

FORTHCOMING EVENTS
AT THE MOUNTBATTEN

The Ghost Train BY
ARNOLD
RIDLEY

TUESDAY 7th - SATURDAY 11th February 1984

The Maskers are proud to present Arnold Ridley's spine-chilling drama as our third and final production in the 1983/4 season at the Mountbatten Theatre.

'The Ghost Train' is one of the most successful plays ever produced on the British Stage and is guaranteed to keep any audience sitting on the edge of their seats, right to the very end.

Passengers stranded on a remote Cornish railway station encounter ghostly apparitions, psychic predictions and death. Is there a rational explanation? 'The Ghost Train' is the perfect entertainment for a cold dark winter's evening and we promise you a shiver or two, even in the comfortable atmosphere of the Mountbatten Theatre.

TELEPHONE BOOKINGS FROM 16th JANUARY ON

SOUTHAMPTON 21991

ALL SEATS £1.90 (SENIORS & STUDENTS £1.50)

THE MOUNTBATTEN THEATRE

Patrons are requested to note the following:-

- a) The audience may leave at the end of the performance by all of the exit doors.
- b) All gangways, corridors, staircases and passageways which afford a means of exit shall be kept entirely free from obstruction.
- c) Persons shall not be permitted to stand or sit in any of the gangways.
- d) The safety curtain shall be lowered and raised at each performance in the presence of the audience.

the Maskers at the Mountbatten

alan ayckbourn's

**i
absurd
person
singular**



Director : Brian Stansbridge

Cast IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Sydney Hopcroft	KEN HANN
Jane Hopcroft	SHEENA CARRINGTON
Ronald Brewster-Wright	KENNETH SPENCER
Marion Brewster-Wright	MOLLY MANNIS
Eva Jackson	LYNDA EDWARDS
Geoffrey Jackson	JIM OLIVER

absurd person singular

The play is in three acts with two intervals of approximately 15 minutes, when refreshments will be available in the licensed bar.

ACT 1 The Hopcroft's house. Christmas Eve last year.

ACT 2 The Jackson's house. Christmas Eve, this year.

ACT 3 The Brewster-Wright's house. Christmas Eve, next year.

Alan Ayckbourn

ALAN AYCKBOURN was born in London in 1939, the son of Horace Ayckbourn, a musician, and the former Irene Maud Worley, whose parents had been music hall entertainers. He was uprooted from the suburbs by his mother's remarriage to a bank manager, and the rest of his childhood was spent in following his stepfather from branch to branch of his bank through a succession of temporary homes in Sussex. He was educated at Haileybury School and the Imperial Service College.

Ayckbourn's mother was a writer and magazine editor, and his first ambition was to be a journalist. At Haileybury, this was displaced by acting, thanks largely to a French teacher who directed the school's plays and took them on foreign tours. Through this connection, when he left school, Ayckbourn became an assistant stage manager with Donald Wolfit's touring company. Then, through what he calls the "Mafia of stage managers", he moved on to the Connaught Theatre in Worthing and the Leatherhead Theatre in Surrey, where he started acting, and finally to the Library Theatre, Scarborough, in Yorkshire. There - as a leading actor, playwright, and later as director of productions - he has remained, apart from the years between 1965 and 1969 when he worked as a drama producer for the BBC in Leeds.

At Scarborough, under the pseudonym of Roland Allen, Ayckbourn began writing farces aimed at the seaside vacation crowds who made up the bulk of the Scarborough audiences. From the start, therefore, he was producing material for a familiar group of actors working within given stage limitations towards a production on a fixed date. With his actor's loathing of minor roles, it was very much to Ayckbourn's taste to write small-cast plays; and he says that Scarborough gave him a "marvellous training in the economies of writing: how to make a crowd out of a few people, how to use off-stage characters, and how to be ingenious in the theatre".

His many successes include:- 'How the Other Half Loves', 'Bedroom Farce', 'The Norman Conquests' and tonight's production 'Absurd Person Singular'.

For the Maskers

Stage Manager	JOAN JOHNSON
Assisted by:-	KEITH HOOPER
Sound	LAWRIE GEE
Lighting	CLIVE WEEKS
	ALAN ROLFE
Properties	SHEILA CLARK
Assisted by:-	MARGARET HOUSE
	ANN BROOKES
	ENID CLARK
	JULIE BAKER
Set Design	BRIAN STANSBRIDGE
	KEN SPENCER
Set Construction	JOHN RIGGS
	ALAN BAKER
	& The Maskers
Wardrobe	LILLIAN GUNSTONE
Technical Director	RON TILLYER
Business Management	GRAHAM BUCHANAN
	BETTY RIGGS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Maskers gratefully acknowledge the assistance given by Mr Billet and the staff of the Mountbatten Theatre.

We are also indebted to friends and members of the public who contributed items of kitchen equipment and furniture.