

About the Author

Alan Ayckbourn has written 79 plays to date. Ten Times Table was written during the 1970s when Ayckbourn was at the top of his playwriting career. This is a much gentler comedy than many of his plays written during the same period. Although the end of the play switches from comedy to farce it nevertheless still bears many of Ayckbourn's hallmarks, sharp observation of human nature and the weaknesses and quirkiness of ordinary people. He directed the play's first outing in his hometown of Scarborough and in the round. There is a laugh on almost every line as we watch this group plan a pageant while gently throttling one another, each thinking that they have the right to lead, while others sit back quietly and get on with the job.

Why not join us?



Maskers Theatre Company was founded in 1968 and is firmly established as one of the South's leading non-professional theatre groups. The company has its own studio theatre and workshop space where rehearsals and small-scale productions take place. There is a comfortable bar where members and guests can relax and enjoy a drink. We also have a lively social calendar. We are always pleased to welcome new members. There are opportunities to be involved backstage, front of house, technically, in marketing, and in the many other activities involved in producing quality theatre. To join, complete the membership form on our website, www.maskers.org.uk.

Or Join our Mailing List

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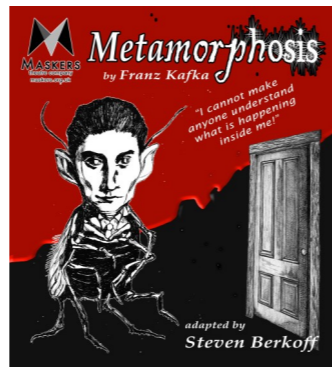
The Crew

Production Manager.....	Robert Osborne
Stage Manager.....	Angie Barks
Set Design.....	John Hamon
Lighting Design.....	Rubén Sánchez-García
Sound Design.....	Jamie McCarthy & Liam Fowler
Original Music.....	Pete Burrows
Pianist (recorded).....	John Evans
Location Sound Recording.....	Nick Longland
Costume Design & Wardrobe.....	Serena Brown, Susan Wilson & Cast Properties
Properties.....	Nichola Caveney & Martin Caveney
Lighting Operator.....	Rubén Sánchez-García
Sound Operator.....	Liam Fowler
Stage & Technical Crews.....	Alison Tebbutt
Set Construction.....	John Hamon, Graham Buchanan, David Jupp, Ken Hann, Peter Hill, Steve Russell

For the Company

Technical Director --- Jamie McCarthy; **Marketing Director** --- Ruth Kibble; **Marketing Team** --- Sarah Russell, Angela Stansbridge, Leah Barlow, James Norton, Rubén Sánchez-García, Clive Weeks; **Front of House and Box Office Manager** --- Chris Baker; **Photography** --- Clive Weeks; **Bar Manager** --- Leah Barlow (assisted by Phill Rucci)

Future Maskers Productions



Metamorphosis

Based on a novel by Franz Kafka and adapted by Steven Berkoff

15 - 19 March 2016

Maskers Studio Theatre

Book tickets online or 0333 666 3366

Gregor Samsa awakes to find he has transformed into an insect-like creature. His family are repelled by his new verminous being. How will he adjust to his new form? One of the seminal works of fiction, often in print and translated into several forms for stage, TV and radio. This promises to be a thought provoking evening!

Di and Viv and Rose

The hit comedy by Amelia Bullmore!

17 - 21 May 2016

Maskers Studio Theatre

Book tickets online or 0333 666 3366



Di and Viv and Rose are three very different young women who meet at university and go on to forge a long-lasting bond. This is a warm and funny play about friendship's impact on life...and life's impact on friends.



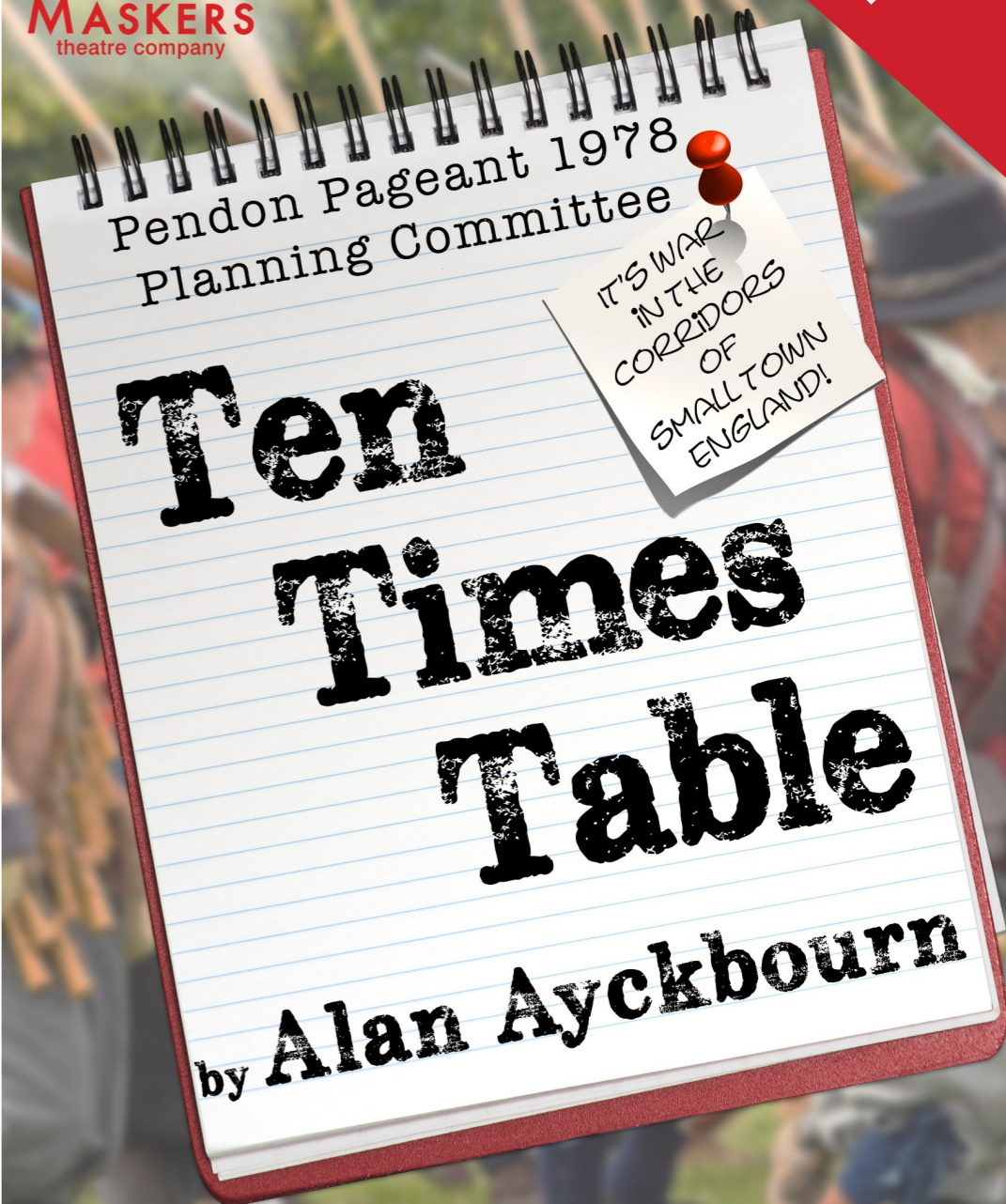
George Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion

6 - 16 July 2016 (no performance 11 July)

In the OPEN AIR at **Hamptworth Lodge**

Landford SP5 2EA (between Romsey & Salisbury)

Find us on Facebook @MaskersTheatre



Join the fun as Pendon plan their historic town pageant

PROGRAMME

NUFFIELD THEATRE
SOUTHAMPTON

2-6 FEBRUARY 2016

www.maskers.org.uk

Director's Notes - Hazel Burrows

Maskers have had a long and successful history of performing at The Nuffield; I myself have directed here before, staging *Sitting Pretty* in 2013, and have performed in countless shows both here and in Maskers' other venues over the years - our Studio Theatre in Shirley and in the open air at Mottisfont and Hamptworth Lodge.



Alan Ayckbourn, being such a prolific and well-regarded playwright, provides rich pickings from which to choose a play, and *Ten Times Table* is perfect for the winter months. It is hilarious, wryly observed, and full of characters we can recognise or with whom we may have bumped heads in a meeting at some point!

My cast includes performers from right across the spectrum of our membership. I am delighted to be directing a play that includes founder and life members of the company, as well as those making their performance debut with us on the Nuffield stage. Rehearsals have been a riot (not literally, although we do come close as you'll see tonight)! We have certainly had our challenges, but the constant laughter has enabled us to bond as a group and really draw out the best in each unique character.

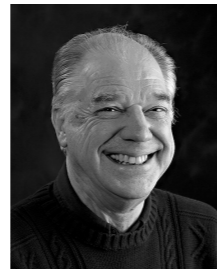
The play at its core is about joining together to achieve something that is important to everyone; what is that if not a description of the theatre! Our characters are single-minded, often rude, desperate, conniving, and occasionally trigger-happy... our cast, you'll be delighted to hear, are not!

Hazel has been a Masker since the early 70s, performing in a wide range of roles all the while gathering experience. In the Spring of 2011 she took up the role of director with her first full length production of the comedy *Ladies Day* and enjoyed every minute. Soon after, she decided to take on the Nuffield Theatre with another comedy, *Sitting Pretty*, written by Amy Rosenthal - daughter of Maureen Lipman. We were thrilled to have Amy come along and see the show; she thought that this was as good as any professional production. This gave Hazel an enormous boost to direct another play by the ever-popular Alan Ayckbourn, a piece about real people we can all identify with. She says, "I am very fortunate indeed to be able to have the opportunity of directing within such a talented company. We've laughed a lot in rehearsal as I know you will in performance. Sit back and feel cosy while winter blows outside, and allow this wonderful cast to tickle you pink!"

Acknowledgements

Flame Torbay Costume Hire - Hire of soldiers' costumes
Gear of Honour - Providing firearm advice
St James Road Methodist Church - Loan of hall chairs

The Cast



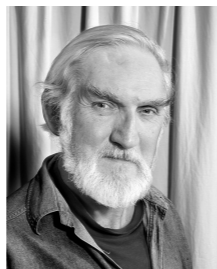
Ray Dixon (shop owner) is played by **Ken Hann**. Ken first appeared at the Nuffield for Maskers in 1970 as a character named Vermin, which says it all really. Over the years he has gathered a fair number of vicars, stiff upper-lip Englishmen and Regency fops to his repertoire. Having had the privilege of directing four plays at the Nuffield, including *King Lear* and *Uncle Vanya*, Ken is looking forward to acting in his third Ayckbourn.



Helen Dixon (Ray's wife) is played by **Christine Baker**. Chris Baker has been a member of Maskers since the 1970s. She was last on stage playing an aged mouse in *Can You Hear The Music*, for which she won a Daily Echo Curtain Call Award. Chris serves on the Maskers Committee and hopes that the Pendon Pageant committee bears little resemblance.



Donald Evans (a councillor) is played by **Nick Longland**. Tonight marks Nick's debut performance with Maskers as one of our newer members. Having been a member of RAODS for a number of years, Nick has featured in a variety of shows including *Jack The Ripper*. He won a 2014 Curtain Call Award for his role in *Private Lives*. Nick is looking forward to performing on the Nuffield stage for the first time and very much hopes you enjoy tonight's show as much as he has enjoyed being a part of it.



Audrey Evans (Donald's mother) is played by **John Souter**. John has performed with Maskers for many years in various roles both serious and comic, but this will be his first Alan Ayckbourn play. Having had many challenges on the Nuffield stage, including *King Lear*, he now faces what will be his greatest challenge and one that demands his ultimate personal sacrifice; to appear before his public in a frock and bare-faced!



Eric Collins & John Cockle are played by **William Baggs**. This is William's second time performing with Maskers at the Nuffield. His first was in *Sitting Pretty* playing an art teacher; this time it's a modern history teacher. In his last role as Shere Khan in *The Jungle Book*, William almost got to eat the other characters; it's a lot of fun getting hot under the collar and insulting characters this time around. Returning to the Nuffield will be a real pleasure as it's a great team and a funny play.



Philippa (Eric's partner) is played by **Angie Stansbridge**. Angela has been a member of Maskers since 1973 and has enjoyed playing a range of parts in all of our performance spaces. She is rarely seen without bundles of publicity flyers as she is part of the hard working marketing team. This means that working on the character of Philippa, who is quiet with little to say and an inability to be heard, has been a challenge!!

The Cast Continued



Tim Barton (one-time Captain) is played by **Peter Ward**. Peter, or Peewee as he is known, is a recent engineering graduate. Therefore quite how he ended up going into theatre is a mystery to many people, including himself. Whatever the reason, he is now a regular performer with aspirations to go professional in the near future. Recent credits include Officer Barrel in Stickman Productions' *Urinetown* and Aumerle in *Richard II* with Maskers.



Sophie Barton (sister to Tim) is played by **Marie McDade**. Marie joined Maskers in 2011 and has had the good fortune to be cast in roles ranging from tragic Shakespeare widow to jungle-dwelling panther, via various other eccentric alcoholics and academics. The opportunity to help bring Ayckbourn to the Nuffield stage is one she could not pass up, not least as it was the best excuse ever to haunt all the charity shops in Hampshire for 70's gear... Fab!



Lawrence Adamson (a businessman) is played by **Philip de Grouchy**. Philip has been strutting the stage for more years than he or anyone else can remember, playing a wide variety of roles, from Shakespeare to G&S opera. His current demanding role of Lawrence luckily provides frequent opportunities for rest and recuperation between drinking and sleeping, so he should last out till curtain-call. You are requested not to applaud too loudly while he is asleep.



Hotel Caretaker is played by **John Hamon**. From John's early days of appearing as a huntsman in The Royal Ballet's *Swan Lake* and a leading role in the British premier of Cesti's opera *The Chaste Love of Orontea* to the present day and being on stage at the Nuffield in *Ten Times Table* as...a caretaker! What does he say about that you may ask? Well nothing really, as it is a non-speaking part for him!



Max Kirkov (Student & Caretaker's assistant) is played by **David Jobson**. Having strutted around as Buldeo in *The Jungle Book*, David is taking a step back into a silent role for this production. A step up, perhaps, from the time he played a lobotomised patient in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, standing at the back, saying "**** em all" a few times! Still, he made his presence felt by the end, and hopes to do the same here.

Patrons are advised that the use of photography and recording equipment is forbidden in the auditorium. The audience may leave at the end of the performance by all exit doors. All gangways, corridors, staircases and passageways which afford a means of exit should be kept free from obstruction at all times. The safety curtain will be lowered and raised at each performance in the presence of the audience.

There will be one interval of 20 mins. Drinks can be pre-ordered at the bar. The performance will end at approx 10pm. Bar is open after the performance on Friday evening until 11pm.