



The Dunham Thespians

the Dunham Thespians present...

Charlotte Brontë's
JANE EYRE

adapted and produced
by Laura Kinsella

20th - 23rd April 2016

**Dunham Massey Village Hall
7.45pm curtain**

A Word from the Chairman

Thank you for once again joining us at the Village Hall for our Spring production. It's safe to say this one is something a little bit different for us, and hopefully you are in for a real treat. I have to admit to feeling a little more nervous than usual - Jane Eyre is such a well known and much loved story, that the pressure to do my part justice is weighing heavily. I doubt I'm alone.

It's a long time since we've done a real 'costume' drama, the last one of this sort of scale probably being "Hobson's Choice" around 10 years ago. We've managed to cobble together a big enough cast, and have had to re-cast parts a couple of times. We are grateful to those who have stepped in and saved our bacon.

One of the most pleasing aspects of this play is welcoming some new members to the society. Appearing on stage for the first time are Peter Mungovan, Kath Phillips and Talia Matthews, and we also welcome back Philippa Cameron, Steven Miles and Eleanor Cardoza.

I must confess to not being familiar with the story of Jane Eyre prior to this play - I went to an all boys school, so The Count Of Monte Cristo was deemed more appropriate. It didn't take me long to recognise why it has such lasting appeal though, and I've ended up watching more adaptations than I care to remember. One of the most interesting aspects is the description of Jane as small and unremarkable, and Rochester as somewhat rough-around-the-edges. How many leading ladies can you think of who are 'plain', or leading men who are not conventionally handsome? You can see the dilemma for casting directors! Just for fun, I've covered some of the more notable adaptations opposite - some of them I only skim-watched, so please take the mini-reviews with a pinch of salt.

One of my favourite parts of this production was doing the photo-shoot at Denzel Gardens. I protested at the time, but it ended up being a lot of fun. It's a place beloved by dog walkers, and one intrigued gentleman edged ever closer to see what we were up to, before offering the services of his dog as a model. We managed to get a couple of shots with 'Pilot', but in the end the photo wasn't really quite right for the publicity material. Me trying to bribe the dog with a biscuit to get him to sit where we wanted simply ended up with him facing the wrong way, much to everyone's amusement. I've included a couple of the pictures in this programme so you may join in the mocking.

Everyone has pulled out all the stops to help bring such a challenging production together. Special mention must go to our producer Laura, who has not only written the adaption, produced and directed, but also made several of the costumes herself. Our Thursday production marks the 200th birthday of Charlotte Brontë. I sincerely hope she would have felt "satisfied with the result of our labours."

Martin Clare.



"Jane Eyre" on Screen



Madeleine Worrall

The National Theatre - Live (2015)

A stage version, but it was broadcast around cinemas and naturally an intrigued bunch of Thespians went to see it. Whilst it had good performances and theatrical effects, we all agreed there were a few too many 'odd' choices - a human dog; a Gnarl's Barkley song; and a school girl played by a large man with a beard. Not for us.



Felix Hayes



Mia Wasikowska

Feature Film (2011)

A polished Hollywood adaption that included Dame Judi Dench and Jamie Bell in its all-star cast. It's well executed with some lovely cinematography, but with a running time of around 2 hours, the whole thing feels rushed and rather sterile. Worth a watch, but ultimately a bit flat and disappointing.



Michael Fassbender



Ruth Wilson

BBC Mini-Series - 4 part (2006)

Splendid adaptation and a firm favourite amongst our cast. The running time is just right, and the whole thing is perfectly paced. Toby Stephens is excellent and has real chemistry with his opposite number, but it's Ruth Wilson who steals the show with an energetic and passionate performance - the proposal scene is a real highlight. Definitely recommended.



Toby Stephens



Samantha Morton

TV Film (1997)

I've long been a fan of the quirky yet talented Samantha Morton, so this adaptation was something of a let down. Hinds does his best but felt mis-cast to me, and it suffers from a lousy script. At well under 2 hours it's also very rushed, completely missing out Jane's childhood altogether. Samantha Morton is still lovely though.



Ciarán Hinds



Zelah Clarke

BBC Mini-Series - 11 part (1983)

Zelah Clarke starred opposite the thinking-man's Bond in this highly competent TV adaptation. Attention to detail and strong performances all round make this the most faithful adaptation in our list, although it does suffer from flat direction and feels slightly conservative in retrospect. Available on DVD/Youtube, and certainly well worth a watch.



Timothy Dalton



Sorcha Cusack

BBC Mini-Series - 4 part (1973)

The unknown Sorcha Cusack was an interesting choice as Jane, and she went on to have a lengthy career in TV including Casualty, Coronation Street, and more recently Mrs Brown's Boys and Father Brown. Michael Jayston excels here as Rochester, but as a whole it doesn't seem to quite hit the heights.



Michael Jayston



Joan Fontaine

Feature Film (1943)

An American adaptation shot entirely in Hollywood on a heavily disguised sound stage. Joan Fontaine is rather too pretty, and Orsen Welles is typically brooding and understated in his portrayal of Rochester. Worth watching if only for an early appearance by Elizabeth Taylor, but it's all just rather too American for the very English source material.



Orson Welles

The Cast

JANE EYRE



Louisa Burgess
Jane Eyre



Martin Clare
Mr Rochester



Joan Jones
Mrs Fairfax



Stephen Miles
***Mr Brocklehurst*
*/ Mr Briggs***



Kath Phillips
Leah



Sylvia Rose
Mrs Reed



Peter Mungovan
Mr Mason



Sally-Marianne Hatton
***Blanche Ingram*
*/ Reverend Wood***



Philippa Cameron
Mrs Ingram



Richard Hankinson
St. John Rivers



Rebecca Buckley
Grace Poole



Eleanor Cardoza
Bertha



Talia Matthews
Adele



Running Order

ACT 1

- Scene 1 The home of Mrs Reed
 Lowood School
 Thornfield Hall
- Scene 2 Hay Lane
 Thornfield Hall
- Scene 3 Thornfield Hall

ACT 2

- Scene 1 Thornfield Hall
- Scene 2 Thornfield Hall
 Outside in Thornfield grounds
- Scene 3 Thornfield Hall
 The home of Mrs Reed
- Scene 4 Outside in Thornfield grounds
 Thornfield Hall

ACT 3

- Scene 1 Thornfield Hall
 Church
- Scene 2 School room
- Scene 3 Thornfield Hall
- Scene 4 Outside the school
- Scene 5 Thornfield Hall

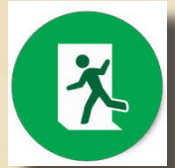
(The interval will take place at the end of Act 2.
The raffle will be drawn after Act 3, Scene 1.)

Announcements

JANE EYRE

In the highly unlikely event of a real fire (no need to panic if you see one on stage during the play!), emergency exits are located as follows:

- The main entrance where you came in
- Behind the curtain next to the piano
- Through the kitchen
- Immediately behind the stage



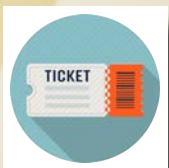
Please ensure you turn your mobile phone off (or onto silent or flight mode) for the duration of the performance. If you turn your phone on during the interval, please remember to switch it off again before the play resumes.

You are welcome to take photographs, but we kindly ask that you refrain from using flash photography.



Drinks are available both before the show and during the interval. You are welcome to bring drinks into the hall, but please exercise caution. Complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits will be served during the interval.

If you aren't already on our mailing list, please make sure you sign up to receive advance notification of our future productions. You can add yourself directly to our email list by visiting the www.dunhamthespians.org.uk home page. You can also complete a form available at the bar to receive our postal mail shot.



Raffle tickets are available both before the play and during the interval. We always have a healthy selection of prizes, so please make sure you get some tickets. The raffle will be drawn after Act 3, Scene 1.

Behind The Scenes



A Word from the Director

Jane Eyre has been a play I have wanted to be involved in for the longest time. I had dreamt of playing Jane, but when the notion was put to me that if I wanted us to perform it I should produce it myself, it set me on a new path. I had always related to obscure, plain Jane, but now I faced a new prospect; finding a stage adaptation. The current ones available just didn't seem to suit our cast or didn't tell the story I wanted portrayed. So then came the crazy idea to adapt it myself - a simple first writing project. There have been some setbacks and a lot of learning on the job (I apologise to everyone who had to attempt to read that first draft that wasn't formatted as a script!) But hopefully it has all come together to transport you to Victorian England for a classic love story.



Writing the script and directing didn't seem enough of a job to take on for some reason (I don't know what came over me), so I decided I wanted to make Jane and Rochester's costumes too. I'm glad I wasn't the only one with crazy notions for this play. Martin also decided to challenge us by having a rotating set. I was rather happy to leave this in his, Lindsay and Trevor's capable hands. I think it was well worth their hard work for an original, exciting set.

With such a small society, without so much help these plays would just not be possible. It has been great to have so many new faces helping out on and off the stage. We are always keen to welcome new members in any capacity. Just ask Peter and Kath - hopefully they will tell you what a charming bunch we are.

We have had some changes in cast along the way and I am very grateful for those who joined the fold. And we have had to take a few liberties (that is definitely not a woman you see playing a Victorian vicar!) With such a challenging play it really needed everyone working together - all the cast and crew's support and involvement has been so appreciated.

I can't thank my Jane and Rochester (Louise and Martin) enough. Without them behind me believing that this production would go ahead you would not be sat in your seat right now. I have thoroughly enjoyed my debut to directing and producing, but I must say without the advice and guidance from Chris Matthews I would have been quite over-faced. It has been a privilege to see Louise and Martin develop the characters over rehearsals and both have risen extraordinarily to the challenge. I have to give a special mention to Becky Buckley who has stepped in and played nearly every part whenever a member of cast has been absent. It has kept rehearsals flowing and been a huge help, plus she has put in a fantastic performance as Grace Poole in a very different part from anything she has done. It has also been a pleasure to have Sylvia back on stage and I would personally like to thank her for her enthusiasm for the role and support.

I have been so proud of how much everyone has come together to put on what I am sure will be fantastic production. Maybe if I can convince some more young men to join, my dream of doing an Austen can come true too! Finally thank you to you, the audience, for coming out and supporting us once again.

Laura Kinsella.

Cast

Jane Eyre
Mr Rochester
Mrs Fairfax
Mr Brocklehurst
Mrs Reed
Leah
Grace Poole
Mr Mason
Adele
Blanche Ingram
Mrs Ingram
Mr Briggs
Reverend Wood
St. John Rivers
Bertha

Louise Burgess
Martin Clare
Joan Jones
Steven Miles
Sylvia Rose
Kath Phillips
Rebecca Buckley
Peter Mungovan
Talia Matthews
Sally-Marianne Hatton
Philippa Cameron
Steven Miles
Sally-Marianne Hatton
Richard Hankinson
Eleanor Cardoza

Credits

JANE EYRE



Crew

Producer / Director
Assistant Producer
Stage Building

Laura Kinsella
Chris Matthews
Lindsay Park
Trevor Wells
Stephen Cribb
Laura Kinsella
Martin Clare
Laura Kinsella
Jennie Radley
Vanessa Lozano
Laura Kinsella
Sally-Marianne Hatton
Louise Burgess
James Hacking
Martin Clare
Vanessa Lozano
Martin Clare
Sue Kinsella
Martin Clare
The company
Pat Burgess
Carole Howarth
Vanessa Lozano
Martin Clare

Costumes
Prompt
Hair & Makeup
Props

Lighting / Sound

Photography
Special Effects
Raffle & Refreshments
Design & Artwork
Set Dressing
Front of House / Bar

Tickets



Music

"Green"
Composed by V.A.V. Perry
Arrangements by Martin Clare

With Thanks To

Altrincham Little Theatre
Wilmslow Green Room Theatre
The Rope & Anchor Public House
Red House Farm
Joan Pendlebury
Andrew Bushell & Peter White

The Rope
&
Anchor.
Dunham Massey



Tucked away in the country lanes near Dunham Massey, the Rope and Anchor is in the perfect location for you to enjoy a family meal after exploring the surrounding countryside, or the ideal venue for a romantic dinner, away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

We have a relaxing bar area where you can enjoy our selection of JW Lees ales, fine wine, spirits and soft drinks. Enjoy our comfortable surroundings, whatever the weather with a modern fire place where you can cosy up for a chat, or you can relax and dine al fresco in our fully waited, extensive, comfortable outdoor seating area in beautiful surroundings.

Not forgetting our younger visitors, we offer an excellent children's menu & a great play area. So, whether you're celebrating an event or just taking a relaxing break, we look forward to welcoming you soon.



If you would like to book a table or enquire about hiring out our amazing function spaces we have provided all the contact details below:

www.theropeandanchor.co.uk

Tel: 0161 927 7901

Twitter : @Rope_Anchor



"Hobson's Choice" (Nov 2006)



(from left to right) Ron Hutchinson, Bill Craig, Martin Clare, Laura Kinsella, John Wagner, Diane Hutchinson, Jon Barton, Philippa Cameron, Mark Horne, Sylvia Rose, David White, Gemma Hennings.

Dates For The Diary

Sun 1st May 2016

Mon 2nd May 2016

Sat 21st May 2016

Sun 29th May 2016

Sun 2nd Oct 2016

Wed 23rd - Sat 26th Nov 2016

Tennis Club opening day of the season

Car Boot Sale

Rose Queen

Young Farmers Rally Day

Make & Bake, Grow & Show Autumn Fayre

Next Dunham Thespians Production

Joining The Society

We are always keen to recruit new members to the society, both on stage and behind the scenes.

If you have ever fancied trying your hand at being on stage, or feel like you have something to contribute behind the curtain (as it were), then get in touch. We're a friendly bunch!

Contact Martin on 07789 171 337, or email info@dunhamthespians.org.uk



Thank you all for your continued support. We hope you have a lovely summer, and will look forward to welcoming you back to the Village Hall for our next production in the Autumn (23rd - 26th November 2016).



Gina Hutchinson

The Dunham Thespians would like to express our gratitude and best wishes to Gina Hutchinson, who decided to step down as Vice Chairlady last month. Gina has been a very active member of the society for over 55 years, including a lengthy stint as Chairlady. She has appeared in so many plays that it's hard to imagine the society without her (seen here in the appropriately named "Friends And Neighbours" in 1984), and has of course directed as well, memorably a production of "Hobson's Choice" so popular that we had to put on an additional matinée performance. She leaves with our heartfelt thanks, and will always be considered a part of the society by those of us fortunate enough to be involved in productions with her through the years.

Looking forward, we are delighted to welcome Sylvia Rose on to the committee as the incoming Vice Chairlady.

Committee Officials

Chairman
Vice Chairlady
Treasurer
Secretary
Assistant Secretary
Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager

Martin Clare
Sylvia Rose
Bill Craig
Philippa Cameron
Laura Kinsella
Lindsay Park
Trevor Wells



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Martin Clare - Chairman
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