

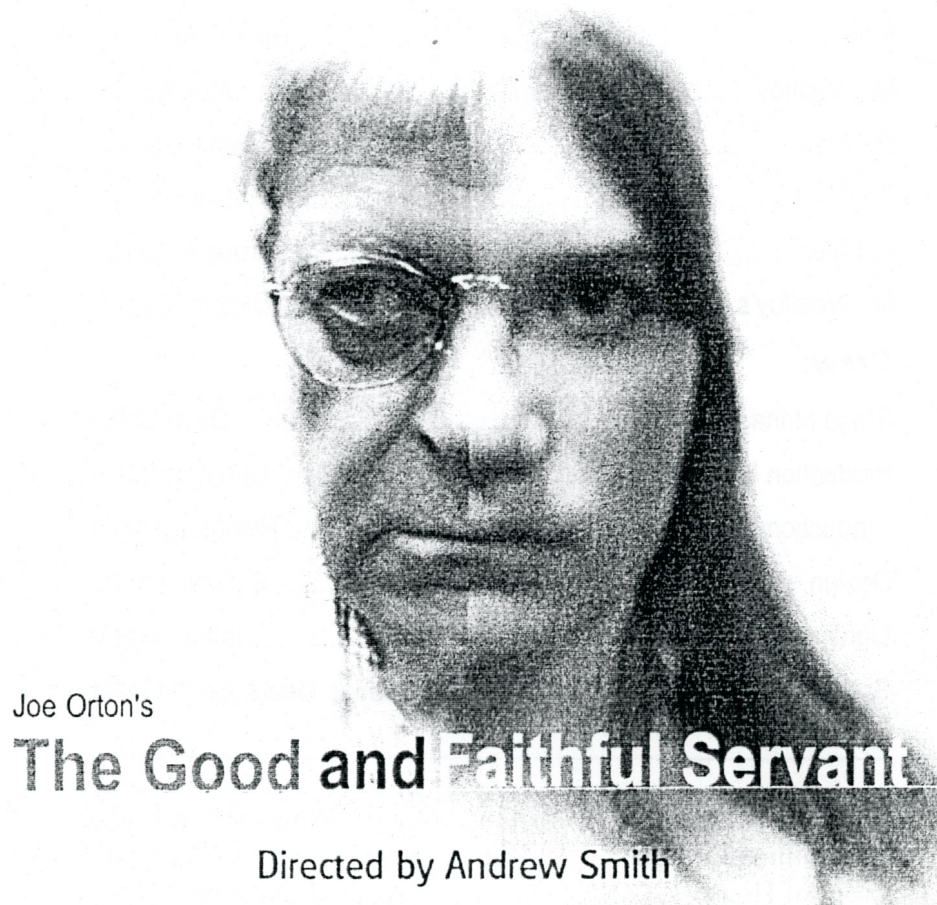
# Cheek!

by Howard Barker



Directed by Moyra Allen

## MASKERS THEATRE COMPANY DOUBLE BILL



Joe Orton's

## The Good and Faithful Servant

Directed by Andrew Smith

### Cheek!

The play is set in the 1960s, and revolves around two layabouts whose thoughts rarely travel above their belts. Laurie blames his dying father for his poor prospects in life, eventually falling for a neighbour whom he dupes into sleeping with him, only to be rebuffed on discovery of his deceit. Bill, very much the follower, alienates himself by getting a job and makes a play for Laurie's still very attractive mother. Laurie, now alone, finds solace in his rekindled affection for his father.

#### Moyra Allen - Director



Moyra started her theatrical career at the age of eleven, and appeared in Revues and Pantos as a professional dancer until she married and had children. She continued later with an Amateur Society for twelve years before moving to Southampton in 1976 to work with a local Amateur Operatic & Dramatic society for a further ten years.

This is her first production with The Maskers and it has been, she says, a challenge, but an enjoyable one.

### THE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

Infidelity, suicide, lost love, pregnancy, bad sanitation – and all in the first scene! This is surely all too much for George Buchanan, our reluctant hero, who is retiring today after 50 loyal years with the Firm.

A series of revelations from a familiar looking cleaning lady looks set to rock his plans for a peaceful but active retirement, playing skittles full time, and may force him to re-evaluate his existence.

Mrs Vealfoy, the sharp-suited, smiling face of Personnel, keeps a file on all employees, including a young typist named Debbie – recently put in the family way by a young man who she met by accident and who 'seemed to know what he was up to'. Ray likes an easy life – music, sex, the Arts – but the time may have come for him to consider his future.

#### ANDREW SMITH - DIRECTOR



As a trainee director at ARTTS Skillcentre in Yorkshire, Andrew enjoyed working on intimate studio productions, which included 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' – The Rude Mechanicals scenes, and 'Piaf' (both 2002).

This is his first project as a director, having acted for The Maskers in 'The Relapse' at the Nuffield, and stage managed 'Moonlight' here at the studio (both 2004).

## FORTHCOMING MASKERS PRODUCTIONS

### Christmas at Mottisfont

4 Cabaret Dinners

Mottisfont Abbey – December 2004  
Call Mottisfont Abbey on 01794 340757

### Christmas Starters

A relaxed evening of songs and extracts

Tudor Merchants Hall, Southampton  
7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> December 2004  
Box office: 023 8055 1489

### Pygmalion

By George Bernard Shaw

The Nuffield Theatre, Southampton  
18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2005  
Box Office: 023 8067 1771

### The Philanthropist

By Christopher Hampton

The Maskers Studio, Southampton  
22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> March 2005  
Box Office: 023 8055 1489

### The Man in the Iron Mask

By Alexandre Dumas

Mottisfont Abbey 13<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> July 2005  
Box Office: 023 8055 1489

### Would you like to join us?

The Maskers Theatre Company was founded in 1968. Several hundred productions (large and small) later we are firmly established as one of the South's leading Amateur groups. We are always pleased to welcome new members. Alternatively you may join the Friends of The Maskers in order that you can be kept up to date with advance notice of all productions.

If you are interested in joining us as a full member or as a friend, please contact our Membership Officer, Julia Jupp, on 023 8044 6600, or see our website: [www.maskers.org.uk](http://www.maskers.org.uk) for further information.



## Cheek!

### Cast:

Laurie.....Matt Avery  
 Bill.....Paul Mills  
 Shirley.....Rachel Thomas  
 Mum (Muriel).....Lyn Austin  
 Dad.....Graham Buchanan  
 Janice.....Joanna Locovou  
 US Officer.....Richard Hackett  
 Woman.....Silvia Bowers  
 School Girl.....Joanna Locovou

### Crew:

Stage Manager.....Dave Collis  
 Set Construction.....Ken Hann & Graham Buchanan  
 Production Manger.....Christine Baker  
 Production Assistant.....Richard Hackett  
 Lighting.....Nathan Weeks  
 Sound.....Laurie Gee & Geoff Grundy  
 Props.....Ella Lockett & Gill Buchanan

### LAURIE



**MATT AVERY**  
 This is Matt's third year with The Maskers, during which time he has performed at The Nuffield, Mottisfont Abbey and here in the studio. His past roles include Jack Lane in 'The Herbal Bed,' Cheuvelin in 'The Scarlet Pimpernel,' and the title role in 'Macbeth.' Most recently he played Jake in 'Moonlight'

### BILL



**PAUL MILLS**  
 This is Paul's second production with The Maskers. He last appeared in 'The Merry Wives' this year at Mottisfont in which he played the part of Master Fenton. Paul is also a keen musician.

### MUM (MURIEL)



**LYN AUSTIN**  
 Lyn has been on the stage and in various productions since she was seven years old, but in the past has mainly concentrated on musical and operatic shows. Her performance in 'Cheek' marks her first straight acting part with The Maskers.

### SHIRLEY



**RACHEL THOMAS**  
 Rachel has been with The Maskers for a year. Her most challenging role was in 'The Merry Wives of Windsor' at Mottisfont.

### DAD



**GRAHAM BUCHANAN**  
 Actor, director, playwright and founder member of The Maskers, Graham is still finding fresh fascination and fulfilment in the company - and is also much older than he looks!

### JANICE



**JOANNA LACOVOU**  
 Jo is a relative newcomer to The Maskers. She has been in three productions to date, her latest role being that of the hostess of the Garter Inn in 'The Merry Wives.' By day she works as a nurse at Southampton General Hospital.

### ADELLE



**SHONA LUPTON**  
 This is Shona's first role since recently rejoining The Maskers. She has also performed in 'Macbeth' at The Nuffield Theatre, and in 'The Scarlet Pimpernel' at Mottisfont. She is a student and also works at John Lewis, Southampton.

## Cheek! - The Cast

## The Good and Faithful Servant

### Cast:

George Buchanan.....Harry Tuffill  
 Edith.....Brenda Atkinson  
 Mrs Vealfoy.....Alex Austin  
 Debbie.....Ellen Holbrook  
 Ray.....Phillip Nottingham  
 Old Man.....Bruce Atkinson  
 Mrs Vealfoy's PA.....Victoria Carter

### Crew:

Stage Manager.....Dave Collis  
 Production Manager.....Christine Baker  
 Production Assistant.....Richard Hackett  
 Design, props and costume.....Carla Evans  
 Lighting.....Nathan Weeks  
 Sound.....Laurie Gee & Geoff Grundy

Publicity Manger.....Angela Stansbridge  
 Programme Design.....Carla Evans  
 Front of House.....Julia Jupp & Team

### GEORGE BUCHANAN



**HARRY TUFFILL**  
 During his 26 years with The Maskers, Harry admits he has never played a passionate young hero. But 'Servant' is his second landmark as an actor after his performance in 'Cyrano' where he got made up to look younger, and then washed off to age; whereas now he is aging up to play a man younger than himself.

### EDITH



**BRENDA ATKINSON**  
 Brenda has been with The Maskers for fifteen years and most recently appeared with her husband, Bruce in 'The Merry Wives' at Mottisfont Abbey this summer. She has also performed at The Nuffield this year with The Southampton Players, as well as in their 1991 production of 'Tess of the D'Urbervilles.'

### MRS VEALFOY



**ALEX AUSTIN**  
 This is Alex's second studio play with The Maskers, following her role as Bridget in Harold Pinter's 'Moonlight' earlier this year. She has also performed at Mottisfont Abbey, most recently in 'The Scarlet Pimpernel' (2003) and was a props assistant for 'The Merry Wives.' Alex is currently a student at Brockenhurst College

### DEBBIE



**ELLEN HOLBROOK**  
 Ellen has just graduated from Winchester University, where she studied Drama. Her previous roles include Helena in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream,' and Mrs Linde in 'A Doll's House', but this is her first production with The Maskers. She is a theatre reviewer for The Mayflower and Chichester Festival Theatre

### RAY



**PHILLIP NOTTINGHAM**  
 Phil has performed in a range of amateur and school productions including 'Grease' and 'Oliver,' and also took the lead role in 'Macbeth' for Romsey Drama School in 1991. A keen Saxophonist, he plays for local ska band *Speaking of Losers*, and brings his musical talents to this, his first production with The Maskers.

### OLD MAN



**BRUCE ATKINSON**  
 Having played in several Maskers productions, including 'Tess of the D'Urbervilles' in 1991, Bruce recently took a supporting part in two productions of 'Merry Wives' - one with Maskers and the other with the Southampton Players at the Nuffield. He also has theatre and TV credits from his former home of New Zealand

### VEALFOY'S PA



**VICTORIA CARTER**  
 Victoria has performed in her school production of 'Bring Out Your Dead' and takes part in Stagecoach workshops in acting, singing and dancing. This is her first role with The Maskers and she looks forward to participating in many more shows. Victoria is also about to embark on a film project with friends.

## The Good and Faithful Servant - The Cast