



Our next production:

Quartermaine's Terms

Written by Simon Gray

Is there a perfect school, a perfect marriage, a perfect family?

Quartermaine's Terms - Director's Notes

The original award winning 1981 production of this play was directed by Harold Pinter, a close friend of Simon Gray and it received immediate critical acclaim before transferring to Broadway.

I was first alerted to it when Jane and Keith (Railton) saw Rowan Atkinson as the eponymous St John Quartermaine in the West End revival in 2012, and suggested that I should read it.

It delighted me..... It is what was once called a 'well made play'; charting the lives of seven very different people, through their interaction in a college staffroom over a period of two years in the early 1960s. We hear of a host of fascinating 'off stage' characters including a philandering husband, a tyrannical mother, a neurotic teenage daughter and a longsuffering wife who dominate their lives but don't ever appear. Quartermaine is a friendly, charming but somewhat ineffectual teacher, who seeks to socialise with his colleagues and sympathise with their problems, while failing to cope with his own loneliness and isolation.

Meanwhile, Derek is feeling out of his depth, Anita is protecting her marriage, Melanie copes with her ailing mother, Henry is proud of his precocious daughter, Mark nurtures his 'award winning' novel, Eddie is running a flourishing school and St John thinks everything is 'terrific'.

I would like to thank the cast and staff for their hard work and inventiveness. Special personal thanks must be given to Nicol and Jane, without whom I could not have done it.

I hope you will enjoy this glimpse into the lives of the Staff of the Cull-Loomis School of English for foreigners....

Helen Withers - Director



The Last Yankee by Arthur Miller

27th to 30th May 2015

Directed by Richard Warren

Set in a New England state mental hospital just as Prozac emerged as the US pharmaceutical industry's cure for depression, the play has just two scenes. In the first, two men meet in the hospital waiting room. Both are there to visit their wives, who are being treated inside. One is a successful businessman; the other is a carpenter (Miller famously relaxed by creating wooden furniture) and amateur banjo player. It is a stilted, awkward meeting, shot through with mistrust, prejudice and embarrassment about why they are both there.

Then we go inside the hospital to meet their wives as they trade stories of their treatment, and the feelings that led them to seek it. When the husbands join them, all four reveal the cost of living up to the ambitions of others.



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St John Quartermaine – Keith Railton

Keith first joined the Criterion in 1965. His most recent appearances have been as Henry Ormonroyd in 'When We Are Married', Mr Green in 'Visiting Mr Green', Robert Cecil in 'Anne Boleyn' and Justice Shallow in 'Jack Falstaff'. He has also directed a number of productions most recently 'David Copperfield' and 'The Ladykillers', and is currently Artistic Director of the Criterion. There is no truth in the rumour that Keith only took the part of St John Quartermaine so that he could sit in a comfortable armchair for the duration of the play – but at his age it helps to get him through the week!



Eddie Loomis – Mark Woodall

Mark Woodall is a newcomer to the Criterion, who managed to wangle his way into a lovely part in this great British play. His last time on the stage was nearly 10 years ago in various musicals and even an opera, so this is a real acting challenge. However, his family of five kids has often regarded him as a bit of a crusty old headmaster, so this was basically casting to type, except that it will be the first time that some of them have ever seen him without his 'fuzzy-wuzzy' beard.



Henry Windscape – Matt Sweatman

Matt was last seen in 'The Ladykillers' wielding a hefty trunk whilst wearing a Police uniform. This time he is required to portray an educated, well read and cultured man in the shape of Henry Windscape. That is three separate challenges in themselves! After many years of playing loud characters it will be a pleasant change to play someone polite this time. Recent plays Matt has been in include 'Port Authority', 'Gypsy', 'When We Are Married' and 'Guys and Dolls'.

Cast

St John Quartermaine	Keith Railton
Anita Manchip	Lucy Hayton
Eddie Loomis	Mark Woodall
Derek Meadle	Alan Fenn
Henry Windscape	Matt Sweatman
Melanie Garth	Annie Gay
Mark Sackling	Sean Glock

Director

Helen Withers

Assistant Directors

Nicol Cortese and Jane Railton

Stage Manager

Pete Kendall

Lighting

Karl Stafford, Paul Harrison

Sound

Becky Bartlett, Dave Cornish

Set Design

Karl Stafford

Set Building

Jess Cornwall, Lisa Cornwall, Terry Cornwall, Frances Dixon, Chris Herton, Pete Horton, Pete Meredith, Lukasz Nowacki, Terry Rahilly, Judy Sharpe, Simon Sharpe, Karl Stafford i/c, Kevin Woods

Set Painting

Pam Coleman, Pete Horton, Karl Stafford i/c, Sylvia Stafford, Mandy Sutton, Judy Talbot, Emma Withers

Set Dressing

Emma Withers

Props

Sue Hadlum, Fran Kendall, Lesley Rahilly i/c

Wardrobe

Mary Ball, Pam Coleman, Helen Elias, Maureen Liggins i/c, Louise Robinson

Prompt

Stella Gabriel

Production Catering

Judy Sharpe

Artwork

Paul Tate and Pete Gillam

Playout Music

Gareth Withers and Local Vocals

The action takes place in the staff-room of the Cull-Loomis School of English for Foreigners, Cambridge in the early 1960's

ACT I	Scene 1 Spring term.	Monday morning
	Scene 2 Some weeks later.	Friday afternoon
ACT II	Scene 1 The following year towards summer.	Monday morning
	Scene 2 Some months later.	Friday evening
	Scene 3 Eighteen months later. Around Christmas	Evening Time



Anita Manchip – Lucy Hayton

Lucy has appeared in a number of productions at the Criterion in recent years including Catherine in 'Proof', Ruth in the 'Thrill of Love' and Louise in 'Gypsy'. She can also be found helping out behind the bar and behind the scenes and has tried her hand as an Assistant Director and Stage Manager.



Derek Meadle – Alan Fenn

Alan is very pleased to be back on the Criterion stage after such a long absence. He is a little worried that he may be being typecast as a northerner though. He hopes you enjoy the play and would like to apologise for showing you his pants.



Melanie Garth – Annie Gay

Annie is delighted to make her 5th appearance at the Criterion, having made her debut in 'The Cripple of Inishmaan' in 2012, followed by 'God of Carnage', 'David Copperfield' and 'My Three Angels' the following year. She has also performed in several productions at theatres in Solihull and Birmingham. Annie spent three years as a murder mystery actress at Coombe Abbey and has killed people, including her husband many times. She now works as a simulated patient for student doctors and quite enjoys being ill.



Mark Sackling – Sean Glock

This is Sean's third production at the Criterion. His previous roles for the company include the feckless but endearing Gerry Evans in 'Dancing at Lughnasa' and the leather clad rebel Hotspur in 'Jack Falstaff'. Sean has enjoyed the challenge of bringing to life the conceited, egocentric Mark Sackling in this production. Sean has had great fun working with the cast for 'Quartermaine's Terms' and has learnt much from the experience.

There will be a 15 minute interval.