

THE MASKERS
PRESENT
PETER NICHOL'S
THE
NATIONAL
HEALTH
OR
NURSE NORTON'S AFFAIR



Director
PETER WHITE

THE NATIONAL HEALTH

PETER NICHOLS

writes to a producer of the play

I needn't tell you, I'm sure, that this piece is neither an attack on nor a defence of the Health Service. When I told this to some journalist in an interview, before the play opened, he added to my words: Not intentionally anyway. Only the title leads people to expect it but, of course, I meant that to refer to the health of the nation.

The other actors should not take their cue from Barnet, who is not my mouthpiece. He is a man who puts everything at its lowest value. He survives, he's funny, but he misses the point...

I am only too aware that Barnet doesn't do much to praise the Health Service or attack Private Medicine but the play isn't about that anyway and I'm only anxious to prevent people using it as Right Wing propaganda....

Please feel free to make clear in programmes and press releases that the play isn't an attack on Medicare or Socialism or any other sensible undertaking. I take it for granted that any decent community would want its resources to be shared - whether they're hospitals, libraries, parks, universities, houses, milk, old masters or fresh salmon - and inasmuch as we fail to share them, we fail to be respectable. But you can see how difficult it is to say that in a play without getting egg on your face. The emphasis might be on the fact that the play's called The National Health, not The National Health Service.

THE CAST

PATIENTS

REES
TYLER
ASH
FOSTER
KEN
FLAGG
LOACH
MACKIE

DAVID BARTLETT
DAVID JUPP
DAVID PIKE
KEN HANN
TONY LAWTHER
BRIAN WHITAKER
GRAHAM BUCHANAN
PETER JOHNSTON

NURSING STAFF

MATRON
SISTER
STAFF NURSE NORTON
NURSE SWEET
NURSE LAKE
BARNET
MICHAEL

AVRIL WOODWARD
JOAN JOHNSON
MERRY DUXBURY
LINDA PEAKE
PAT NURSE
JOHN CARRINGTON
STEVE LANGE

DOCTORS

MR. BOYD
NEIL, his son
DR. BIRD
INDIAN STUDENT

KEN SPENCER
BRIAN STANSBRIDGE
NIKKI BAKER
GEOFF WHARAM

OLD WOMAN
CHAPLAIN

ENA HAMON
ALAN NEWELL

VISITORS ETC.

AUDREY WHITAKER, MERI LAWTHER,
SHEILA CLARK, LILIAN GUNSTONE,
MOLLIE MANNS, MONTY ROSE, CLIVE
WEEKS.

SET DESIGN
SET CONSTRUCTION

PETER WHITE
ALAN BAKER
JOHN RIGGS
RON TILLYER
THE MASKERS

DECOR

KEN SPENCER

LIGHTING

IVAN WHITE
ROGER LOCKETT
DEREK JONES

LIGHTING DESIGN

SOUND

JOHN DUXBURY

PROPS

JOY WINGFIELD
GILLIAN ROBERTS
SUE HUGHES
MIKE JOHNSON
DEREK SEALY

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

AVRIL WOODWARD

STAGE MANAGER

KEITH HOOPER

PUBLICITY

GRAHAM BUCHANAN

ART WORK

JOHN HAMON

BUSINESS MANAGER

BRIAN STANSBRIDGE

THE PLAY IS IN TWO ACTS
THERE WILL BE AN INTERVAL OF 20 MINUTES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Maskers would like to thank the Southampton General Hospital without whose help this production would not have been possible. The Maskers would also like to thank:-

Royal South Hants Hospital
Fred Woolley House
Central Health Clinic
St. John's Ambulance Brigade
Southampton University Medical School
Boots Chemists
BBC South Today for the loan of tapes etc.
Roger Clissold of Salisbury Playhouse
The British Red Cross Society

NUFFIELD THEATRE

licensee : A. de R. Davis

JEAN ADAMS	secretary
BILL DUNN	stage door keeper
PHYLLIS EDEN	box office
GILL FISHER	box office
GREG HEAD	electrician
JANET HUMBY	box office
DEREK JONES	chief electrician
GERDA KELLNER	box office
ROGER McCANN	administrator
BETTY RIGGS	box office
STANLEY RIXON	technical manager
JOHN C. SMITH	chairman
RALPH STEVENS	house manager
MOLLY WILSON	box office
SUE WILSON	fellow in theatre

The Nuffield Theatre would like to thank the ushers for giving their services voluntarily.

TRAVEL SUBSIDY

Parties of 12 or more, for certain professional productions, may qualify for a travel subsidy from the **Southern Arts Association**. Applications should be made in advance to **Southern Arts Association, 19 Southgate Street, Winchester SO23 4EB**, from whom full details may be obtained.

The Nuffield Theatre acknowledges financial assistance from the Southern Arts Association and the Leisure Committee of the City of Southampton towards the costs of maintaining this theatre.

In accordance with the requirements of the licensing authority :

- 1 The audience may leave at the end of the performance by all exit doors.
- 2 All gangways, corridors, staircases and passageways which afford a means of exit shall be kept entirely free from obstruction.
- 3 Persons shall not be permitted to stand or sit in any of the gangways except in positions authorised by the licensing authority and in the numbers indicated in the notices exhibited in those positions.
- 4 The safety curtain shall be lowered and raised at each performance in the presence of the audience.

The management reserves the right to refuse admission, also to make any alteration in the cast which may be rendered necessary by illness or other unavoidable causes.

The use of cameras or tape recorders in the theatre is forbidden.