

Network Theatre presents

# ROAD

by Jim Cartwright

*Please note that the play contains very strong language and adult humour and is not suitable for anyone under the age of 16 or people likely to be offended by such content*

13 to 16 April 2011

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

[www.networktheatre.org](http://www.networktheatre.org)

Network  
Theatre  
Company



# Message from the Chairman

Good evening ladies and gentlemen and welcome to Network Theatre Company's production of *Road* by Jim Cartwright.

This award-winning play, effective in portraying the desperation of the lives of people in a deprived working class area of Lancashire during the Thatcher years, still retains its power and relevance today, whilst containing a great deal of humour.

We extend a very warm welcome to both new and old members of the cast and crew, under the direction of James McKendrick.

Later this year our auditorium seating area is being superseded by a more adaptable layout, making our theatre more practical and comfortable. This is a huge undertaking, and our thanks go to Paul Lunnon who has masterminded the scheme.

Try it out when you come to see NTC's production of *Romeo and Juliet* here in the summer!

I do hope you enjoy tonight's performance, and may I remind you that the Green Room bar is open during the interval, as well as before and after the show.

**Kay Murray**

Chairman of the Network Theatre Company

April 2011

# Road

Welcome to Network Theatre's production of Road. This is a play that I have harboured an ambition to direct for some time and I am grateful to the Network Committee for offering me the opportunity to bring it to the stage in a venue that I have loved performing in since my first production "down the arch" six years ago.

Road was Jim Cartwright's first play, performed originally at the Royal Court in 1986 and subsequently revived in the same year and again in 1987. It has gone on to win a number of awards and is widely recognised as a modern classic. The power, economy and imagery in the writing would have made this a remarkable piece of work at any point, but for a debut play it is astonishing. The over-arching theme of people trying to find a point to an existence eked out in desperate economic and social circumstances is something that resonates beyond its 1987 setting. Cartwright's technique of combining realism with surrealism and poetic with profane results in a play that is of its time but could also apply to any time. Before this starts to sound like an under-grad essay, it is also worth pointing out that the writing is very funny and creates incredibly vivid characters that are a gift to any actor.

I had been aware of Cartwright's work for a number of years, but it was only when I played the part of Moth in his play "Two" at Jackson's Lane some years back that I began to develop what might charitably be called a minor obsession with his work. This led, inevitably, to me directing "Two" for Woodhouse three years ago, staging it in a working men's club in Leytonstone and, in turn, to this show at Network.

I am pleased to be working again with two veterans of that Leytonstone show (Keith Wait and Steve Simler) and also to be welcoming eight cast members who are making their Network debut in Road. I have been very fortunate in assembling a cast and crew that could rise to the technical and dramatic challenges presented by such a rich and complex text.

The standard of performances at audition was exceptionally high and I would like to offer my thanks and apologies to those that I was not able to offer a part to and hope that they will be back to audition for future shows.

Beyond the cast and crew, so many people have contributed to bringing the show to fruition. I would like to offer my thanks to David Harvey, Paul Lunnon, Dan Young and Nigel Williams for the fantastic set they have given us to perform the show on and, along with Emma Byrne, for their constant support and advice. I am also indebted to Dan Mosely for designing the graphic for the show, to Dave Barkway and Juliet Heap for their help and advice with auditions and to Sharon Trotter for AD-ing. Thanks also to Vinny McHugh, the Store Manager of Iceland, Lower Marsh, for trusting us with one of his shopping trolleys. Huge thanks are also due to my musical partner in the Renegade Saints, Cameron Dunham, for producing such fantastic music at the same time as preparing for imminent parenthood.

Finally, thanks to you all for coming to see the show. I hope it will be an entertaining and memorable evening and that we will see you at future Network shows.

**James McKendrick**  
Director

# Production Credits

## PRODUCTION TEAM

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Director                                 | James McKendrick   |
| Assistant Director                       | Sharon Trotter     |
| Stage Manager                            | David Harvey       |
| Costumes                                 | Sacha Walker       |
| Lighting Designer and Operator           | Emma Byrne         |
| Associate Lighting Designer and Operator | Dan Young          |
| Sound Designers                          | Paul D'Orley       |
|  | James McKendrick   |
| Sound Operator                           | Sue Walker         |
| Bespoke Music                            | Cameron Dunham     |
| Set Design                               | David Harvey       |
| Set Construction                         | David Harvey       |
|  | Paul Lunnon        |
|  | Nigel Williams     |
|  | Dan Young          |
| Front of House Manager                   | Lesley Winterflood |
| Publicity                                | Gaelle Comte       |

## CAST

|                                   |                  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Scullery                          | Julian Farrance  |
| Louise/Lane                       | Clare Joseph     |
| Brother/Bisto/Barry/Brian         | Nick Stafford    |
| Brenda/Marion                     | Sacha Walker     |
| Carol/Sheena                      | Lauren Edwards   |
| Brink                             | James Daybell    |
| Eddie                             | Stephen Lee      |
| Eddie's Dad/Jerry                 | Paul D'Orly      |
| Dor/Chantal                       | Vicky Simler     |
| Molly                             | Annie Greenslade |
| Professor                         | Keith Wait       |
| Skin Lad/Blowpipe/Chance Peterson | Chris Pethers    |
| Mr Bald/Tom Stanley/Manfred       | Steve Simler     |
| Clare                             | Emily Carmichael |
| Joey/Soldier                      | Gary Nunn        |
| Chip Shop Girl/Linda/Tina         | Irene Fumagalli  |
| Curt                              | Lucien Campbell  |
| Helen/Mrs Bald/Maureena           | Laura Bosco      |
| Valerie                           | Jo Nash          |

# Company Biographies

## **Laura Bosco: *Helen, Mrs Bald* and *Maureena***

*Road* will be Laura's second production with Network Theatre, having played Mrs Bradman in Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit* last year. Being a Lancashire Lass she's very much enjoying going back to her roots for the role of Helen in *Road*. Her other stage time is in the world of cabaret and she's the host of *Bosco's Basement*, a monthly comedy and cabaret revue in London.

## **Emma Byrne: Lighting Designer**

Emma has been a member of Network theatre since 2010. Previous shows include *Outward Bound* (lighting) *Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle* (writing and directing) and *Time for Love and Revenge of the Amazons* (acting),

## **Lucien Campbell: *Curt***

Lucien trained and worked as a professional dancer and is now looking to develop his acting career. This is his first time working with the Network Theatre Company. He welcomes this opportunity, and is very excited about his role.

## **Emily Carmichael: *Clare***

This is Emily's second Network outing, following 2009's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She has performed in *The Dearly Beloved* (Camden Fringe Festival), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Magic Hat Productions) and *Our Country's Good*, (Woodhouse). Emily is currently training at the London School of Dramatic Art, graduating in June with the show *Love and Money* at the Lost Theatre in Vauxhall.

## **Paul D'Orley: *Jerry***

Paul has been a member of Network Theatre since 1995, when he performed as an S.S. officer in *Good*. Twenty-plus plays on, his recent Network appearances include *Outward Bound*, *Fred and Madge* and *Revenge of the Amazons*. He has also directed two Chekov one-act plays and regularly operates sound.

## **James Daybell: *Brink***

This is James's second appearance with Network after 2009's *Remember Me*. He has appeared in a number of plays with Woodhouse Players including *Between Mouthfuls*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and playing John Proctor in *The Crucible*. Other acting credits include *Me and My Girl* (Salisbury City Hall) and at the Kenneth More Theatre in Ilford in *The History Boys* and *The Chalk Garden* (Redbridge Stage Company).

## **Cameron Dunham: Music**

Cameron experienced musical success in his teens with the band Inner State, culminating in a major label album release and gig at London's Marquee. He performed for several years with indie band Hissy Fit and, along with *Road*'s director, now performs with acoustic duo The Renegade Saints, who are well established on London's acoustic circuit. *Road* is Cameron's first venture into soundtrack writing, an avenue he is keen to explore further in the future.

**Lauren Edwards: *Carol* and *Sheena*.**

This is Lauren's second production with Network, following her performance as Hermia in *Revenge of the Amazons*. Performances with other companies include *Romeo and Juliet* at the Barons Court Theatre (CP Theatre) and in a carbon dating awareness event with the Science Museum's adult performers group Punk Science.

**Julian Farrance: *Scullery***

Julian is very happy to be returning to Network Theatre for the third time, having previously played Bottom in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Charles in *Blithe Spirit*

**Irene Fumagalli: *Linda*, *Chip Shop Girl* and *Tina***

Irene began acting in Italy under the direction of actor Marino Zerbini, performing in *Il Teatro Comico*, *L'Hotel du Libre Echange* and *Visita di Condoglianze*. She has studied physical theatre, improvisation and Butoh, a Japanese movement form. Previous Network appearances include *A Midsummer's Night's Dream*, *Happy Chuffin' Christmas*, *The Lonely Gladiator* and *Revenge of the Amazons*.

**Annie Greenslade: *Molly***

Annie previously appeared in Network's *The Merchant of Venice*. Other acting experience includes *The Crucible* (London Oratory), *Black Widow*, *Brimstone and Treacle*, *Across Oka and Sweet Charity*, (all for Putney Arts); *The Five Bob Show* (Shaw Theatre) and *Swarm* (Barbican Foyer). As a choral member, Annie has performed in *Fingerprint* (Royal Opera House Studio); in *Caucasian Chalk Circle*, (Unicorn Theatre) and in *On Ageing* at (Young Vic).

**David Harvey: *Set Design* and *Stage Manager***

David has been contributing to smooth running behind the scenes in a number of capacities for over 30 years. He has contributed to productions with a succession of theatre groups and is now producing and staging fringe theatre with a number of companies. He is also involved in TV, visual and audio productions.

**Clare Joseph: *Louise* and *Lane***

Clare enjoyed acting from an early age, attending the Tricycle and Anna Scher youth theatres. She studied at Coimbra University and the University of Hyderabad and graduated from Queen's University, Belfast with a B.A in English Literature in 2010. Her last stage appearance was in Timberlake Wertenbaker's *Our Country's Good* with the Woodhouse Players. Clare hopes to pursue a career in the arts. This is her Network debut

**Stephen Lee: *Eddie***

Stephen recently joined Network following his A Level studies at Arts Educational where he played the title role in *Roberto Zucco* and Soldier in a re-working of Sarah Cane's *Blasted*. He has acted in several youth company productions including playing Billy Flynn in *Chicago (Fusion)* Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream (Stagecoach)* and Digga, *Our Day Out (Orange Tree Youth Theatre)*. Stephen will shortly embark upon a three year drama studies course at Manchester Metropolitan.

**James McKendrick: Director**

James previously directed Jim Cartwright's *Two for Woodhouse*. His acting credits at Network include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Amy's View*, *Lysistrata* and *Facades*; the latter two plays transferring to the Prague Fringe and Riverside Studios respectively. Further acting credits include Edinburgh Fringe productions *Teachers' Playground* and *Love Intrigues*, *Silver Age Adieu* at the Orange Tree Theatre and the Brighton Fringe, *Taming of the Shrew* and *Written in Water* (CP Theatre), *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (SEDOS), *The Good Doctor* (Jackson's Lane) and *Antigone* and *Dinner* (Woodhouse).

**Jo Nash: Valerie**

Jo's theatre credits include *Noises Off*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* and *Abigail's Party* (Bishopsgate Players) and *Libran* (Short and Girly Productions) at the White Bear. She recently appeared as Claire in Graham Cantwell's film *Second Crossing* and is currently studying drama at CityLit. This is Jo's Network debut.

**Gary Nunn: Joey and Soldier**

Gary's stint in *Road* comprises of a number of firsts for him: The first time he has performed at the Network Theatre; the first time he has pretended to be a northerner and, in fact, the first time he has ever acted on a theatre stage full stop! It all started with a new year's resolution to audition for a play - and four months later, here he is!

**Chris Pethers: Skinlad, Blowpipe, Chance Peterson**

Chris has been involved with several productions for Woodhouse Players, acting in *Hay Fever*, *Macbeth*, *Wyrd Sisters*, *Metamorphosis*, *Twelfth Night*, *Dinner* and the radio play *To Hell & Back*. He also directed *The Dresser* and *The Cemetery Club*. He is the Assistant Musical Director for the London Gay Men's Chorus. *Road* is his Network debut.

**Vicky Simler: Dor, Chantal**

This is Vicky's Network debut, but she is no stranger to the boards. In her teens she worked with CADOS and Pinnacle, performing the musicals *The King and I*, *Oliver!* and *Aladdin*. She developed her performing skills further working as a holiday entertainer. This is also the first time she has worked with her dad, Steve and, even stranger, as father and daughter on stage!

**Steve Simler: Mr Bald, Tom Stanley, Manfred**

Steve has been with Network for around three years and has appeared in *Facades*, *The Three Musketeers*, *A Midsummer's Night Dream* and *Time for Love*. He has also performed in *The Crucible* and *Two* with the Woodhouse Players. He is looking forward to his second outing with Jim Cartwright and with the same director!

**Nick Stafford: Brother, Brian, Barry, Bisto**

This is Nick's Network debut. Previous theatre credits include *The Glass Menagerie*, *Blue Remembered Hills*, *The Hothouse*, *Lolita*, *Buried Child*, *A Perfect Corpse* (London and Edinburgh Fringe), *Kafka's Dick*, *Rocket Docket* and *The Queen Must Die* (National Theatre Connections). He is due to film *The Life of the Party* in 2011. Nick has been a member of the National Youth Theatre since 2005.

**Sharon Trotter: Assistant Director**

This is Sharon's first production for Network Theatre and her first foray into directing. She did drama training at City Lit and appeared in productions of *Metamorphoses* and *Dark of the Moon* for the City Lit Rep Company. Other acting credits include *The Crucible*, *Cemetery Club* and *The Lark* for Woodhouse Players, where she also produced *Bits n' Pieces*, a monologues performance.

**Keith Wait: *The Professor***

Keith's many acting credits include ENO's *Messiah* (Coliseum), *Inferno* and *Julius Caesar* (Barbican), *Inherit the Wind* (Tricycle Theatre), *Women of Troy* (Yvonne Arnold), *Lysistrata* (Prague Festival), *A Family Affair* and *Merchant of Venice* (Network). Film work includes *Burke and Hare* (Ealing Studios) and *Werewolf of London* (Punchdrunk). He has directed over 30 plays, and is also a writer and drama critic. His play *Carelessly Discarded Yesterdays* ran last month at the Orange Tree.

**Sacha Walker: *Marion* and *Brenda*.**

This is Sacha's third show with Network Theatre having previously appeared as Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and as Madame Arcati in *Blithe Spirit*. She is looking forward to playing no less spirited characters in *Road*.

**Sue Walker: Sound operation**

Since studying Theatre Technical Skills at City Lit, Sue worked on a number of Network shows including stage managing *Fred and Madge* and *Outward Bound* and operating sound for *Revenge of the Amazons*. She also worked on *The Gut Girls* (Space Theatre) and Keith Wait's *Carelessly Discarded Yesterdays* (Orange Tree Theatre).

**Dan Young - Associate Lighting Designer**

Dan has designed lighting for over a dozen shows at Network, including recently *Revenge of the Amazons*, *Outward Bound* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Elsewhere in London, favourites include *Silence! The Musical* (Barons Court Theatre), *Moby Dick! The Musical* (Cockpit Theatre) and the world premiere of *The Last Maharajah* (Hoxton Hall).

# The Arch 200 Club

Over 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.

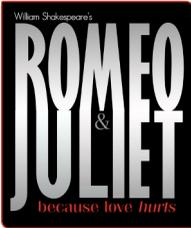
Membership costs from just £5 a month. Every month three membership numbers are drawn and half that month's subscriptions paid out in prizes.

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](mailto:arch200@networktheatre.org)**

# Coming up

## Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare



From the team that brought Network Theatre's acclaimed 2009 production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, 2011 promises to go one step further with a powerful and spectacular reworking of Shakespeare's most enduring and tragic love story. This visually stunning production, directed in the round to have a filmic, blockbuster feel, is a must see for next summer.

Romeo Montague is a young, feckless, passionate and inveterate womaniser, taking life as it comes and pleasure where he may. Until he meets the *one*. The one woman who will quite literally take his breath away, Juliet Capulet, the daughter of his father's sworn enemy. From the moment they meet, their destinies are forever entwined and their fates sealed.

Romeo & Juliet teach us that a rose by any other name would smell as sweet, but that a rose has thorns. *Because love hurts.*

**Performances:** 29 June to 8 July 2011 (not 3 & 4)

For more information about Network Theatre Company, upcoming readings, auditions and performances visit [www.networktheatre.org](http://www.networktheatre.org)



**More than 70 years of drama**

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