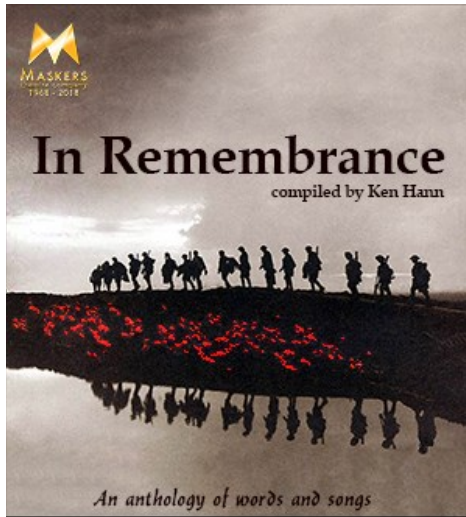


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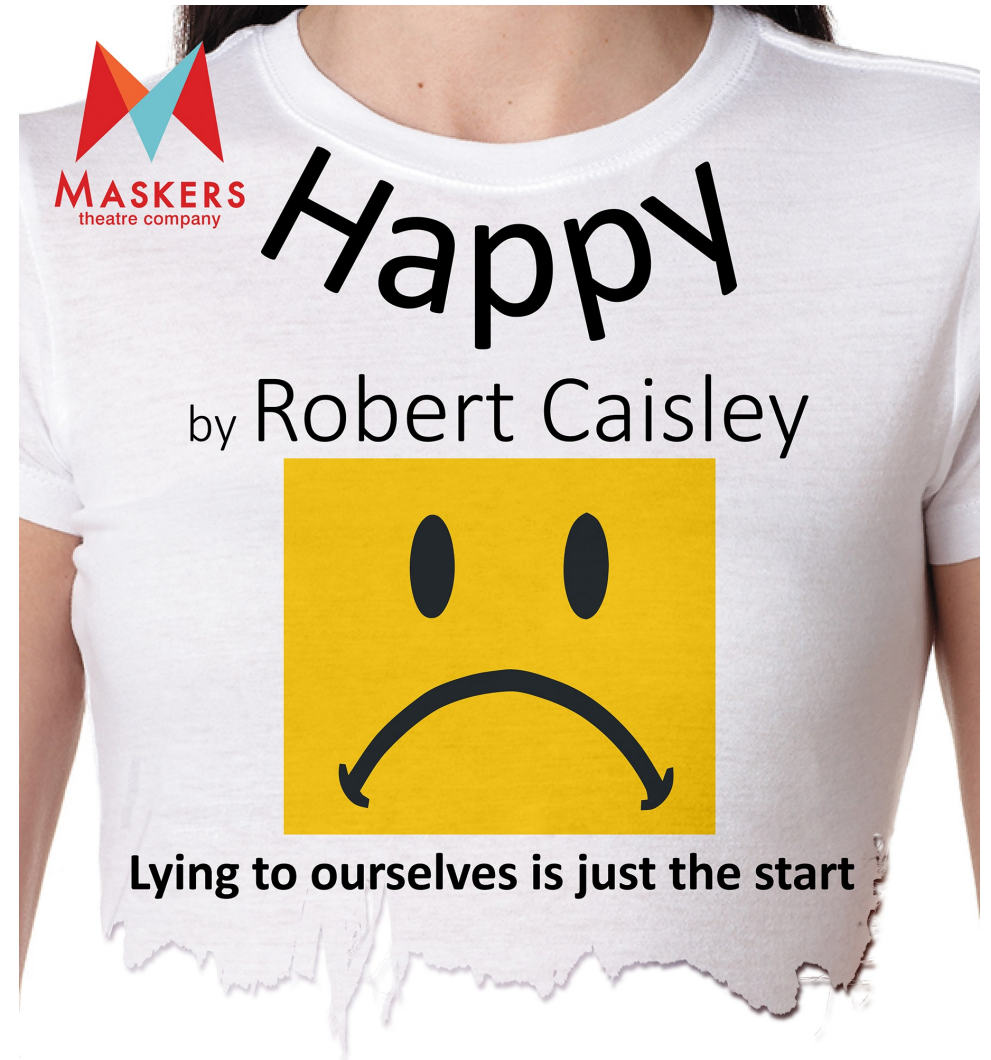
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### For the MASKERS

**Technical Manager** --- Jamie McCarthy; **Marketing Director** --- Sarah Russell; **Marketing Team** --- Angela Stansbridge, S J Wareham, Kate McCracken, James Norton, Clive Weeks, Robert Osborne, Meri Mackney, Matt Avery; **Front of House Director** --- Chris Baker; **Bar Manager** --- Meri Mackney; **Box Office Manager** --- Chris Baker; **Photography** --- Clive Weeks.

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**Programme**

**22 to 27 October 2018**

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## Director's Notes

I was not familiar with Robert Caisley before *Happy* came to my attention; however, I was instantly familiar with so much of his play's content. Here was a contemporary play providing subtle commentary on 21<sup>st</sup> century society and the pressures it conforms to. Not only that, it was doing so through a situation and characters which everyone can relate to. Who hasn't been to an event with a bizarre guest they have no idea how to react to? Who hasn't had to put on a happy face when deep down they are feeling anything but? Who hasn't wanted to talk about how they are really feeling but been too afraid or self-conscious?

I believe that theatre serves two roles: to entertain the audience and to make them think. I was delighted, therefore, to work on a play with such a relevant message. We all want to be happy, of course, but does society put too much pressure on us to be so? My goal from the beginning has been to use the play's situation and often dark humour to engage our audience and to encourage them to think about emotion in ways that they may not have done before. If we achieve that, then I'll be happy. When I joined Maskers in 2011, I never imagined that I would one day put myself forward as a director. I still have to pinch myself to realise I am not dreaming and that this whole experience has actually happened. Fortunately seven years of experience in the company both onstage and backstage have put me in good stead to tackle the challenge of taking creative control.

I must thank my amazing cast for their passion and dedication and my loyal crew who have been so supportive in helping me bring my vision to life. Thanks especially to Paul Green for introducing me to the play, providing me guidance when needed and for keeping everything on track. You have all made this such a rewarding experience and I could not be happier with our production.

*Robert*



**Directed by Robert Osborne** - Robert has appeared onstage as a shy art student in *Sitting Pretty*, a gruff Yorkshireman in *Wuthering Heights* and a conflicted son in *Antigone*, to name but a few. He won the Maskers' David Bartlett Award for his performance as the slimy Chief Clerk in *Metamorphosis*. In addition, he has worked tirelessly backstage as a stage and production manager at venues including the studio, the Nuffield, the Berry, Hangar Farm and in the open air at Hamptworth, where he won the Lockett Award for best backstage role. He is stepping into the director's shoes for the first time.

## The Production Crew

**Production Manager / Mentor**  
**Stage Manager**  
**Set Designer**  
**Lighting Design**  
**Lighting Operator**  
**Sound Designer**  
**Sound Operator**  
**Properties and Set Dressing**  
**Costume**  
**FoH Announcer**

Paul Green  
James Norton  
Emma James  
David Cowley  
David Cowley, SJ Wareham, Millie Webb  
Tom Foyle  
Eric Petterson, Peter Court  
Adam Taussik, Jo Fox  
Hazel Slawson, Anna Hussey  
Ashley Stout

## The Cast



**Alfred - (he is happy)** is played by **Jonathan Barney-Marmont** Jonathan has been a member of Maskers for a few years now. Jonathan played Gregor Samsa in *Metamorphosis*, for which he received the Best Actor in a Drama Curtain Call Award for 2016. Following that was a stint at The Mayflower Theatre in Southampton in *An Inspector Calls*, Maskers' Professor Higgins in *Pygmalion* and Boby in *An Italian Straw Hat* at The Nuffield, followed by Mr. Darcy in *Pride and Prejudice* for RAODS; then, back with Maskers in the open air playing Phileas Fogg in *Around the World In 80 Days*. It's been a busy couple of years!



**Melinda - (she is happy)** is played by **Maria Head** Maria has been a member of Maskers for many years and has played a wide variety of roles, including Mistress Page from *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Sonya in *Afterplay*, Marmee in *Little Women* and the scary Annie Wilkes in *Misery*. Although Melinda is not such a scary part, she is as wonderfully eccentric in her own way and Maria is looking forward to the production enormously.



**Eduardo - (he is happy)** is played by **Ian Wilson** Ian has been a member of Maskers for about 11 years and has played the King of England, a ham actor (really?), a barman in deepest Ireland, a rather tardy shopkeeper and a lepidopterist. In his last production he played the fool in *Wyrd Sisters*. He was fairly happy at the end, so is looking forward to being happy again, albeit without a tricorn hat and bells.



**Eva - (she is NOT happy)** is played by **Marilyn White** Marilyn is thrilled to be a part of the premiere production of *Happy* for the UK and Maskers and to take on the role of the antagonist - a first time for her! Previously residing and acting in Singapore, Marilyn has played a variety of roles from Celia in *Calendar Girls* to Roberta in *Danny and the Deep Blue Sea* but nobody quite like Eva. Marilyn looks forward to bringing Eva to life and the truth of (un)happiness to light.

## Acknowledgements

Debbie Goldberg and Anita Sacher for American props.

John Souter for the statue. Shirley Kebab House for the kebabs

SUP theatre company for props

*Kali Mirchi* 

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