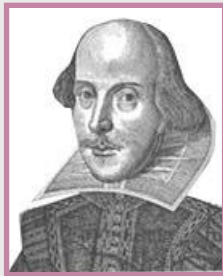




D I A R Y

TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA

**Monday 18 -
Saturday 23 March**

**THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR**

**Stratford RSC Theatre
Coach trip -
Thursday 22 August**

TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA

by William Shakespeare

18 - 23 March

The Two Gentlemen of Verona is maybe one of Shakespeare's lesser-known plays, but it is a delightful comedy, with a heady mix of confused young lovers (two pairs), angry fathers, fed-up servants and bloodthirsty outlaws. And a dog.

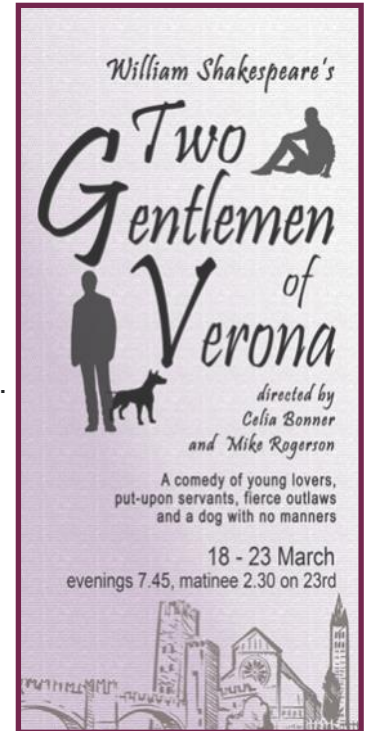
Does this sound familiar? It is probably the Bard's first comedy, his first use of 'girl dressing up as boy', and naturally runaway lovers and meetings in a forest. For his first attempt at themes and word play which enrich many of his later works, it's definitely five star.

One commentator has written:-

To begin, can we imagine a scenario where Will, script in hand, sidles up to, let's say, the star comic Will Kemp and mumbles, 'I've written this play. It's called One Man and his Dog. There's something in it for you!'

There is definitely something in it for our talented cast, which includes: Steve Berrington, Simon Caporn, Belinda Coghlan, Emma Crosbie, Fred Donnan, Jane Hyde, John Jones, Jamie King, Paul Lewis, David Reynolds, Jess Trimble, Mathew Smith and Steve Williamson. The directors are Celia Bonner and Mike Rogerson.

And to add to the fun, we've updated things by a fair few centuries and added a few songs, a live band and laid in a stock of Pedigree Chum for Crab the dog.



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BOX OFFICE

Booking for **Two Gentlemen of Verona** is available online, at any time, via The Green Room website, or direct through Ticketsource.

The Saturday morning Box Office will open for personal callers between 11 am and 12 noon from **24 February**.

You can also send in postal bookings to The Green Room – 85 Chapel Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5JH, with an SAE if you need tickets posting to you, and cheques made out to 'Wilmslow Green Room Society'.

The answerphone will open on Monday 19 February (01625 540 933).

Please note, there will be both a **matinee** and an **evening** performance of **Two Gentlemen of Verona** on Saturday 23 March.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Hi all

Well, what an evening of murder, intrigue and suave costumes we were treated to in our latest production, **Murder in the Studio!**

The whole idea was to involve as many people as possible, and that was certainly achieved. It's great to see so many different faces, including people returning to the stage after a significant gap, brand-new actors, and regular performers, all supported by a fantastic backstage team.

Massive congratulations to John Chidgey and Helen Bingle for guiding everyone through. A *magnifique* use of the little grey cells!

I believe I am correct in saying there were about 40 people involved in both of the acting teams and the backstage crew. If you add on bar, front of house, tickets, coffee etc, that's an amazing achievement by a good proportion of our membership.

And it is worth recording that over 90% of the tickets were sold, which is a great endorsement from all of you and from the wider public.

It seems a long while ago now, but the Brass Band Concert back in December brought in around 80 people keen to test their eardrums and join in the singing. The evening was ably managed by a team of volunteers; sincere thanks to all of them.

As the first event celebrating our Centenary Season, you will already know that a trip to Stratford has been organised, and we have a great day lined up for the 44 people who have confirmed their wish to attend. We have a good old 'charabanc' leaving from the Green Room and arriving in Stratford for **The Merry Wives of Windsor** on Thursday 22 August. We will then dine at the Rooftop Restaurant at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, before setting off for home. Fingers crossed for good weather and no traffic jams!! If you're interested in adding your name to the list, please let me know. I can't make any promises, however, that I can get extra places, but as always I will try.

Watch this space for more Centenary celebrations!

Tickets for our next production, **Two Gentlemen of Verona**, are on sale now, so be sure to book early as it promises to be a fabulous production.

See you soon at the Green Room
Paul

MURDER IN THE STUDIO Three radio plays by Agatha Christie



Team Agatha



The NODA reviewer wrote: 'The Green Room transported us back in time to the golden age of radio and a genteel and refined evening of entertainment awaited. Clad in sumptuous evening gowns and dinner suits, the cast entered and as some recited the crime stories into standing mics, some of the remainder became Foley [sound] artists, on stage'. And noted that 'in fact, we were only seeing half of the ensemble involved'.



Team Christie



The Adjudicator from GMDF commented that the production was fun, 'even noble', and a good opportunity to involve less experienced actors. He remarked on the good costumes and some successful characterisations by the team of actors. But, in general he felt that the three short plays 'show their age' and the nature of the production makes it rather too static, too 'ordinary to be wholly satisfying'.

NOMINATIONS

NODA North West

The Green Room was delighted to receive the following impressive list of nominations for shows during 2023:

BEST DRAMA

- **Hindle Wakes**
- **The River**
- **These Shining Lives**

BEST DIRECTOR DRAMA

- Mike Rogerson - **The River**
- Celia Bonner - **These Shining Lives**

BEST ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE

The watch ladies - **These Shining Lives**

BEST STAGING

- **These Shining Lives**
- **The River**

BEST LEADING MALE CHARACTERS IN A DRAMA

- Simon Darlington - **The River**
- Jamie King - **Hindle Wakes**

BEST LEADING FEMALE CHARACTERS IN A DRAMA

- Mel Beswick - **The River**
- Nicola Detheridge - **The River**

BEST SUPPORTING MALE CHARACTER IN A DRAMA

- John Keen - **These Shining Lives**
- Keith Thompson - **Hindle Wakes**

BEST SUPPORTING FEMALE CHARACTER IN A DRAMA

- Jess Trimble - **Hindle Wakes**
- Jess Trimble - **These Shining Lives**
- Madeleine Healy - **These Shining Lives**
- Meg Brassington - **These Shining Lives**

BEST SUPPORTING FEMALE CHARACTER IN A MUSICAL

Natalie Clark - **Ordinary Days**
Eilidh Pollard - **Ordinary Days**

BEST COMEDY PERFORMANCE MALE CHARACTERS

- Charlie Cook - **The Hound of the Baskervilles**
- Jamie King - **Hindle Wakes**

BEST COMEDY PERFORMANCE FEMALE CHARACTERS

- Carys Jones - **The Hound of the Baskervilles**
- Lorna Kong - **The Hound of the Baskervilles**
- Niamh Phelan - **Hindle Wakes**
- Val Middleton-Egan - **Hindle Wakes**

CONGRATULATIONS - AWARDS

At the recent NODA Awards Night, on 20 January, at The Kimpton Clock Tower Hotel in Manchester, the following well-deserved awards were made:

Meg Brassington, for best supporting actress in **These Shining Lives**

Eilidh Pollard - nominated on the night for special award for music for **The River**

The River was awarded as Best Drama

Mike Rogerson - as best director of a drama for **The River**

ORDINARY DAYS

Both NODA and GMDF were able to attend to review **Ordinary Days** back in December. You may remember the energy of the production, with its sung-through lyrics and simple staging, and its talented cast of four actors along with on-stage musical accompaniment.

The GMDF adjudicator praised the Green Room for 'taking a risk and staging its first musical since 1932'. Also commented on were the 'high energy and pace from all four cast members to drive the relationships forward' and for sustaining their American accents consistently. Colin [Jason] 'effectively and ably helped to convey the moral heart of the piece; Eilidh as Deb acted and sang 'successfully and beautifully'; Natalie [Claire] gave a heartfelt performance showing good character development; and Toby as Warren was 'bright-eyed and eager' in his colourful role.



Cast: [l-r]

Colin Rice as Jason,
Eilidh Pollard as
Deb, Natalie Clarke
as Claire, and Toby
Harris as Warren.

Alex Pollard in
background,
on keyboard

The NODA reviewer commented that 'the director certainly understood [the need] to let the lyrics do their work; no need for gimmicks or over-complications. . . which is refreshing'. He was not altogether happy with what he felt was the 'static' staging, but felt all four actors created 'defined and clear characters', ably supported by the fifth person on stage, musician Alex Pollard. The production successfully captured 'the essence of the modern musical'.

Play and Stage - HOT NEWS

GREEN ROOM SEASON

2024 - 2025

PRESENT LAUGHTER - Noel Coward

12 - 19 October 2024

Coward's wonderful show-biz comedy in which successful and self-obsessed light comedy actor Garry Essendine fails to deal with his wife, his friends and his life in general.

including *GALA EVENING*

For this production there will be an extra performance, a Gala Evening, on **Saturday 12 October**, to celebrate 100 years since the first production of the Green Room Theatre. Watch out for more details.

THE MESSIAH - Patrick Barlow

2 - 7 December 2024

Just in time for Christmas a cast of thousands (played by two actors and an opera singer) present the greatest story ever told.

BOMBSHELLS - Joanna Murray-Smith

20 - 25 January 2025

Six short plays, funny and moving by turns, telling the stories of six women, from a teenager doing all she can to win a school talent contest to a widow with an appetite for the unexpected.

THE MURDER ROOM - Jack Sharkey

17 - 22 March 2025

This comedy murder mystery follows a scheming gold-digger who plans to rub out her wealthy husband, and seems to have succeeded all too easily, but has she?

THE TITFIELD THUNDERBOLT

Philip Goulding

12 - 17 May 2025

A stage version of the 1950s film, in which a group of villagers in rural England fight to save their local railway line when it is threatened with closure.

We plan to hold an evening to tell people more about these plays, so look out for news of that and of auditions.

Celia Bonner



URGENT -

**Green Room
Volunteer Rota
needs YOU**

Please can you all think about offering to help with the essential front-of-house services that accompany and enable each production in the theatre?

We need more people to help with the all-important Bar and Coffee Bar rotas, which are valued by our audiences, but require two pairs of two people to be present for each performance.

Even if you did not tick to express an interest in helping when you re-joined the Society, we need YOU. If enough people offer, then you might be called on only once or twice in a season. You will be contacted in good time before a show, to enable you to select a 'shift' that suits you.

Please let us know if you could consider this. Or if you would like to know more or have any questions.

Contact Bruce Williams - theatremanager@greenroomwilmslow.org.uk or Ian McBride - membershipsecretary@greenroomwilmslow.org.uk



Membership News

We are pleased to welcome new full members to the Society, and hope they will enjoy being involved: Emma Crosbie and Jean Rogers.

In addition, short-term membership is approved for the following, all of whom have been involved in recent productions:

Melanie Davy, Alison Gould, Dominic Keefe, Colin Rice and Graham Simmonds.

Any enquires about membership should be sent to membershipsecretary@greenroomwilmslow.org.uk

Ian McBride

Do you have any items for the newsletter, or comments to make about it?
If so, please send any feedback or articles for publication to: newsletter@greenroomwilmslow.org.uk, or post to the theatre, 85 Chapel Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5JH.

The newsletter is edited by Chris Hills for the Wilmslow Green Room - registered Charity Number **1153665**. The next edition will be published in April 2024