare recalls, 'The piece was as silly as you'd expect of something concocted in four days by someone who'd never really thought about writing a play before. It was a primitive satire on the unlikelihood of revolution in Britain'. What was clear even then, however, was that David Hare could write dialogue, which is 'as essential a skill for a playwright as rendering hands and feet is for a painter', he says.

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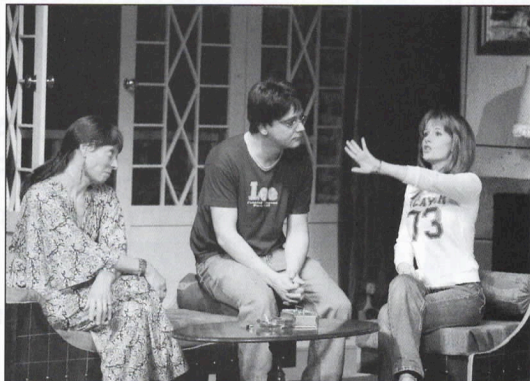
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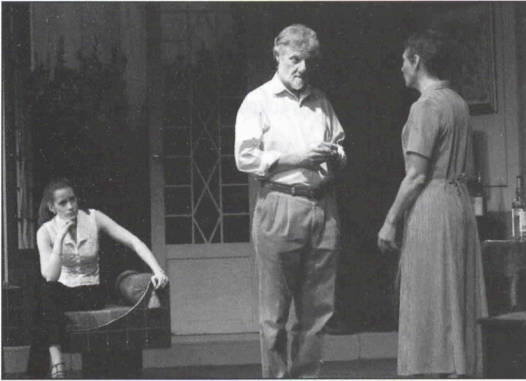
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Amy's View



Amy's View

by Sir David Hare

Directed by John Sharp

Designed by David Charters

Cast

Dominic TygheSCOTT ROWAN

Amy ThomasLIANNE NAUGHTON

Evelyn ThomasSHEILA FURLONG

Esme AllenVALERIE PEDLAR

Frank OddieJIM LONGWORTH

Toby ColeGRAHAM DAVIES

The first three acts are set in the living room of the house of an actress, Esme Allen, in rural Berkshire. The fourth takes place backstage in a small West End theatre.

The play is performed in four acts. There will be pauses between Acts One and Two and then Acts Three and Four, but no curtain. The interval of 20 minutes occurs between Acts Two and Three.

Act One 1979

Act Two 1985

Interval

Act Three 1993

Act Four 1995

Staging

Stage Manager.....	CHRIS APPLETON
Deputy Stage Manager	ANDREW CONNARD
Assistant Stage Manager (Book).....	JEAN WATKINSON
Properties.....	HELENE PORTER
Stage Crew.....	LINDSAY HAYWOOD ALEC ROBSON
Lighting.....	SYD COLEY
Sound.....	BRIAN HODGE BERNIE HOWAT
Wardrobe.....	CAST AND SDC TEAM
Set Constructed by.....	SDC PRODUCTION TEAM
Scenic Artist.....	BOB JESSAMINE
Photography by.....	NEIL HICKSON

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Director would like to thank:

David Ballinger and James Hughes-Alty for building additional furniture
Lady Green Nurseries for plants,
Nicky's Designer Collections for some costumes.

The management reserves the right to refuse admission to the 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.

Why not beat the rush and pre-order your interval drinks in the bar?

An induction loop is installed in this theatre for the benefit of hearing impaired patrons.
Please turn your hearing aid to 'T'.

Please ensure that all mobile telephones are switched off

At the end of tonight's performance you may leave by any of the exits, all of which will be open.
In an emergency, this theatre can be emptied in three minutes or less if everyone leaves in an orderly manner.

Smoking is prohibited in the auditorium.

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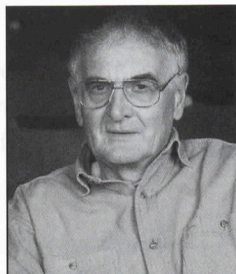
(No children under 14
allowed in the bar)

Amy's View

Cast

John Sharp (*Director*)

In 1979 John played Hamlet at an age when he should have known better. In 1985 he was headteaching in Lincolnshire. In 1993 he conducted his first OFSTED inspection and was King of the Fairies at the Arts Centre. In 1995 he directed Moliere for the SDC, winning the headline 'Toilet humour a hit'.



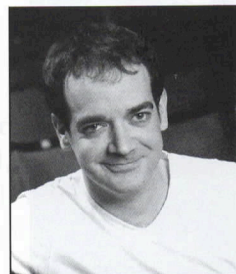
Lianne Naughton (*Amy Thomas*)

At the age of two in 1979 Lianne was given a cuddly lion called Leo. In 1985 she achieved what all actresses aspire to: the role of the Virgin Mary in the school Nativity play. She appeared in the SDC production of 'Sleeping Beauty' in 1993. By 1995 she had started University life and was 'resting'.



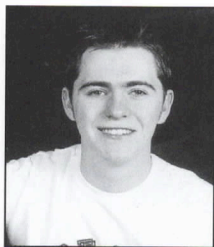
Scott Rowan (*Dominic Tyghe*)

In 1979 Scott started junior school. Dissatisfied with this, he decided to move on in 1985 to secondary school. He appeared in his first play 'Dracula' in 1993, but if you blinked you missed him. In 1995 Scott was Richard the Lionheart, a cub to his current director's lion.



Amy's View

Cast



Graham Davies (*Toby Cole*)

In 1979 Graham was slapped by a midwife. By 1985 he was being taught by fellow SDC member, Gay Stowell, at primary school. In 1993 he made his first appearance as Knuckles in 'Bugsy Malone' for S.O.N.G. In 1995 the SDC allowed generosity to overcome its better judgement and accepted Graham as a member.



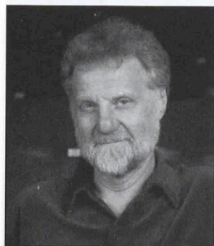
Valerie Pedlar (*Esme Allen*)

In 1979 Val was a member of the Play Selection committee. She read a lot of plays, saw a lot of plays, and, incidentally, tried to learn to sing. In 1985 she appeared with a drama group at Liverpool University in Jacobean drama and Brecht. By 1993 she had finished her degree and started living again. She sang in Russia. In 1995 she tried to learn Russian, but settled for office work and the pleasures of earning a salary.



Sheila Furlong (*Everlyn Thomas*)

Being old, Sheila has forgotten what she was doing in 1979 and 1985, but she was dancing in 'Last Tango in Whitby' in 1993. In 1995 she was Gran, giving as good as she got, in 'Clerical Errors'. She continues to play grandmothers, but you won't see her dance.



Jim Longworth (*Frank Oddie*)

In 1979 Jim was working hard but not doing anything interesting, but in 1985 he made his first stage appearance in the demanding role of Fourth Brigand in 'The Maid of the Mountains'. By 1993 he had graduated to Second Leper in 'Jesus Christ Superstar'. In 1995 he played the major role of Baron Zeta in 'The Merry Widow'.

THE SEVEN AGES OF THE THEATRE

Theatre – from ‘theatron’, a Greek word meaning a place of seeing.

FIRST AGE The Greek theatre was a place where the ordinary people sat in the open air and reacted, often noisily, to the masterpieces of Sophocles, Euripides, Aristophanes.

SECOND AGE The characteristic medieval plays were mysteries, in which the Bible stories were played out, often with language and characters that were very recognisable to the audience.

THIRD AGE The Shakespearean age, the great age for English speakers. In a play like ‘King Lear’ the tragedy of the human condition is explored and rendered poetic.

FOURTH AGE The theatre of the Restoration and 18th century concentrated on comedies of manners.

FIFTH AGE The late 19th century contained serious masterpieces such as the works of Chekhov and Ibsen as well as the irreverent comedies of Oscar Wilde.

SIXTH AGE The age of the ‘well-made play’, typically by Coward or Rattigan.

SEVENTH AGE In the latter part of the 20th century the theatre became increasingly experimental, with plays rooted in social realism, political message or simple absurdity. Beckett’s ‘Waiting for Godot’ is perhaps an emblem of the times.

Amy's View



HOW WELL DO YOU REMEMBER?

1979

Billie Jean King won her 20th Wimbledon title in the Ladies Doubles. 'Kramer v. Kramer' won an Oscar. Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Mrs Thatcher became the first woman Prime Minister. Anthony Blunt was named as the 'fourth man' and 'Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy' was a television hit, with Alec Guinness in the role of George Smiley. The first million pound football transfer took place – Trevor Francis to Nottingham Forest. There were obituaries for Gracie Fields and John Wayne. Gloria Gaynor sang 'I Will Survive'.

1985

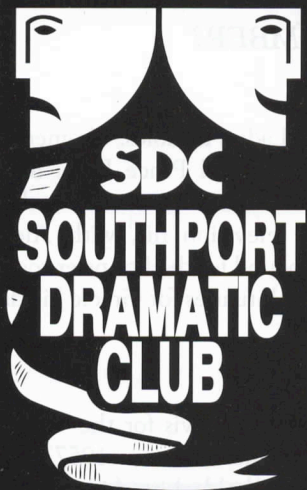
Millions stayed up late to watch Denis Taylor beat Steve Davis for the World Snooker title. Tony Jacklin's team won the Ryder Cup, our first win since 1957, and Boris Becker won at Wimbledon, at the age of 17. Bob Geldof held a Live Aid concert for African famine relief. The miners' strike ended. Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in the Soviet Union. There were obituaries for Rock Hudson and Orson Welles. Jennifer Rush sang 'The Power of Love'.

1993

The Grand National was the race that 'never was'. Manchester United were English Football League Champions for the first time since 1967. 'Schindler's List' won an Oscar. There were terrorist bombs in Warrington and at the World Trade Centre. Work began on the construction of the new Globe Theatre in London. President Clinton was inaugurated. President de Klerk and Nelson Mandela ratified a new constitution for South Africa and jointly won the Nobel Peace Prize. There was an obituary for Rudolf Nureyev. Whitney Houston sang 'I Will Always Love You'.

1995

Lester Piggott retired and Rugby Union became professional. Eric Cantona delivered his famous Kung-fu kick at Selhurst Park. 'Braveheart' won an Oscar. O. J. Simpson was found not guilty, but Devine Brown was guilty. 'Superman' had a riding accident and became a tetraplegic. There was a television interview with Princess Diana. Nick Leeson, the financial trader, was arrested in Frankfurt and later sentenced to prison in Singapore. There was a rendezvous in space between US space shuttle 'Discovery' and the Russian Mir space station. There were obituaries for Harold Wilson and Peter Cook. Celine Dion sang 'Think Twice'.



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An SDC Production

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by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein

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SOUTHPORT DRAMATIC CLUB



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by Noel Coward

directed by Margaret Mann

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