



01-05 December 2009 - 7:30pm

Network Theatre, 246A Lower Road - London, SE1 8SF

www.networktheatre.org

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Network
Theatre
Company

Message from the Chairman

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to Network Theatre Company's production of 'Happy Chuffing Christmas'.

Kirsty Eyre has written, and directs, this hilarious play for our end of year show, combining in it all the strengths and weaknesses of the Barnsley-based Warburton family. We welcome several new members to the cast, as well as backstage, along with our members from previous productions.

You will be aware that 2009 has been a very special year for Network Theatre Company. We celebrated our 70th birthday in style in October with a Platinum Gala Revue evening. It was a very happy and memorable occasion, and if you would like to have your own record of the event, please ask any member of the committee for details.

We are continually developing our programme to reflect our members' - and audiences' - interest, keeping the theatre running through membership, donations and fundraising, including our Arch 200 Club. I would like to acknowledge the generous support and encouragement of all our members and their friends and families over the years.

So, settle back and enjoy the show. Laugh as much as you like - it does us all good to let the laughter out. Please don't forget to visit the Green Room bar which will be open before and after the show, as well as during the interval.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Chuffing Christmas, and I look forward to seeing you at our 2010 productions.

Kay Murray

Chairman

September 2009

HCC: the making of

After taking CLASS to the Edinburgh Fringe festival for a three week run in 2007, I decided that putting on stage plays was going to bring on a heart attack and decided that writing films was the way forward.

You obviously have more control over the end product (multiple takes, chop out the bad bits, overlay special effects etc) and don't have to stand in the wings each performance night wanting to physically vomit.

And then, like child-birth, I gradually forgot the pain and found myself saying I'd write a Christmas show. I pinched the premise of the feature film I wrote (which I have yet to do anything with) and over the course of four months, Happy Chuffing Christmas was born. This is my eighth stage show- you'd think I'd learn by now!

It's two weeks before the run now and I look like I've been scraped off the motorway. See those bunk beds? They took 7 calls to backpacker hostels (nobody speaks English in London backpacker hostels so I nearly got booked into a top bunk for the performance week in Picadilly), 6 Gumtree queries, 5 internal ads, 4 e-bay bids, 3 funny looks as 2 of us drove my tiny car with all the planks through the sun roof to 1 little theatre in Waterloo.

That is half a percent of this week's Happy Chuffing Christmas effort on top of a full time job. Oh how *Writer, Director* looks so glamorous on paper.

Rehearsals have been fun, frustrating and frenzied in equal measures. On that note I would like to thank the cast and crew for all their hard work.

Let's hope performances will be fun, festive and fabulous!

Enjoy,

Kirsty Eyre

Writer, Director

Production credits

Director/Writer	Kirsty Eyre
Assistant Director	Emily Godowski
Stage Manager	David Harvey
Assistant Stage Managers	Eshani Weeresinghe, Claire Van Staeyens
Stage Designer	David Harvey
Sound Manager	Paul D'Orley
Lighting Designer	Dan Young
Lighting Operator	Bernie Byrnes
Costumes	Marita Ri
Front Of House Manager	Hannah Few

With special thanks to:

Adam Simcox for all the hard work on Act 2 scene 1, **Lisa & Hannah** for the pumpkin costume, **David & Alton Convent School** for the projector, **Shale Morgan** for BGT Music, **Caroline Howard** on the Italiano, **Paul Lunn** & our own crew and cast who helped set build, **Keith Wait** for his kitchen units, **Gaëlle Comte** on producing the programme and **Paul Mennea** for the illustration.

Company biographies



Great Grandma Iris - Kay Murray

Kay has been a member of Network Theatre Company for a very long time and, like Great Grandma Iris, can't remember how many productions she has been involved in over the years. She feels she is type-cast for this part, being somewhat demented but a great all-rounder, and she is looking forward to letting herself go this evening.



Grandma Calypso - Judith Denwood

This is Judith's third production with Network Theatre. Her previous plays include *The Three Musketeers*, in which she played multiple roles and had to get to grips with sword fighting, and *iff*, another piece of new writing. She's a genuine Northerner from the Lake District and is dead chuffed to be playing *Grandma Calypso*.



Athena Warburton - Lesley Winterflood

Lesley has been performing since the age of 5 when she played a Munchkin with a blue face in *The Wizard of Oz!* After a 20 year break she returned to the stage appearing in a number of plays, musicals and pantomimes over recent years. She is also a member of the Woodhouse Players in Leytonstone and has recently played *Sabrina* in *The Little Mermaid* and *The Editor* in *Machinery of Government*. This is her first outing on the Network stage, and has enjoyed every "Chuffin" minute of it, especially being cast opposite a fellow die hard Chelsea fan! Lesley is also thrilled to return to *Waterloo* following in the footsteps of 3 generations of "Winterfloods".



Aidan Warburton - Andy Bradshaw

This is Andy's third show working with Kirsty, after playing the title roles in *The Suburban Spaceman* and *Dick Lothario Goes Tits Up*. Andy directed a sell-out production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* earlier this year for Network and is enjoying returning to a straight acting role, although does intend to direct again for Network in 2011. Andy has been acting since he was 13 and has a long list of professional and non-professional credits to his name with roles as varied as *Friar Lawrence* in *Romeo & Juliet*, *Nathan Detroit* in *Guys & Dolls*, *John Lennon* in *Mr Lennon* and *Queen Anne* in *The Three Musketeers*. As a bit of useless trivia, the name Bradshaw is a Yorkshire name and means "broad field".



Nick Warburton - Roger Kennedy

Roger graduated from Kingston University in 2004. While there he performed in a number of productions as well as at the Edinburgh Festival. Roles included *Pozzo* in *Samuel Beckett's Waiting For Godot* and *Ernest* in *The Importance of Being Ernest* along with some other original works and ensemble pieces. After graduating Roger set up his theatre company *The Knapper Experience* where he wrote, directed and performed in a number of plays across the country. Over the last few years he has also written and performed stand-up comedy in and around London. He is constantly looking for new and exciting projects and is thrilled to be a part of *Happy Chuffing Christmas*.



Adele Warburton - Fleur De Henri

Fleur attended The Arts Educational Pupils School where the acting bug first hit her. Since starting there, Fleur has qualified as a Make-up artist and performed a number of roles over the years. Roles include Roxanne in *Is There Life After High School*, Dorothy in *Stepping Out*, Young Joanne in *Far Away*, Dorotea in *Dog in The Manger* and most recently Ilsa in *Improbable Fiction*. Fleur is thrilled that *Happy Chuffing Christmas* will be her debut performance with Network Theatre.



Ross Warburton - Charlie Edwards

Our Charlie is the youngest member of the HCC cast, currently studying his A Levels at Sutton Grammar School. He is relatively new to the business, having performed in school productions, such as *Sweet Charity*. He was most recently seen playing Judge Turpin in *Sweeney Todd* at the Adrian Mann Theatre in Ewell. When not on stage, Charlie (debatably) plays football, cricket, partakes in local politics, volunteers for a number of charities, perfects his wide range of terrible accents and enjoys a good pie. Steak and kidney preferably.



Auntie Electra - Jennie Rich

This is Jennie's 9th production with Network. She has been tarty as Moretta in *The Rover*, working class as Starveling in *Midsummer Night's Dream*, aggressive as the Third Tempter in *Murder in the Cathedral* and has sported false eyelashes in a Geoids production of *Sweet Charity*.

All of these elements will be combined for Jennie's role as Auntie Electra together with fake tan and some outstanding disco moves!



Darren - Adam Simcox

This will be Adam's second Network production. In his other life as a movie writer and director, he has just completed his second feature film, *Rock and Roll Stole my Soul*, which hits the film festival circuit in 2010. His first, *The Superhero*, was released in the US in 2008 and has to date been sold in 7 countries and picked up 2 best film nominations. When he grows up he would like to be a womanising chancer just like Darren.



Julie - Alison Rycroft

Alison began her acting training at HB studio in New York and went on to further study at the City Lit. She has performed at the Edinburgh fringe festival several times and has appeared with the improvisation group, *Just Add Lib*, on the London circuit. This is her second appearance at Network, having previously played Rosie in *Humble Boy*. Alison has also worked as a jazz singer.



Bernadette - Sophie Darley

This is Sophie's second appearance with the Network Theatre, having recently played Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. A departure from Shakespeare, Sophie is thoroughly enjoying bonding with Barnsley!

Sophie has played a variety of roles in plays that include *Agamemnon* (Clytemnestra), *Harlequinade* (Edna Selby), *The Crucible* (Abigail), *The Clink* (Queen Elizabeth I) and the student written *Three Whole Days* (Harmony) at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.



Letizia Ferrari - Irene Fumagalli

Irene is Italian and moved to London 18 months ago. She has studied theatre under Italian actor and director, Marino Zerbini where she was involved in three plays: *Visita Di Condoglianze* by Achille Campanile; *Il Teatro Comico* by Carlo Goldoni and *L'Hôtel du Libre Échange* by Georges Feydeau. She later studied contemporary theatre at the Teatro del Popolo in Gallarate. Since attending a Butoh workshop in France last October, she has become an avid Butoh fan. She first appeared at Network Theatre this summer as a fairy in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and continues to attend drama workshops whenever she can.



Sophia Ferrari - Silvia Calabrese

Silvia is from Italy but has lived in London for the last 2 years and also attended UCL for a year as part of her degree in 2006. Whilst in Bologna Silvia was involved in a production namely *Le citta' invisibili* by Italo Calvino. She also presented shows on local radio.

All this made her want to take her acting further though she didn't realise this would be as far as Barnsley! She is fluent in 5 languages which is useful as talking is one of her main hobbies!



Miss Cassini - Christina Houghton

Christina made her acting debut at Network earlier this year as the seriously sensible Lady Chiltern in *An Ideal Husband*. Miss Cassini, the dotty Italian teacher, demonstrates Christina's versatility and comedy talent. From a sheltered, Northern background Christina is gradually getting over the shock of the expletive-ridden script and chuffin' 80's costumes!



WPC Ri - Marita Ri

Marita Ri has been involved in one previous production with Network Theatre appearing as the Tailor both on stage and off in *The Three Musketeers*. She is thrilled to be part of this great play and congratulates everyone on all their hard work!

WIN YOURSELF A DRINK FROM THE BAR!

The cast & crew of **Happy Chuffing Christmas** invite you to guess the middle name of the Warburton's new baby. Just fill out the slip below and hand to the bar staff in the interval.

The most flamboyant, original name will be written into Act 2. If we pick your suggested name, you win a drink from the bar - redeemable after the show.

Your suggested Warburton Baby Name:.....

Your real name:

The Arch 200 Club

70 years ago, Southern Railways founded a theatre group at Waterloo. The spirit of amateur theatre has survived through changes of name and nationalisation and is now struggling with the costs that came with privatisation. Please help us to continue to entertain you by becoming a member of the Arch 200 Club.

The Club exists to help the continued existence of the Network Theatre as a building in the face of ever increasing overheads. Membership subscriptions fund projects that are for the general good of the theatre, not productions themselves. Membership costs a minimum of £5 a month. Every month three membership numbers are drawn and half that month's subscriptions paid out in prizes.

There is so much more that needs to be done. The staging needs replacing and some parts of the theatre that the audience do not see are in desperate need of refurbishment. If there is a large enough membership it might even be possible to shorten the wait for the gentlemen's toilet.

More details are available from Nigel Williams at arch200@networktheatre.org

Coming up



Fred & Madge by Joe Orton

This absurdist drama is a sharp social critique with sexual innuendo and elements of the fantastic - don't miss it!

Auditions: 09/10 Dec

Performances: 03 to 06 March

For more information about Network Theatre Company, upcoming readings, auditions and performances visit www.networktheatre.org

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