

the everyman

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Issue 3

December 2010 | January 2011

COMING SOON

EVERYMAN THEATRE 2011



The Hypochondriak | 22-26 March 2011

Loot | 10-14 May 2011



Everyman Summer Theatre Festival 6-30 July



Pirates of Penzance | 6-16 July

Comedy of Errors | 20-30 July

Old King Cole | 23-30 July



Good | November 2011



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In this edition of
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The Crucible

You may well have missed Everyman's recent production The Crucible, as it was a sell-out on every night. If so, you missed an evening of great drama.

Miller's righteous indignation about the true-life injustice of Salem (and of course that of The House Committee on Un-American Activities), powers through his masterpiece. The play is so good, you might think that it would be difficult to mess it up, but this is quite a difficult play for an amateur company to pull off well. A large cast (with loads of men), hysteria, extreme emotion and the risk of accidentally comedic wigs provide plenty of scope for disaster.

Gerry Watson's production dodged a bullet straight off by choosing not to have the cast do American accents. I'm willing to go with the explanation that American accents as we know them wouldn't have existed in 1692 - but I also think it doesn't matter either way; it would have been almost impossible to get such a large cast of non-American professionals, let alone amateurs, to maintain consistent Massachusetts accents – and wandering accents are a painful distraction and a barrier to involvement in the story. The costumes and wigs were also excellent and a simple, set and beautiful lighting leant the domestic scenes in particular a quiet, painterly quality.

Gerry also managed to magic-up a pretty much perfect male cast – apologies to the men of Everyman, but it does often prove difficult to find so many really good male actors, (while good female actors are often in over-abundance), but this production was an exception, with even the smallest parts played with utter believability. Perhaps inevitably it was David Aspden's brilliant portrayal of John Proctor that stole the play. Pam Weiner gave a lovely, subtle performance as Elizabeth Proctor and her quiet dignity worked well as a counterpoint to David's powerful, barnstorming performance.

The production made interesting use of Native American imagery and music throughout, hinting at the external pressures and threats that might have contributed to the hysteria of the trials - and the lute player in the lobby on the way in was also a nice touch. I was slightly less convinced that the additions of sermons at the beginning of the play and after the interval were needed to elucidate the religious environment. The fallacious and circular arguments of the religious and legal representatives were made perfectly clear in the compelling performances of Peter Harding-Roberts' Reverend Parris and Paul Fanning's Danforth. Compelling performances were a particular feature of this production. Rebecca Watson was particularly good as Mary Warren, Michael Picardie was excellent as the tragic-comic Giles Corey, as was Gill Rees as Rebecca Nurse, the moral anchor of the community and the play. The Crucible was a showcase for what Everyman can deliver so well – a stage filled with actors from across the generations and a mix of established and newer members coming together to bring a great drama to life.

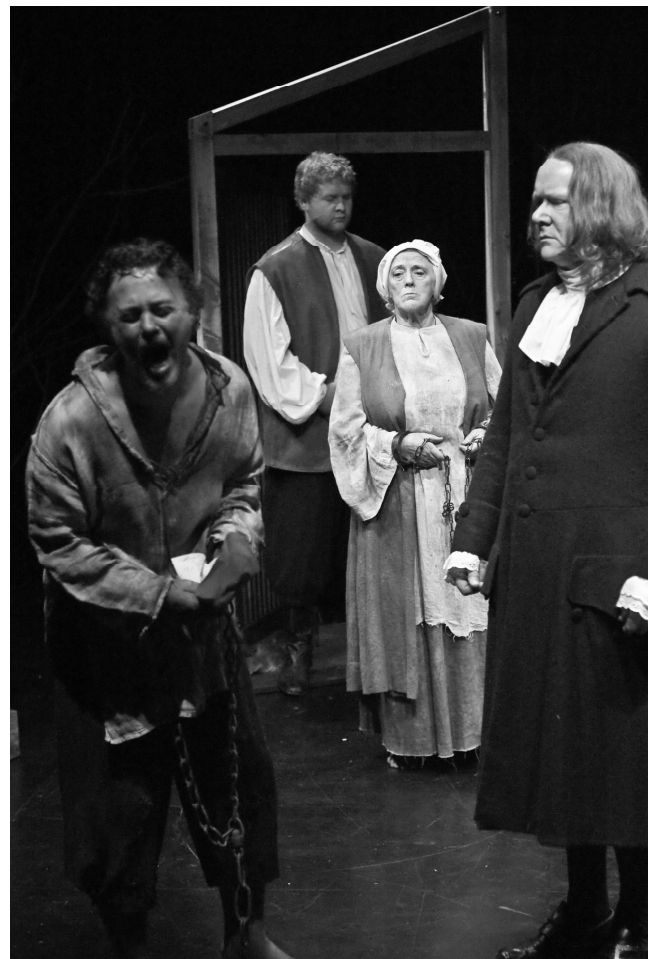
~Alison Shephard

Actors Required!

I'm trying to put a cast together for a script-in-hand reading/performance of a play that I've written. The play is about Brendan Behan and the first production, by Joan Littlewood's Theatre Workshop company, of his play "**The Quare Fellow**" at the Theatre Royal, Stratford East End, London, in 1956. I need about a dozen male actors for the play and one female voice for a couple of voices-off (there is one female part, already cast). I hope to put it on at Chapter next year sometime, hopefully in the spring or early summer. *Be warned, there is a lot of strong language from the outset.*

If anyone is interested, please contact Tim Davies (Ezekiel Cheever) on 20561389, 07903 008965, or timdavies26@hotmail.com

The Crucible in pictures



The Hypochondriak

This production is now cast and I would like to thank everyone who auditioned for their interest and support.

Members of the cast will also play parts in the Commedia dell'Arte interlude between Acts 2 and 3

Illuminations will provide the chorus in the musical interlude which ends the play

Rehearsals start on Tuesday 11 January 2011

Eric (director)

Cast List

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| <u>Argan</u> | Simon Fuddy |
| <u>Beralde</u> | Brian Smith |
| <u>Toinette</u> | Kate Lewis |
| <u>Beline</u> | Grainne Joughin |
| <u>Angelique</u> | Sarah Madden |
| <u>Cleante</u> | George Nichols |
| <u>M. Diafoirus</u> | John Atkinson |
| <u>T. Diafoirus</u> | Ian Gibbons |
| <u>Louison</u> | Alys Pearce |
| <u>M. Purgon</u> | Mike Picardie |
| <u>M. Bonnefoy/</u> | |
| <u>M.Fleurant</u> | Andreas Constantinou |

Club Nights

Welcome to the Spring season of clubnights!

The new season will start immediately after the Christmas break on Wednesday 5 January 2011, with the first of our festival pitches.

The season is currently being confirmed but all the clubnights that have now been planned are listed below. Further updates will be available on our website (www.everymantheatre.co.uk)

Your ideas are always welcome, so if you have the beginnings of a clubnight plan and just need to make it a reality then please contact us on enquiries@everymantheatre.co.uk so that we can find you a suitable date in the clubnight diary!

January 5 **Start of Spring Season of Clubnights!** Further information on this clubnight will be announced soon. Keep checking our website for full details.

January 12 **Clubnight.** To be confirmed

January 19 **Festival Pitch:** Simon Fuddy will present his ideas for **Old King Cole**, our family production for the Summer Festival 2011

26 January **The Dock Brief:** Peter Harding-Roberts presents a clubnight on one of John Mortimer's popular plays

2 February **Festival Pitch:** Simon H West will outline his plans for **Comedy of Errors**, our summer Shakespeare.

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The Everyman Newsletter

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Please send contributions to the editor by mail at Chapter or by email.

Submissions for the next full newsletter must be received by **15 March 2011.**

