



PROGRAMME

YOU AND CRI



A warm welcome to this production of "Two". It doesn't seem like 20 years since I was lucky enough to be part of this play here at the Criterion (although the picture suggests otherwise!)

I can't tell you how good it feels to be returning to something like normality. Whilst we have always been flexible and will continue to react to ensure our members and audience are safe, it really does feel important that we do our best to move forward and get our theatre buzzing again.



The bar is open on a Wednesday and Friday each week (as well as every show night) so why not pop in and say hello, it would be great to see you.

We not only welcome but positively encourage anyone to step up and help to keep the theatre progressing. If you are able to give some time, there are a myriad of things that you can support. More and more we are relying on the same people to carry the load and we would love to support others to be involved. It's great fun to be involved as we aim to get back to the rather marvellous social life that accompanies our efforts in running one of the region's best theatres... sixty years of success so far!

From the bar to the stage, to the events, to the Board, we have tasks, rotas and parts to be played. If you are able and willing to support, please get in touch and we will embrace you! (You can email me direct on Chair@critteriontheatre.co.uk and I will get you talking to the right department or person!)

We are currently planning for the Earlsdon Festival, coffee mornings, quizzes, and other activities throughout the spring/summer; if you've not been involved before why not come along to our next new members evening (Friday 29th April) and find out more.

Together we can make it like it was....only better!!

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

When it was first suggested that I direct "Two" again after a twenty year gap, I didn't need to think for long!

The memory of working with Jon and Debs (and on that occasion, a live band!) was a very happy and warm one, and a quick re-read assured me that my love for the play had never faded. The writing is vivid, clear and incisive (there are no wasted words here!) and the characters so real and engaging. We have all at different times in rehearsal said, "I know someone just like that!"

This time Cathryn Bowler and Gareth Cooper take on the roles of your hosts, the Landlord and Landlady of a busy successful "local" pub in the North of England in the 1990s. They also play the customers, the "regulars" who enjoy the hospitality provided by Mine Host and Hostess. They each have a story to tell; stories that are hilarious, poignant, heart breaking, or simply chilling.

And behind it all the Landlord and Landlady reveal what drives them.....

I have been delighted to have Mandy Sutton (who also designed the set for *The Railway Children*) creating the warm evocative interior of the bar. And well supported by an excellent technical team.

We would like to thank The Chestnut Tree for providing the lovely bar furniture and fittings

I would personally like to thank Miss Hattie Bowler Willis for her great support throughout (An ASM in the making!) and Debs Relton Elves for unerring technical advice!

We invite you to bring your drinks and join us over one evening: from "Opening up" to "Last Orders!"

Helen Withers

For all the latest updates from the theatre, check out the website

www.criteriontheatre.co.uk

Your Players



CATHRYN BOWLER

(Landlady, Old Woman, Maudie, Mrs Iger, Leslie, Alice, Woman)

Cathryn is delighted to return to the Criterion stage after almost three years - her last role being Beatrice in Much Ado About Nothing in June 2019. Whilst she participated in two Zoom plays during lockdown, nothing beats live theatre!

Two is a play she first came across over twenty-five years ago and consequently has wanted to do since then. This has been such a happy rehearsal period - working with Helen, who was the first director she worked with at the Criterion in 2003, and Gareth, who she appeared with in A Russian in the Woods back in 2007.

GARETH COOPER

(Landlord, Moth, Old Man, Mr Iger, Roy Fred, Boy)

Gareth has been acting since he was 15, with some questionable appearances in Fame and Annie whilst at school. He has since avoided performing in musicals where ever possible and later went to drama school in Birmingham where he was taught to act properly.

After slumming it in London as a professional actor, he is now back living in Coventry with his wife and is loving being back at the Criterion.

Gareth has loved Two since he first started acting, taking his audition speech for the National Youth Theatre from it. He hopes he does a better job of the old man now! Having last acted with Cathryn when he was 18, Gareth is enjoying reliving the experience some 15 years later.



The Crew

Director

Helen Withers

Stage Manager

Stephen Withers

Wardrobe

Pam Coleman (i/c)

Diana Slocombe

Judy Talbot

Chris Ingall

Liz Stevens

Props

Les Rahilly

Prompt

Claire McDermott

Frances Dixon

Set Paint

Judy Talbot

Linda Gregory

Verity Gillam-Greene

Paul Chokran

Paul Tate

Set Designer

Mandy Sutton

Set Build

Terry Rahilly

Michael Waterson

Judy Talbot

Paul Tate

Simon Sharpe

Frances Dixon

Chris Hernon

Stage Operator

Terry Rahilly

Michael Waterson

Michael Hammond

Simon Sharpe

Paul Tate

Chris Hernon

Sound Designer

Dave Cornish

Sound Operator

Ellen Sharkey

Lighting Designer

Karl Stafford

Lighting

Jo Dickie

Design

Alice Cobert

Special Thanks to Harriet Bowler-Willis for her support and The Chestnut Tree pub for bar fittings.



FRIDAY 8TH APRIL
8PM

We're back! After a slightly longer sabbatical than intended, the Theatre quiz is making a welcome return on Friday 8th April, starting at 8pm. Entry is free, and will take place in the bar/auditorium (depending on numbers). We would welcome maximum teams of 4, but we can put together teams on the evening if you don't have one pre-assigned! Teams are also welcome to join online.

Please let us know your intended team by emailing publicity@criteriontheatre.co.uk if you are joining online we will send you a link to join via Zoom.

EARLSDON FESTIVAL @ THE CRITERION



Batches?
We all need your stinking batches

Following an almost 3 year break, the Earlsdon Festival is set to hit the High St on Monday 2nd May.

As always, the theatre will be joining in the fun in the car park, with some entertainment during the day, refreshments and of course, there may be a pork batch or two available.

Make sure you take the opportunity to visit the theatre on the day (and check the website beforehand for updates!)

"I've come up here just for the pork batches"
(Someone in 2019)



CRITERION ACTORS JOIN COVENTRY RESOURCE CENTRE FOR THE BLIND WRITERS AT CU COVENTRY CAMPUS

On Monday March 14th, two Criterion members took part in a unique teaching event at CU Coventry's Mile Lane Campus.

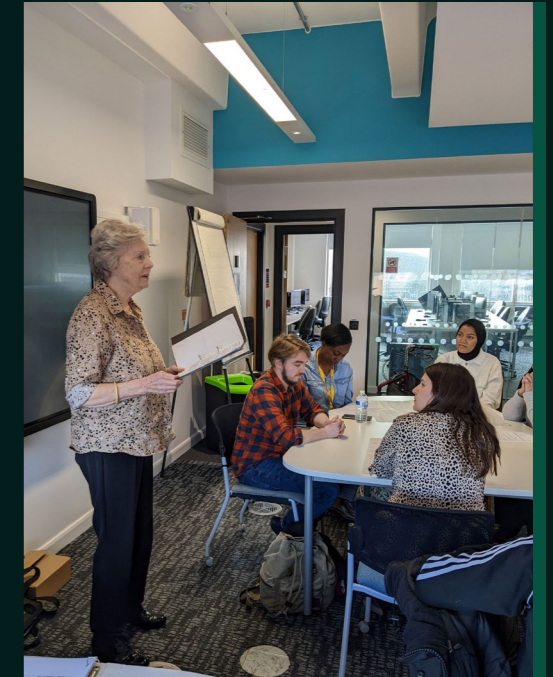
Organised by Jennie Cooke, a Tutor on the University's Public Health and Community Studies BA course, the event was prompted by the 2021 launch of "Who Turned Out the Lights?", a collection of original writing by members of the Resource Centre's Creative Writing Group, where Criterion actors performed selections from the book.

Having attended the original launch event, Jennie immediately set out to incorporate the writers and their work into an educational experience for her first-year students. After discussions with Centre Manager Hugh Sorrill and Writing Group leader Jess Eastman, a three-hour workshop was devised, where the students and the writers could meet and share experiences.

Several writers and volunteers travelled from the Resource Centre to the Campus, where the discussions around living with sight loss were punctuated by readings from Anne Houston and Richard Warren, who directed the original launch event. Reactions were very positive. Muna, one of the students, said: "The event was great. It helped me think about the emotional impact of blindness. It was really nice to hear the poems and see how the writers felt".

Tutor Jennie added: "I really enjoyed working with CRCB and the actors from the Criterion to bring the writers and their experiences together with my students. This event met so many of our learning objectives for the course, in a really fun and interactive way. My students have been asking me when we can go and visit the Centre: I think that is a sign of success!"

In addition to that return student visit, there is also a plan for the original cast - Anne Houston, Helen McGowan and Jon Elves - to record the pieces for an audio version of the book, to be released later in 2022.






un:mute

The Criterion was delighted to be able to host the “un:Mute” exhibition over two days in March (21-22).

“un:mute” is part of the Resonate Festival, funded by the University of Warwick to celebrate Coventry’s year as UK City of Culture. Celebrating the power of creativity, conversation and connection, The Resonate Festival launched in May 2021 and brings a 12-month programme of inspiring and interactive events (many free) for people of all ages across Coventry and Warwickshire to spark ideas, curiosity and creativity. Resonate culminates in a grand finale - a three-day live festival on campus in April 2022. The Resonate Festival programme is linked with the monthly themes of the Coventry City of Culture year, with our exhibition forming a part of their overall events.

Visitors were able to explore in person the artwork produced by the Women|Theatre|Justice artist-in-residence Laura Dean - a powerful and different way of telling the story of a research project. Laura also designed the artwork for our previous production “The Gift”.

In 1979 serving prisoners founded a women-only theatre company. Today it is the internationally-renowned theatre, education and advocacy organisation *Clean Break*, which puts women’s experience of the criminal justice system centre stage.

The W|T|J team are academics from Business Schools and Applied Theatre and Contemporary Performance researching how Clean Break works and its impact on theatre, the criminal justice system, and the women at its heart. In response, Dean has created imagery that is astute, bold, often humorous and always compassionate.

CRITERION FRIENDS

We are so grateful to our current Criterion Friends who continue to give us small, and larger, donations on a regular basis to help us keep going into our seventieth decade!

You can join this list - there is real power in lots of people giving us small amounts on a regular basis. And you can gift-aid your pledge too. Gifting the cost of a double gin and tonic every month will make all the difference to your local theatre!

So what are you waiting for? Contact Helen McGowan on friends@critteriontheatre.co.uk or visit www.criteriontheatre.co.uk/join/friend to find out more.”

- Alan Porter
- John and Wendy Baxter
- Mick Forey
- Pete Gillam and Anne-marie Greene
- Ruth Miller and Bill Butler
- Chris Murly
- John and Kate Purcell
- Jane and Keith Railton
- Judy and Simon Sharpe
- Zoe and Rob Wartnaby



We Are
OPEN
 10.30am-12.30pm

SATURDAY 2ND APRIL

COFFEE
 MORNING

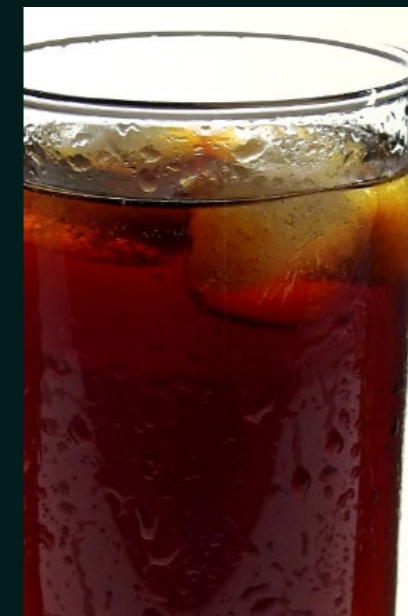
Criterion Theatre
 Berkeley Rd South
 CV5 6EF

in association with

SENA
 STREET
 SALE



Coffee
 Cake
 Community



Need a
Pitstop?



You can now order your drink and/or ice cream before you even get to the theatre via the Criterion Bar online ordering system.

Collect it on your way into the theatre and enjoy some refreshment at your seat. You can also choose to order for either interval (or both!) during the performance too.

Please be aware that cash payments will not be available at the bar itself - CARD ONLY.

Go to <https://www.criteriontheatre.co.uk/bar> to start your order!

If you haven't used our bar ordering application on the website, it couldn't be easier.

1. Click on "Start Order" at the top.



Start Your Order

Your Name
 Frank Ian Stein

Your Email
 monster@gmail.com

When
 Sat 29th Jan - a performance of: The Gift

First Act

2. Put in your details - name, email, the performance you want them for and which Act you want them for. The click "Choose from the menu"

3. Choose your required refreshments. When you've finished, Click on "Pay"

4. Enter any further requirements e.g "No ice" and enter your card details.

5. Collect your drinks from the Drinks collection point from the Foyer. They will be

If you are taking your drinks into the auditorium with you, please help our volunteers by returning your glasses to the bar. Thankyou!

Coming Next

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Contact our Lawyers for professional, practical and confidential advice. Initial ½ hour consultation free.

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Mary Stuart
Saturday 14th - 21st May 2022

Deposed, imprisoned and powerless Mary, Queen of Scots represents everything that threatens the life and reign of Queen Elizabeth I. The two women have much in common, having been manipulated by powerful forces around them, but only one can live.

A thrilling fictional meeting is at the heart of Schiller's play in which Mary redeems her youthful crimes through an ordeal that lifts her into realms of spiritual serenity, while Elizabeth descends deeper into rage, revenge and deception. Oswald's striking adaptation in a mixture of modern prose and poetry is accessible and passionate.

"At a time when world media is obsessed with the English royals' pretty wedding frocks and resplendent pomp and ceremony, showcasing a perfectly dressed union of state, monarchy and church, Peter Oswald's new version of 18th century playwright Friedrich Schiller's Mary Stuart takes us back to a time when having influence through power, religion, loyalty and monarchy, could literally be a matter of life or death...and shows us that time hasn't changed one aspect of monarchy: that the world continues to judge by appearance, rather than reality."

(Kate Ward-Smythe, New Zealand Herald)



If you have any comments about your experience with The Criterion Theatre, please email us at: customerexperience@criteriontheatre.co.uk

Video and/or audio recording of performance by any means whatsoever are strictly prohibited

Registered Charity 11614

We believe that it is important as an organisation that serves the people of Coventry to speak out against racial injustice and prejudice.
We want to be clear – Black Lives Matter.
We are listening, and we are learning about how we can serve our communities better together.

