

HABEAS CORPUS

by Alan Bennett
Directed by Clare Brittain



Tue 17th – Sat 21st February, 7.30pm

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

by Clare Brittain

A riotous comedy of lust, lies, and lechery, *Habeas Corpus* is a fast-paced farce set in 1960s Brighton. When a doctor's dull life is upended by a cast of eccentric character, chaos ensues.

Expect mistaken identities, dropped trousers, and sharp wit in this amusing satire of middle-class morals and human desire. A hilarious theatrical romp not to be missed!

Habeas Corpus by Alan Bennett was first performed in the West End, London, in 1973 with a cast that include Alec Guinness and Andrew Sachs. It was popular and ran for over a year. It is regularly perfumed by both professional and amateur groups.

It is a farce dealing with may, many unrequited, passions for most of the characters in the play with occasional darker hints at man's mortality. It is now something of a period piece with 'Carry On' style humour and assorted characters losing or removing their trousers or wandering around in their slips. Woke it's not!

Alan Bennett was born in Leeds in 1934 and studied History at Oxford University. He first came to prominence in the Review; *Beyond the Fringe* which was shot at the first Edinburgh Festival, the West End and on Broadway. His play, *Forty Years On*, *Single Spies*, *Talking Heads*, *The Lady in the Van*, *The Madness of George III* and *The History Boys*, to name but a few. He has also written TV plays, screenplays (fend his own works).

He is also an author and occasional actor once appearing as Mrs Swabb in a production of this play!!



CREATIVE TEAM

Directed by CLARE BRITTAIN

Stage Manager TONI GREEN

Continuity INGRID HAYMANN

Wardrobe Mistress PAM MANN

Sound and Lighting IAN ALLAN and
ROBERT VAUGHAN

Front of House MEMBERS OF MASQUE THEATRE

**Thanks to Richard Llewellyn and Mark Mortimer for their
help with this production**



CAST

JONATHAN LITCHFIELD Arthur Wicksteed, a G.P

MAGGIE HOLLAND Muriel Wicksteed, his wife

BRADY JOLLEY Dennis Wicksteed, their son

NIKKI BUNTING Constance Wicksteed, Arthur's sister

LIZ ALLAN Mrs Swabb, a domestic

MARTIN WILLIAMS Canon Throbbing, a vicar

JAN STOPPANI Lady Rumpers

RICHENDA MORRISON Felicity Rumpers, her daughter

MARK COADY Mr Denzil Shanks

PHIL PURKIS Sir Percy Shorter, President of
the British Medical Association

JOSH McCALLUM Mr Purdue, a patient



Jonathan can usually be found in plays, musicals and panto in Wellingborough.

But having been in Habeas Corpus once before (enjoying it so much as the Canon) he thought he'd have another go over here. This is his Masque debut.

JONATHAN LITCHFIELD

Arthur Wicksteed



MAGGIE HOLLAND

Muriel Wicksteed



Maggie's first acting appearance for Masque was in May 2005 and she has been involved in at least one production most years since then. Fresh from directing The Old Curiosity Shop, she is enjoying finding "the real me" playing Muriel Wicksteed for the second time. (the first time was at Moulton Theatre).

Brady Jolley is an actor based in Northampton. He has performed for the Masque Theatre twice in "Edward II" and "The Old Curiosity Shop".

He has enjoyed playing Dennis and was interested in "Habeas Corpus" due to it's style of comedy

BRADY JOLLEY

Dennis Wicksteed



NIKKI BUNTING

Constance Wicksteed



Nicky has been treading the boards in Northampton for many years and more recently, seems to have evolved into the 'go to bimbo' which is kind of flattering for her in her fifties. Hopefully, you will enjoy her transformation from spinster to sultress in Habeas Corpus.

LIZ ALLAN

Mrs Swabb



I have been a member of Masque for many years and have had an interesting number of varied roles.

I am a member of Playhouse theatre and have appeared in several productions with NMTC. I am also an active "extra" person on film sets. Mrs Swabb here I come!

Martin has been involved in am dram for many years in Northampton.

His last performance for Masque was in Edward the Second in October last year and prior to that he played Titus Andronicus the previous year. He has also performed with The Playhouse and Moulton Players.

MARTIN WILLIAMS

Canon Throbbing



JAN STOPPANI

Lady Rumpers



Jan is a Life Member of Masque Theatre and Alan Bennnett is one of her favourite writers – second only to Shakespeare!

Her previous Bennett roles have included: The Lady in the Van (Miss Shepherd), Soldiering On/Talking Heads (Muriel) and The Madness of George III (Lady Pembroke).

Richenda is a Northampton-based performer and musician whose work spans theatre, music, and community arts. Recent roles include The Old Curiosity Shop, where she brought vivid characterisation and emotional depth to the stage. Trained in professional musicianship and modern composition, she approaches performance with sensitivity, storytelling instinct, and a strong ensemble spirit throughout.

RICHENDA JAMESON

Felicity Rumpers



This is Mark's second venture into AmDram following a 20-something year break.

Having delighted the critics more than enough in the Masque production of Bent in 2004, it's now time again, at the risk of type-casting, for one more career-defining performance.

MARK COADY

Mr Denzil Shanks



PHIL PURKIS

Sir Percy Shorter



Back with Masque after 12 years, Phil has been involved in acting for over 40 years having worked with Masque, Moulton Players, Playhouse, Whitehills and White Cobra. His last Masque production was Beckett in 2014. Previous productions with Masque include One Flew Over The Cuckoos Nest, A View From The Bridge, and One Man 2 Guvnors and Poirot at Moulton.

Josh McCallum has previously enjoyed studying level 3 to HND acting at Northampton College from 2018 to 2022.

He is very excited to perform again with The Masque Theatre, following his first appearance in "The Old Curiosity Shop" in December.

JOSH MCCALLUM

Mr Purdue



The House of the Forgotten

by Liz Vokes Devised & Directed by Meryl Couper

A new devised piece for Masque Theatre from We & Us Productions,
who brought us 'A Grimm Tale'!

A young doctor's search for truth unravels into a chilling journey through madness, memory, and the macabre. Inspired by the haunting tales of Edgar Allan Poe, this atmospheric new play invites you to question what is real - and what should have stayed buried behind locked doors. Do you dare to join us?

Tue 28th April - Sat 2nd May 7.30pm

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

Othello

Written by William Shakespeare Directed by Patricia Coleman

Overlooked for promotion in the Venetian army, Iago plots to take revenge against his General, Othello, and manipulates him into believing his wife Desdemona is unfaithful. Trust shatters and tragedy unfolds as Othello allows jealousy to consume him, murdering Desdemona, then killing himself. A powerful story of ambition and heartbreak and one of Shakespeare's greatest tragedies.

Tue 2nd - Sat 6th June, 7.30pm

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



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