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THANKS TO THE ABOVE FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT

Patronage entitles you to attend social events plus the annual patrons' evening at which you are entitled to vote in the selection of one of the plays for the following season. Patronage subscriptions also help to fund the hiring of our rehearsal space and the not insignificant costs of mounting each production.

At a minimum of £1.50 p/m (£18 p/a), patronage is for up to two people, so those of you signing up individually are welcome to bring a guest to social events and to the patrons' evening.

If you would like to become a patron, please get in touch with Martin Smith on 01902 651828 or studio61martin@gmail.com

GORMENGHAST

BY MERVYN PEAKE
ADAPTED BY JOHN CONSTABLE



15TH - 17TH NOVEMBER 2022
NEWHAMPTON ARTS CENTRE

STUDIO61.ORG.UK
NEWHAMPTONARTS.CO.UK

Presented by special arrangement with CONCORD THEATRICALS

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

My favourite part of theatre is the opportunity to leave yourself behind and walk in another person's shoes for a couple of hours. While it's fun to pretend to be Tom, Dick or Harry, the weird and wonderful oddballs of the world are the most exciting to explore - and you don't get much weirder or more wonderful than those who live within the crumbling walls of Gormenghast castle.

Mervyn Peake brought these eccentric souls to life in his trilogy of gothic fantasy novels: *Titus Groan* (1946), *Gormenghast* (1950) and *Titus Alone* (1959). Although often compared to J.R.R. Tolkien, Peake was more influenced by the works of Dickens and Stevenson. Where Tolkien expanded Middle Earth further out, Peake extended inward - layering detail upon detail to the ancient lore and bizarre customs and practices of the Groan family and their subjects.

But how is it possible to fit this elaborate world onto a simple stage and condense this sprawling plot into a single evening? We need look no further than this impressive script from John Constable who was commissioned to write a stage adaptation for the physical theatre director David Glass and his ensemble. Just as Peake looks within, Constable has drilled down to the heart of the story and avoided getting bogged down in too literal a view of the series.



An enormous amount of effort has been poured into this production by everyone involved, both on and off stage - each and every aspect has been a challenge: physical theatre, puppetry, properties, costuming and make-up, lighting and sound effects. I cannot thank my wonderful cast and crew enough for their hard work in bringing this passion project of mine to life. I'll be forever grateful and this entire experience will always hold a very special place in my heart.

Although this production features many familiar Studio 61 faces, we're delighted to introduce four new members to the stage this evening: Matthew Barnes as Swelter, Katie Hallam as The Thing, Billy Haynes as Titus and Emily May as Fuchsia. It has been a pleasure working with you all and we hope you'll join us for many more productions in the future.

A final "thank you" must be extended to you as our audience this evening. Many amateur drama groups are still struggling to regain their audience numbers after such a long break. Thank you for supporting the local arts and we hope you enjoy the show this evening as much as we will performing it.

NO CHANGE! 🐼



SARAH CARTER



GORMENGHAST

BY MERVYN PEAKE, ADAPTED BY JOHN CONSTABLE



CAST

Countess Jane Fosbrook
Barquentine Andy Alsop
Sepulchrave David Kinghorn
Dr Prunesquallor Richard Corser
Fuchsia Emily May
Cora Jane Alsop
Clarice Chris Porter
Flay Mike Smith
Swelter Matthew Barnes
Steerpike Benjamin Savage
Titus Billy Haynes
The Thing Katie Hallam

CREW

Director Sarah Carter
Assistant Director &
Stage Manager Maggie Smith
Prompt Ann Bickley
Effects Manager Martin Smith
Properties Anna Wright
David Bickley
Costume Chris Porter
Wigs and Make-up Anna Wright
Front of House Manager Kevin Porter
Front of House Members of the society

The total running time will be approximately 140 minutes. This will include an interval of 20 minutes.

Please ensure that all mobile phones are turned off during the performance.

In the event of an emergency the front of house staff will guide you to the emergency exit.



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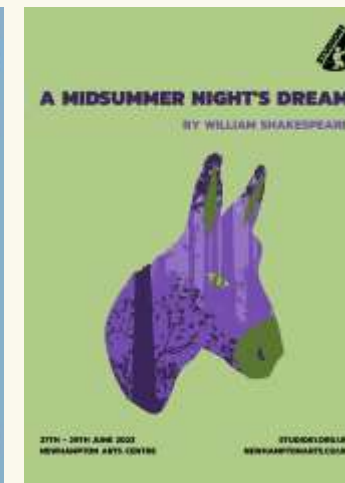
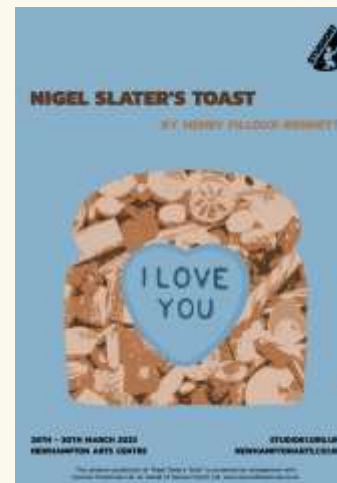
Stourbridge Road
Himley
Staffordshire

STUDIO 61'S 2023 SEASON

Nigel Slater's Toast by Henry Filloux-Bennett

A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare

Picnic at Hanging Rock by Joan Lindsay, adapted by Tom Wright

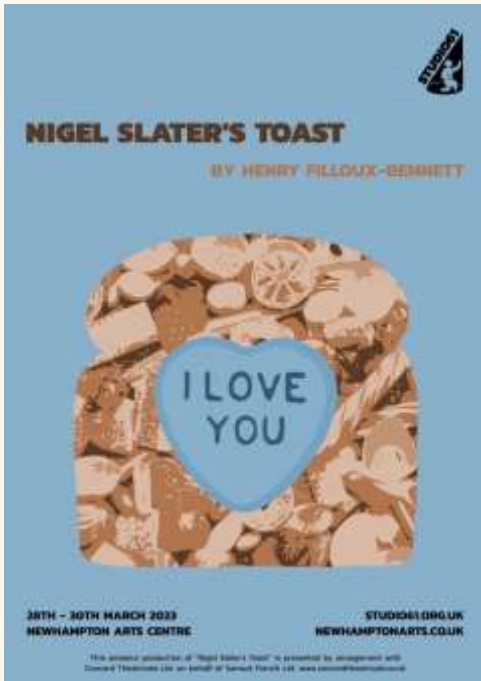


JOIN US AT STUDIO 61

We meet twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays at Bradmore Arms, Trysull Road from 7:30pm until 9:30pm.

www.studio61.org.uk

Follow us @studio61drama on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram and TikTok



NIGEL SLATER'S TOAST

by Henry Filloux-Bennett

28th - 30th March 2023

The story of Wolverhampton born Nigel Slater's childhood, told through the tastes and smells he grew up with. From making the perfect sherry trifle to waging a war over cakes and from the pressured playground politics of sweets to the rigid rules of restaurant dining, this is a story of love, loss and... toast.

AUDITION

We will be holding play readings and auditions for our spring production of Nigel Slater's Toast on Monday and Wednesday evenings between 21st and 30th November at Tettenhall Wood Institute at 7:30pm.

Pattingham Drama Group

Absurd Person Singular

by Alan Ayckbourn

16th - 19th November 2022

01902 700748

www.pattinghamdramagroup.co.uk



Wordsley Amateur Dramatic Society

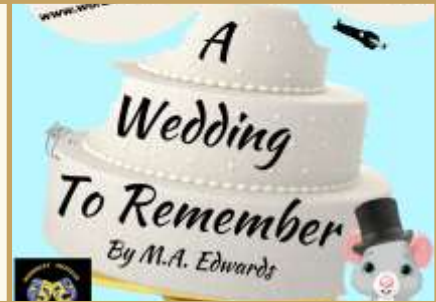
A Wedding to Remember

by M.A. Edwards

18th - 19th November 2022

Box Office: 01384 270228

www.wordsleyamdram.co.uk



Dudley Little Theatre

Christmas Crackers

1st - 4th December 2022

St Peters Church Hall, Netherton

Box Office: 07954 424555

www.dudleylittletheatre.org



Stafford Players

Hobson's Choice

by Harold Bridgehouse

7th—11th February 2023

Box Office: 01785 619080

www.gatehousetheatre.co.uk



Wombourne Players

To Be Announced

2023

Wombourne Community Centre

Box Office: 01902 881184

www.wombourneplayers.org.uk

