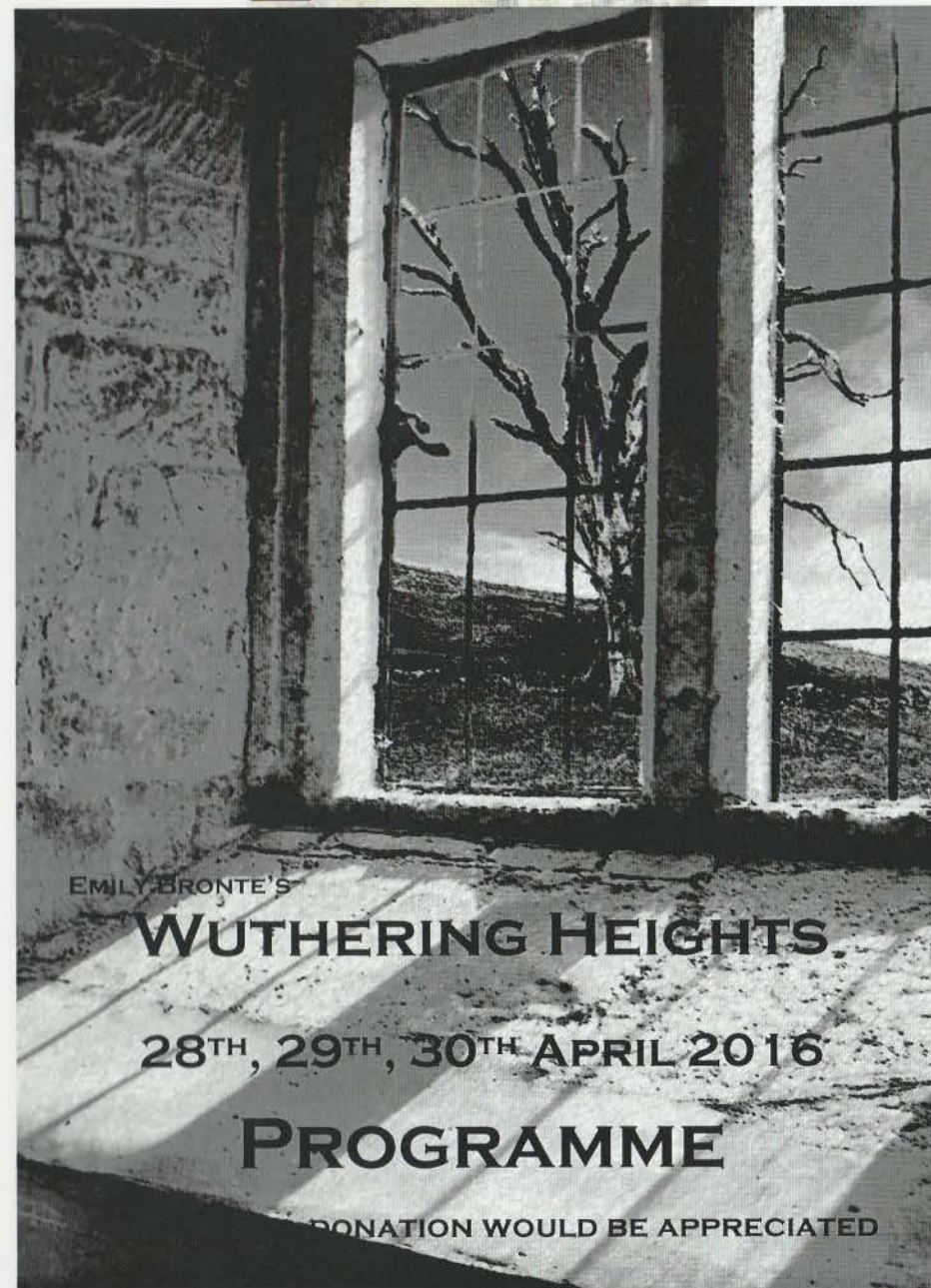


**WHATEVER
OUR SOULS
ARE MADE
OF, HIS AND
MINE ARE
THE SAME**

Wychwood Player's next production will take place on 24th, 25th and
26th November 2016

For further information please visit:

www.wychwoodplayers.com



EMILY BRONTE'S

WUTHERING HEIGHTS

28TH, 29TH, 30TH APRIL 2016

PROGRAMME

DONATION WOULD BE APPRECIATED

Director's Notes

Wuthering Heights. Everyone's heard of it but do they really know it?

When I first read this adaptation I realised that the more I read, the more my heart was pounding. I didn't want to put it down. If it had evoked that reaction in me then we had to make sure it did the same for our audience.

My very first thought was of young Cathy's face in the glow of a fire in a cold, sad room. My mind wandered through the scenes in the way you would wander through a large empty building looking for something down each hallway.

The idea of the two families, the two tormented souls and the two narrators made me realise that the set had almost to merge into one just like their lives.

David Trollope created the design for the set and provided invaluable advice. The new team of Ben Curran and James Mills then launched into building it. Finally the creative talents of Simon Aldridge brought the stark and creepy buildings to life through his inventive special effects.

New to the Wychwood Players, Sally Lewis threw herself in at the deep end and proved her worth straight away.

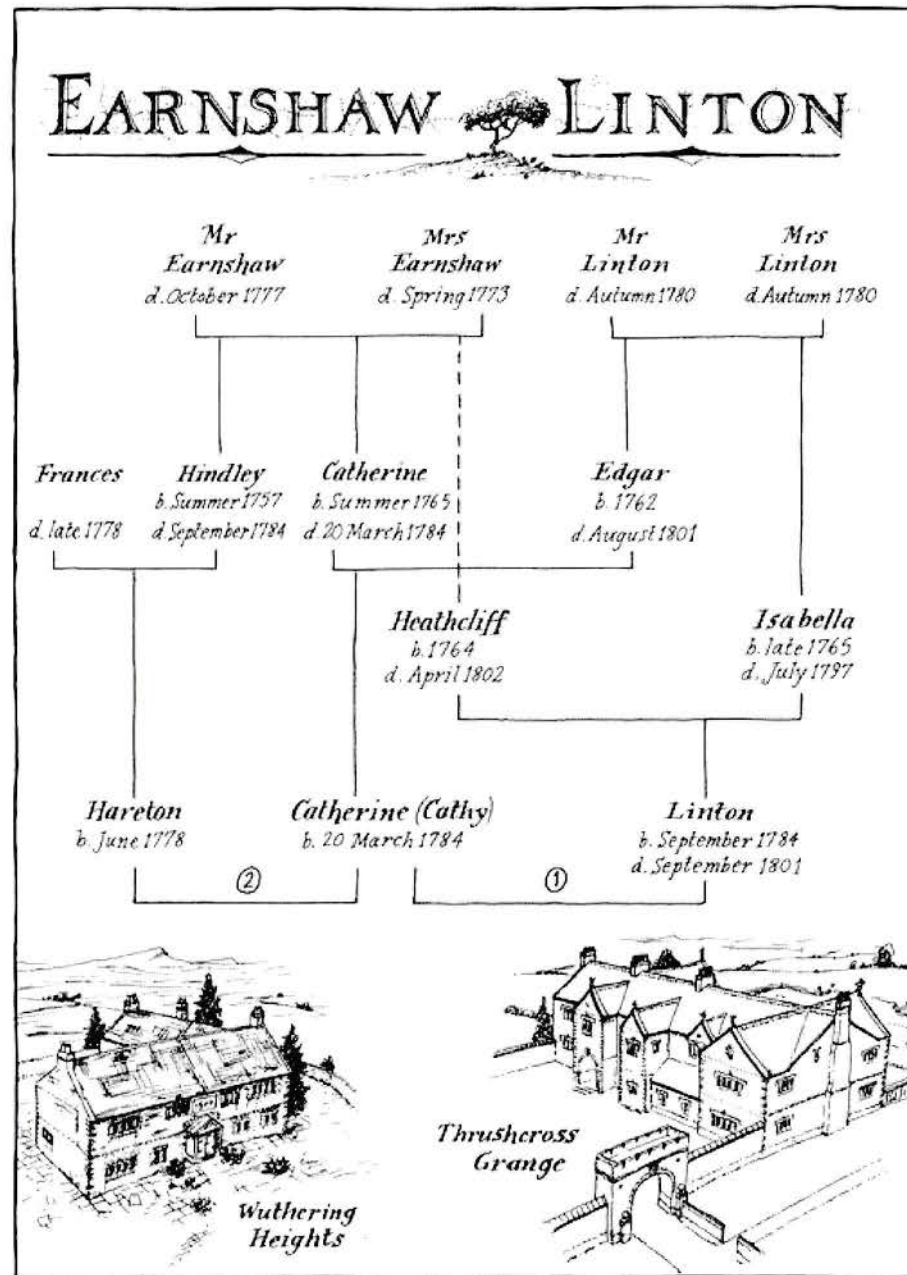
Despite the darkness of the play we have all had a great time and lots of laughter throughout the rehearsals. Dedication from all cast members goes without saying but Aram has travelled each week from abroad just to be at rehearsals. I have been really excited at how the characters have developed, how they look, sound and behave. They have even scared each other! You will see things tonight that the Players have never done before to bring tension, fear and torture to the stage, right before your eyes!

The cast have worked so hard with the scripts and taken direction well. I hope they have enjoyed the experience as much as I have. Time has gone so quickly, but then it always does when you are doing something you love.

I'm extremely proud of the cast, crew and all the Wychwood Players who have helped to bring this wonderful play to the Wychwoods.

Together we have created a real drama!

Mandyrae Large



Emily Bronte's Wuthering Heights

Adapted for stage by Charles Vance

Directed by Mandyrae Large

Cast

Mr Lockwood	Mark Jessey
Joseph	Nick O'Keeffe
Cathy Linton	Lea Striket
Hareton Earnshaw	Richard Dreyer
Heathcliff	Richard J Hartley
Ellen Dean	Rose Hartley
Catherine Earnshaw	Kate Lister
Edgar Linton	Aram Gregory
Hindley Earnshaw	Phillip Croxson
Isabella Linton	Karolina Weir



Crew

Set Design	David Trollope Mandyrae Large
Set Construction	Ben Curran James Mills Richard S Hartley Ralph Wears
Special Effects	Simon Aldridge
Stage Manager	Richard S Hartley
Stage Crew	Ralph Wears Simon Aldridge Sally Lewis
Set Painting	The cast and crew
Lighting and Sound	Frank O'Neill
Props	Mandyrae Large and cast
Costumes	Rose Hartley and cast
Make up	Mandyrae Large and cast
Wigs	provided by Brenda Leedham
Front of House	Julie Downing and members of the Players
Box Office	Sally Elderfield Sharon Light
Publicity	Mandyrae Large and members of the Players
Poster Design/ Programme Photograph	Amanda Keighley
Photography	David Trollope
Programme	Kate Lister
Rehearsal Prompt	Sally Lewis

The action of the play takes place in Wuthering Heights and Thrushcross Grange and spans several years.

We would like to acknowledge the sad loss of Trudy Yates whose long standing support of and enthusiasm for the Wychwood Players was hugely appreciated. She contributed regular reviews of our productions to the Wychwood Magazine and would send letters to the Director of each play she saw. She will be sadly missed at this production of Wuthering Heights which we know she had been looking forward to seeing so much.

Meet the Cast and Crew

It has been a while since I completed a post grad in acting at the Arts Educational Schools and was lucky enough to be cast in some enjoyable roles both here and in Hong Kong. My life's path however then led me into taking an extended hiatus from the theatre while I pursued my other passion in the world of dressage.

More recently though circumstances have allowed me time to rekindle my interest in the stage, and I have been very fortunate to find the Wychwood Players. They warmly welcomed me into their group and I have thoroughly enjoyed my roles in their last two productions.

Whilst I can't pretend to have been an aficionado of Wuthering Heights, let alone this adaptation, my knowledge of Mandy behind the scenes in the other productions had made me keen to work with her when the chance arose.

Furthermore I'll be honest and say that when I first read through it and enjoyed the story for the classic it is, I was not necessarily hoping to be offered the part of Edgar, as he hadn't exactly jumped off the page at me saying "Aram you must play me". Mandy however assured me I would find him rewarding, and given that I know I am notoriously bad at visualising the future dynamics of the characters as they get fleshed out through rehearsals, I thought I had best trust her judgement. Now I'm glad I did.

Aram Gregory

After living in Cornwall for 26 years and raising 2 amazing sons that had flown the nest, it was time for a change. As Christopher is now living in Faringdon and is married with a daughter, this was reason enough for me to move to the Cotswolds.

Within a week of arriving I managed to find a job just around the corner but before I started, I decided I needed a haircut so it was off the salon at the Paddocks for me. I went in not quite sure how I'd emerge the other end but to my relief I was delighted with the results.

What is more, I was introduced to Mandy who swiftly asked if I could help in her next production. When she asked me what can I do, I told her, "anything, but keep me backstage". I was quickly appointed prompt which I have done a few times before. It's quite a challenge knowing when to prompt as a pause might not mean an actor has forgotten his or her lines!

The show's cast are very professional and I certainly won't be needed on the night. They are a friendly bunch of people and I haven't stopped laughing since joining. If this is the start to the next chapter in my life living in the Cotswolds then it is a very good start indeed.

Sally Lewis

Like many people I first encountered Wuthering Heights as part of my A Level English studies at school. Enforced analysis of a text can have the unfortunate consequence of stripping away the enjoyment of simply reading a book and letting it wash over you. That said, I do recall the central relationship between Heathcliff and Catherine really striking a chord (it may also have had something to do with Kate Bush's musical interpretation of 'Wuthering Heights' which I love to this day).

I revisited the novel again some 20 years later and found the experience extremely rewarding. There is something hugely compelling about an ordinary existence made complex through extremes of human emotion and experience. The characters have the power both to repulse and fascinate the reader and you find yourself drawn into the dark love story full of cruelty and destruction. Yet there is still hope to be found, displayed to great effect in the conclusion to both the novel and this production.

When Mandy asked me to play Catherine I did not hesitate to accept the challenge the role presents. Although I have been tearing my hair out both literally and figuratively throughout the process it has been immensely rewarding.

Kate Lister

