

BAAAH!



"GENERAL SIR ANTHONY CECIL
HOGMANY MELCHETT WANTS

YOU"

TALLY-HO, YIPPETY-DAP & ZING ZANG SPILLIP!
DON'T SLOUCH, DARLING.



Now then, now then, now now, then now, then, now then, then now.
Never ignore a post-pood.

WYCHWOOD PLAYERS

A COMPANY OF NON-PROFESSIONAL ACTORS COMMEMORATING 100 YEARS SINCE THE END OF WWI

Blackadder Goes Forth

WRITTEN BY RICHARD CURTIS AND BEN ELTON. ORIGINALLY PRODUCED BY THE BBC.

22nd, 23rd & 24th November 2018

7:30pm

PROGRAMME

FOR WHICH A DONATION WOULD BE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED. THANK YOU.



WYCHWOOD PLAYERS

PRESENT BLACKADDER GOES FORTH - A PLAY IN TWO ACTS

Directed by Richard Dreyer

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Captain Blackadder.....	Mark Jessey
Private Baldrick.....	Steve Colter
Lieutenant George.....	Richard J Hartley
Captain Darling.....	Phillip Croxson
General Melchett.....	Ralph Wears
Private Perkins.....	Tony Mellerick
Sergeant Humphreys.....	Nick O'Keefe
Private Bromley.....	Steve Woods
Private Orr.....	Will Dyche

CREW

Set Construction & Finishing.....	Ben Curran
	Members of the Players
Stage Manager.....	Richard S Hartley
Props, Posters & Programme.....	Charlotte Humphreys
Lighting.....	Frank O'Neill and Ian Drainer
Sound Effects.....	Simon Aldridge
Costumes.....	Oxfordshire Drama Wardrobe
Front of House.....	Rose Hartley and Rachel Read
Box Office.....	Sally Elderfield and Sharon Light
Publicity.....	Ralph Wears
Prompt.....	Sally Lewis

Blackadder Goes Forth

Blackadder began life as a historical comedy back in 1983, set in medieval times. It was more History than Comedy and Rowan Atkinson had not found the character that would come in later series, with Edmund being closer to Mr Bean and Baldrick almost his intellectual equal.

By the second series set in Elizabethan times there was more humour and the characters had started to bed in, with Blackadder becoming more charismatic.

The third series was set in the Regency period, where Hugh Laurie had joined the main cast. There was more of a focus on the class system with Baldrick (Working Class), Blackadder (Middle Class) and the Prince Regent (Upper Class) and their foibles.

The fourth series built on this naturally with the Privates, Officers and Generals and bravely for a comedy was set in the trenches of WWI. This final series was really where Richard Curtis and Ben Elton reached their comedy writing peak, finding dark humour within the most hellish of backdrops. They had to be careful to be respectful to all those that had lost their lives, but it was clear they were punching upwards to the Generals who sent so many men to die for inches of land. This is clear from lines such as when Melchett blusters about being 'Behind you' and Blackadder quips 'About thirty five miles behind you.'

Though the fourth series was arguably the funniest, it also contained a memorable finale, which really brought home the senseless tragedy of 'going over the top', and stayed with viewers long after the birdsong faded.

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR



I have loved Blackadder since I was 10 years old and I watched it on VHS recorded off the TV. The fourth series was always my favourite and growing up I knew it almost off by heart. There were some jokes that I didn't understand as a child even if I did say them out loud to any adult willing to listen!

I suggested to Dudley (Wychwood Players Chairman) about doing Blackadder Goes Forth as this November is the centenary of the end of WWI. At the time I assumed I would be acting in it (if I was lucky enough to be cast – and it would have been frustrating if I hadn't!) but when I was offered the chance to direct I felt that it was an opportunity I couldn't turn down.

Being director is not something I had considered before but Blackadder is something I know so well and have loved for so long that I have really enjoyed the challenge that it has presented. Watching the characters come through and the scripts (slowly!) being put down has been really enjoyable. Being director has meant I have had to think about so much more than I usually would as an actor, from the boils on Baldrick to how to make barbed wire, but it has been a great experience. Though I do miss being up on stage, it wouldn't have been fair on the other cast if I hadn't had to learn lines because I already know most of them!

To all the audience I really hope you enjoy the production as much as we have all enjoyed rehearsing it and thank you for your support!

Richard Dreyer

The Parable of the Old Man and the Young

*So Abram rose, and clave the wood, and went,
And took the fire with him, and a knife.
And as they sojourned both of them together,
Isaac the first-born spake and said, My Father,
Behold the preparations, fire and iron,
But where the lamb for this burnt-offering?
Then Abram bound the youth with belts and straps,
and builded parapets and trenches there,
And stretchèd forth the knife to slay his son.
When lo! an angel called him out of heaven,
Saying, Lay not thy hand upon the lad,
Neither do anything to him. Behold,
A ram, caught in a thicket by its horns;
Offer the Ram of Pride instead of him.*

*But the old man would not so, but slew his son,
And half the seed of Europe, one by one.*

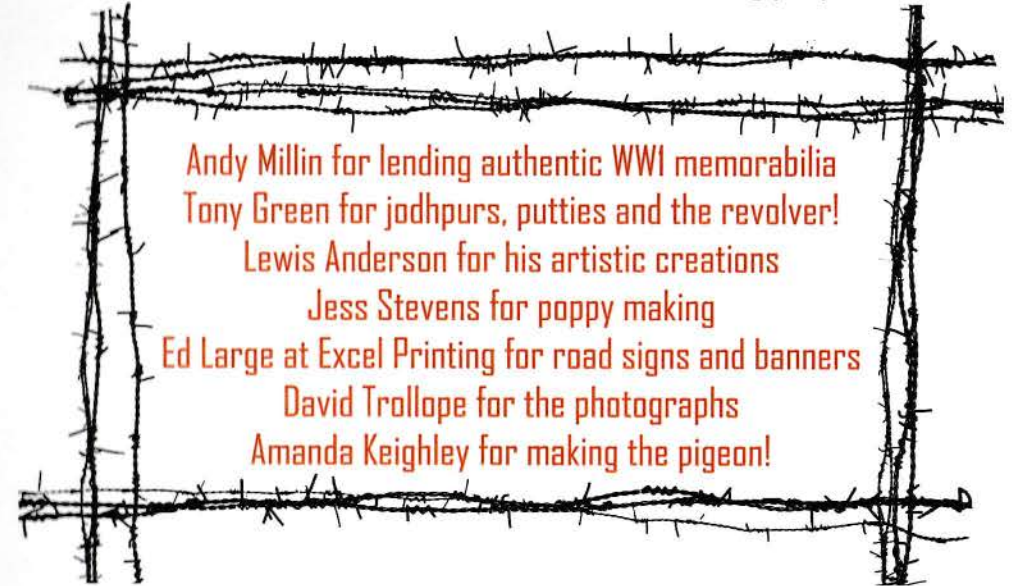
*Wilfred Owen
1893-1918*



SPECIAL THANKS

None of the productions would be possible without an array of volunteers who master a myriad of tasks just to get the show on the road.

We'd like to pay special thanks to the following people:



Andy Millin for lending authentic WWI memorabilia
Tony Green for jodhpurs, putties and the revolver!
Lewis Anderson for his artistic creations
Jess Stevens for poppy making
Ed Large at Excel Printing for road signs and banners
David Trollope for the photographs
Amanda Keighley for making the pigeon!

The **WYCHWOOD PLAYERS** have been a local institution for decades and there is always a warm welcome to any new members, especially those with relevant practical skills. Why not find out more?

Thank you in anticipation!



the wychwood players | www.wychwoodplayers.com