

MASQUE
THEATRE

Shadowlands

By William Nicholson. directed by Rob Kendall



Tuesday 11th - 15th February 2025

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre 1 Church Lane. Northampton NN1 3NL

Notes from the Director

This biographical play about C.S. Lewis, the author of the 'Narnia' stories and his late in life 'love' to American poet, Joy Gresham. Shadowlands was first performed in 1989 at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth before it transferred to London's Westend. Lewis was then played by Nigel Hawthorne (think 'The Madness of King George') and some of you of a certain age might remember Nigel as a 'jobbing' actor at Northampton weekly 'Rep' in the 1960s, long before the R&D. I still have his autograph from that time!

Shadowlands first began life as a play for television by playwright, William Nicholson and won the BAFTA Best Television Drama for that year and when adapted for the stage won the Tony Award (1990) on Broadway.

Primarily set in Oxford of the 1950s it is as much a period piece of that time as it is about Lewis' 'love story' when a supposed confirmed bachelor realises that there is more to life than writing books for children. It is the link between Joy Gresham and her son Douglas, an aficionado of the Narnia stories, that brings light and love to these supposed Shadowlands.

Rob Kendall

Cast



Alex Page-Bailey - C. S. Lewis

Alex has enjoyed amateur theatre roles over many years, at school and at Leicester University, at Leamington's Loft Theatre, at Richmond Shakespeare Society, and at Moulton Theatre, where a favourite appearance of his was playing Jack in "Shadowlands" in 2018, so now he's relishing a sense of déjà vu!



Meryl Couper - Joy Gresham née Davidman

Meryl's previous roles for Masque include Liz Morden in 'Our Country's Good' and Dorset in 'Richard III'. Other acting credits include Titania 'Midsummer Night's Dream', Tituba 'The Crucible' and Mildred DeWinter 'Three Musketeers' amongst others for R&D's Actors Co. For Company MK she has been a Cell Block Tango girl in 'Chicago' and ensemble in 'Evita'.



John Myhill - Major W. H. Lewis (Warnie)

John has been with Masque since playing Toad in "Wind In The Willows" in 2010, with many roles since like Salieri in "Amadeus" and Benedick in "Much Ado About Nothing", and has directed several times too, most recently 2024's "Little Women". He will be co-directing this summer's "Twelfth Night".



Craig Macpherson - Professor Christopher Riley

Craig is delighted to be back on stage after last appearing as a dead man in 'Christmas Spirit' in December 2023. He has appeared in numerous Masque productions since joining in 2010, amongst his favourites were 'David Copperfield' (alongside his daughter), 'Arsenic and Old Lace', and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.



Tony Janney - Alan Gregg / Doctor

Tony has been involved with Masque Theatre for many years. Tony's first production with Masque was in 1998 in 'Love's Labour's Lost'. Other productions include 'David Copperfield', 'The Importance of Being Earnest', 'Macbeth', Troilus and Cressida, 'All's Well That Ends Well', 'The Cherry Orchard' and 'A View from the Bridge'.

Shadow

Cast

In order of appearance

CS Lewis Alex Page-Bailey

Major W. H. Lewis John Myhill

Prof. Christopher Riley Craig Macpherson

Rev. Harry Harrington Christopher Stobart

Alan Gregg / Doctor Tony Janney

Dr Maurice Oalkey/ Greg Dolman

**Greek Walter/
Priest**

Woman/Registrar/Nurse Liz Allan

Joy Gresham Meryl Couper

Douglas Oliver Eales-Rahn

Walter/Clerk Rob Kendall

The action of the play
in Oxford in the 1940s
'The Kilns' and in
and a brief sojourn

There is one in
Refreshment

Masque Theatre would like to thank the continued support of The Church
of the Holy Sepulchre for this production.

This amateur production is presented by a
behalf of Samuel French Ltd

Wlands

Creative & Production Credits

ay mostly takes place

50's in Lewis' home

College, a hospital

urn to Greece!

Director & Set Rob Kendall

Lighting Design Richard Walker

Stage Manager Anna Love

Lighting & Sound Op Philip Welsh

Sound Effects Robert Vaughan

Costumes Masque Theatre & Cast

Properties Rob Kendall

Continuity Ingrid Heyann

erval of 15 minutes.

ents available.

Poster Design Meryl Couper

Programme Meryl Couper

Booking Manager Elizabeth Allan

Box Office Sue Howes

Hospitality Manager Maggie Holland

FOH / Refreshments Masque Members

Holy Sepulchre Liaison Rob Kendall

Transport Managers Robert Vaughan/Mark Mortimer/
Ian Allan

Performance Safety officer Masque Committee Members

Cast



Christopher Stobart - Rev. "Harry" Harrington

Chris Stobart returns for his fifth appearance at Holy Sepulchre after 'The Duchess of Malfi', 'Treasure Island', 'David Copperfield' and 'Little Women'. He had the rare honour of meeting the real Douglas Gresham in 1999.



Greg Dolman - Dr Maurice Oakley/Greek Waiter/ Priest

'Shadowlands' is Greg's third show with Masque, previously stage-managing for the summer Shakespeare 'The Winters Tale' and appearing as Bassianus in 'Titus Andronicus'. He is thrilled to be back on stage again.



Liz Allan - Woman/Registrar/Nurse

It has been over two years since Liz performed at The Holy Sepulchre so thermals at the ready. Initially just a chaperone for her grandson, Liz now finds herself playing three roles albeit minor ones, however she mustn't grumble because as the years increase the roles unfortunately decline!!



Oliver Eales-Rahn - Douglas (Joy's son)

Oliver has been busy since appearing in "The Winters Tale" (his second role with Masque). He is also involved with Silhouette Youth Company. He will be performing in "Beauty and the Beast" with NMTC (youth) the week after "Shadowlands". He loves every minute of performing.



Rob Kendall - Tea Room Waiter/Clerk/Orderly

Rob has directed or acted in over 35 plays for Masque and has wanted to direct 'Shadowlands' for some time. He most recently appeared in 'Titus Andronicus' as Saturnine. Rob has also appeared on several quiz shows on television and also on Bargain Hunt's Art Deco programme for 78 Derngate, as well as ten seconds on BBC tv's Doctor Who.

Rehearsal Photos



Forthcoming Shows

Blood Brothers

The Play written by Willy Russell

Directed by Lee Winston

Blood Brothers is a story that will take you on a journey so intense, so vivid, with love mixed with tragedy. The play version delves deep into each character and draws out every ounce of emotion on stage, taking the audience with the actors at every turn. An evening of theatre that will live with you for a long, long time.

Tue 22nd - Sat 26th April, 7.30pm

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, 1 Church Lane, Northampton NN1 3NL

Road

by Jim Cartwright

Directed by Meryl Couper

Jim Cartwright's seminal play takes you on a nocturnal journey along the cobbled street of an unnamed northern road in Thatcher's Britain. Meet the inhabitants of a community scarred by unemployment and poverty. Through its raw, poetic language, deeply human characters and unflinching look at their lives, 'Road' captures the complexities of life in a marginalised community, offering an enduring exploration of struggle, hope and humanity.

Tue 20th - Sat 24th May, 7.30pm

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, 1 Church Lane, Northampton NN1 3NL