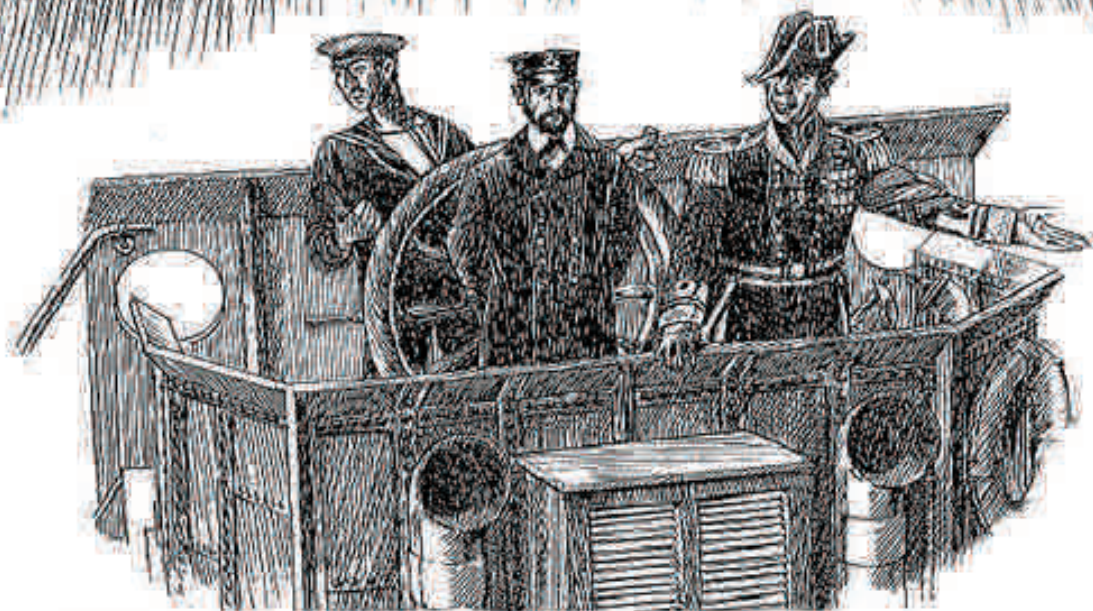
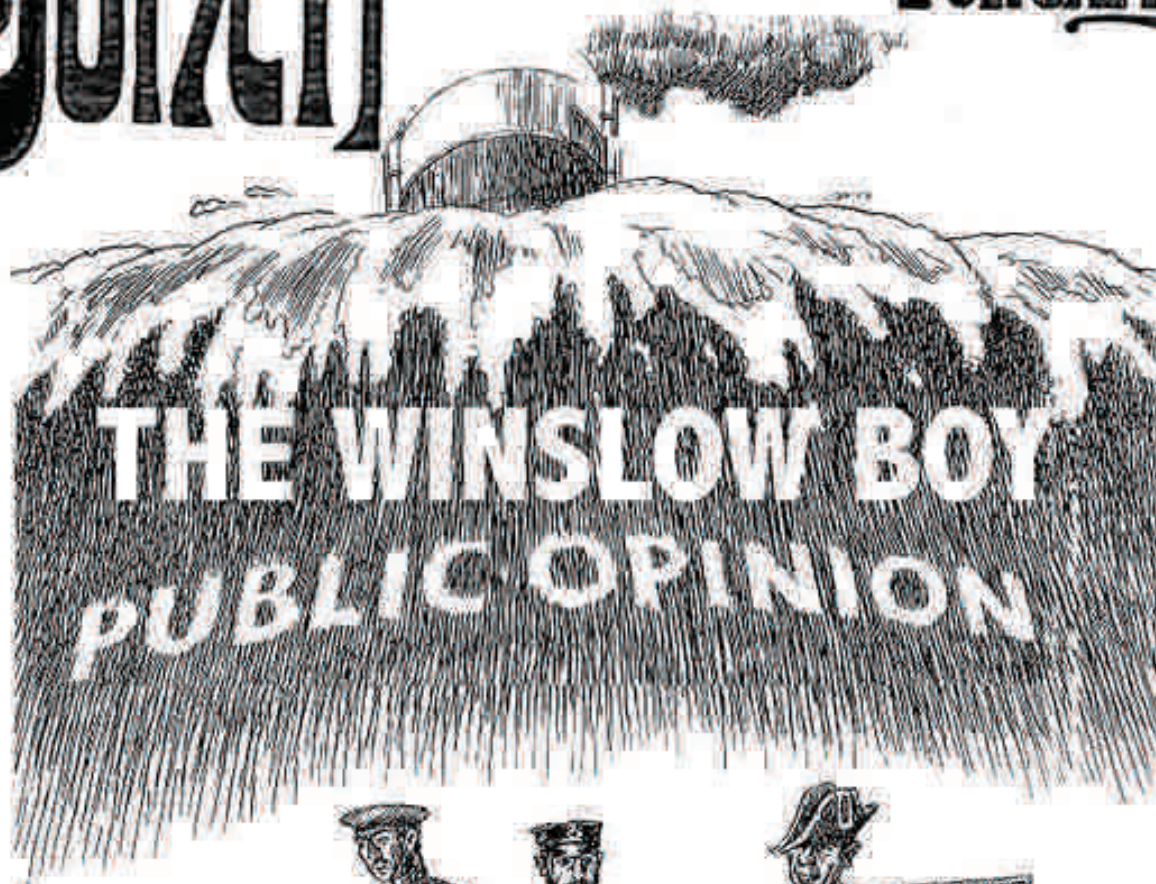


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Vol. CXLVIII.



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THE WINSLOW BOY

Inspired by true events of the Archer-Shee case, just prior to the First World War 'The Winslow Boy' is the story of a father's fight to clear his son's name. The battle between personal principles and conscience plus an establishment under the media spotlight makes The Winslow Boy as relevant today as ever it was.

Rattigan wrote the play just after the Second World War in a world struggling to come to terms with the trauma and slaughter. UN and European Human Rights conventions were being drafted and implemented. His choice of a story about a boy and a five shilling postal order was an inspired piece of lateral thinking. He understood that for rights to be universal, they have to apply all the way down the line.

I wonder if the notorious Dreyfus Affair which had happened in France just a few years before the George Archer - Shee incident on which The Winslow Boy is based helped motivate the family to fight the case. Not as scandalous as Dreyfus affair but maybe as profound in its implications. The Archer - Shee case ended with a courtroom battle between the two titans of the bar - the Solicitor General Sir Rufus Isaacs and Sir Edward Carson (Sir Robert Morton in the play), who had made his name forensically interrogating Oscar Wilde during the Marquess of Queensbury libel trial.

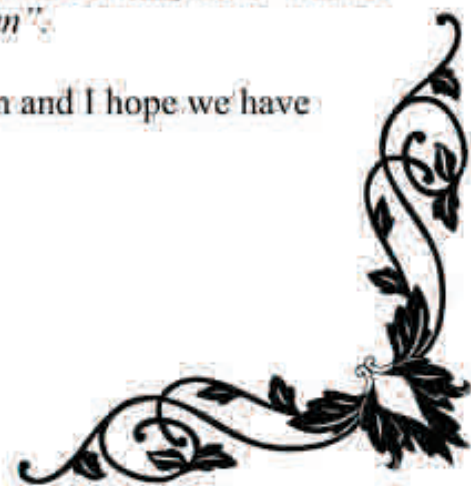
Rattigan spent many years living in Brighton and was part of 'the Olivier set'. He was a complex man and remains an enigmatic figure; the master of the 'well crafted play' of upper class manners and repressed sexuality. His plays dominated the West End stage throughout the 1940s and into the mid 1950s. But then, 'the angry young men arrived'; a wave of young playwrights and directors who introduced a raw, radical style of theatre. His work fell totally from favour. Since his centenary year in 2011 however his plays have enjoyed a revival amongst audiences, playwrights, critics and directors. The Winslow Boy was recently and beautifully staged at The Old Vic and on Broadway.

When it was first staged in Brighton's Theatre Royal in 1946 there may have been many who wondered, seeing the death and destruction; and no doubt grieving for loved ones, what the suffering and sacrifice had been all about. Was it all worth it. Rattigan is in no doubt. The words 'Let right be done' echo throughout the play.

Some years back theatre critic Michael Billington summed up the particular qualities which make Rattigan's plays still worth performing and watching: "*Few dramatists this century have written with more understanding about the human heart than Terence Rattigan*".

Rattigan is a superb and engaging storyteller. The Cast, Creative Team and I hope we have done justice to his creation.

Gerry McCrudden
Director



Louis Mallen-Curtis - Ronnie Winslow

Louis was a youth member at the Brighton Little Theatre; plays include 'All the great books abridged' and 'Nicolas Nickleby'. Most recently he was 'Zhen' in a National Theatre Connexions play called 'The Grandfathers'. This is his first production with NVT. "It's absolutely tophole!"



Janet Hewlett-Davies - Violet

Janet first played a maid (Dorine in Moliere's Tartuffe) almost 60 years ago. She hopes to get it right this time.

Nikki Dunsford - Grace Winslow

Nikki was trained at the Royal Ballet School and was a professional dancer for 15 years. She now performs as an actress both professionally and in high quality amateur productions. This is Nikki's debut with the NVT.



John Tolputt - Arthur Winslow

John last appeared at the NVT in 'The Permanent Way', and was in Gerry McCrudden's 2010 production of 'Dancing at Lughnasa'. Recently, elsewhere in Brighton, he played Hector in 'The History Boys' and Hirst in 'No Man's Land'.



Emma Hutton - Catherine Winslow

Emma most recently appeared in Whitebox Collective's production of 'Under Milk Wood' and enjoys participating in local shows every year. She has mainly performed at The Brighton Little Theatre in the past; shows include 'A Funny Thing Happened on the way to the Forum', 'As You Like It', 'Lady Windermere's Fan' and 'Ashes and Sand'. This is her first production with NVT.



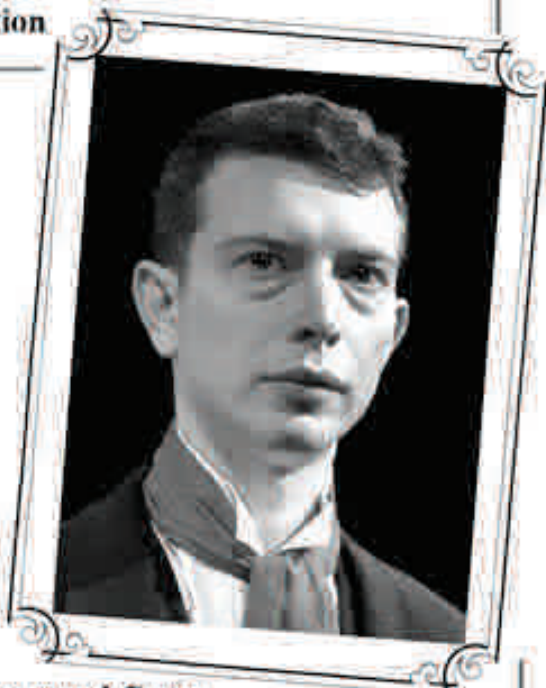
Fintan Shevlin - Dickie Winslow

Fintan trained as an actor at the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts. Credits include: Charles Bingley in 'Pride and Prejudice', Davey in 'The Lieutenant of Inishmore' at BLT, Paul in 'The Building' (NVT), a new BBC online pilot series, Andy in 'Coldcall' (Film4 Frightfest), Grunmore in 'The Shadow of Israphel', City17 productions, and Rich in 'Angel on the Ceiling' a new production with Brighthelm Films. He recently directed in the NVT ten minute play competition.



Tom Slater - John Watherstone

Tom appeared in last year's NVT hit 'Biloxi Blues', winning the award for Best Newcomer and jointly for Best Actor. He was last seen shooting (and missing) farmyard animals in the 10 Minute Play 'The Pig Sleep'.



Simon Messingham - Desmond Curry

Simon has written for the BBC and UK Film Council. A partner in Worthing film company Future Sun Films, Simon wrote and appeared in the award winning short 'House Trafalgar' and is co-producing 'School of 1980' to be filmed in 2014. He has worked extensively on the UK comedy circuit and in 2001 co-wrote and appeared in the BBC Choice series 'Tales of Uplift and Moral Improvement' with Rik Mayall.



Sheelagh Baker - Miss Barnes

A long time member of NVT, playing a wide variety of roles. Her career covers guesting with other companies, training videos, role play work and even an occasional voice over. Full bio on request!



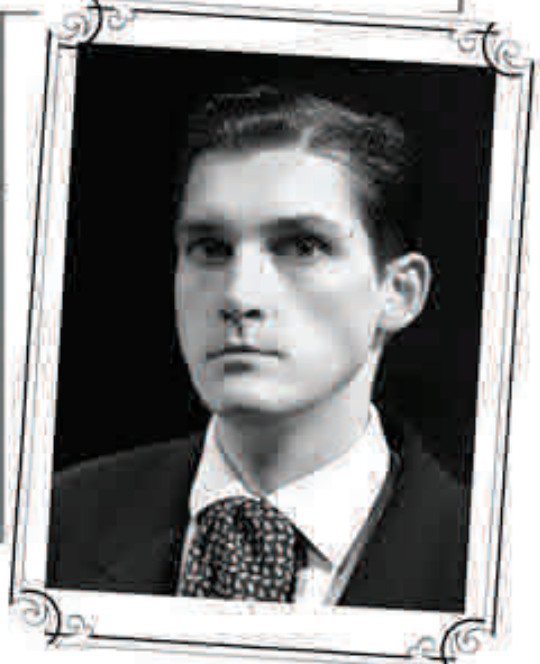
Mark Hyndman - Fred

Exiled from Yorkshire to entertain the good folk of Brighton via local stage and very small screen. For the past 7 years Mark has performed with Actually GMC in choral concerts ranging from The Mikado to La Traviata to Les Mis. Mark has now been involved in our local theatre scene for the past 18 months, in that time supporting 3 theatres in Brighton assisting in stage and production management, while enjoying the occasional cameo up front, as you will see tonight.



Colin Elmer - Sir Robert Morton

Theatre credits include 'Festen', 'Art', 'The Servant' and 'The Taming of the Shrew'. Recently he won the Brighton and Hove Arts Council award for best actor for NVT's production of 'The God of Carnage'. He has also toured as Kenneth Williams in 'Crimes Against Humanities Teachers'. As voice-over artist, he has worked with the BBC, Unilever, and Charterhouse. Recently he has been the voice behind three characters in the up and coming PS3 game, Invizimals.



Gerry McCrudden - Director

Gerry previously directed 'Biloxi Blues', 'Dancing at Lughnasa' and 'It's a Wonderful Life' for the NVT and has recently acted in the BLT's 'Lieutenant of Inishmore'. As a globetrotter he has paced the boards from places as diverse as New York to New Delhi and Barbados to Nairobi.





Tim McQuillen-Wright

Tim has designed 'Biloxi Blues', 'It's A Wonderful Life' and 'Dancing At Lughnasa' for Gerry at the NVT as well as 'The Rise And Fall of Little Voice', 'The Memory of Water' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Tim also directed and designed 'Art', 'Of Mice And Men' and last season's 'Celebration'.

Hannah Liebeskind

Hannah has been lucky enough to work with Gerry on two previous occasions (Dancing at Lughnasa, Biloxi Blues) and is happy to support the production as a deputy to Mark this time. A member of NVT for a few years now, it's always a pleasure to be part of McCrudden production clan.

Strat Mastoris

As well as lighting design, Strat does set design and construction. He's a photographer, so he does performance photography too - look at the pictures in the South Hall. You can find all this work showcased at www.seeingstages.com

Alistair Lock

Alistair is unusual in being an expert in post production whilst having considerable experience as an actor and voiceover artist. Alistair has recorded and produced the City Sight Seeing Brighton tour from 2008 to the present. As well as assembling, editing and treating the FX for this evening, he will be heard, but not seen in our next production, 'The End of the Beginning'.

Sophie Nunns

Sophie has worked backstage on 'A Beginning, Muddle and End' and the Pinter evening featuring 'The Lover' & 'Celebration'. She is now is now stage managing again on 'The Winslow Boy' and will be sourcing props for the upcoming 'Not About Heroes'. She has enjoyed her time so far at NVT and looks forward to more in the future.

Barry Purchase

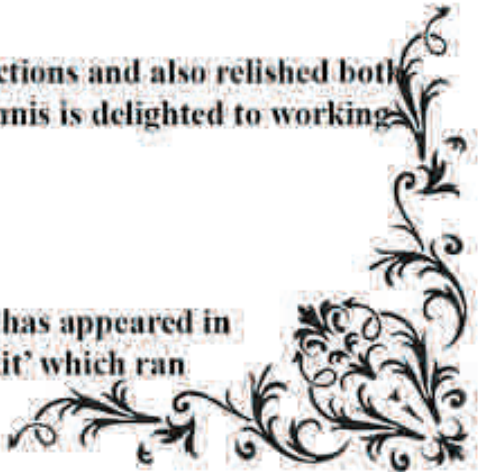
Writer of television drama for over 30 years, Barry is enjoying the contrast of working in live theatre and being a member of the stage management team at NVT.

Dennis Cumming

Dennis has been involved behind the scenes in several recent productions and also relished both his acting 'come back' and directorial debut with NVT in 2013. Dennis is delighted to working as part of the back stage team for The Winslow Boy.

Amanda Harman

Amanda has been a member of NVT for a couple of years now. She has appeared in both 'Medea' and 'Seven Jewish Children' and was ASM on 'No Exit' which ran during the Brighton Festival.





Alexandra Worrall

Alex previously choreographed 'Dancing at Lughnasa' and 'Biloxi Blues' prior to 'The Winslow Boy', making this a very happy third production with Gerry McCrudden. She played Val in 'Cosi' (2005) and directed 'Still Life' and 'Memory of Water' (2006).

Julie Griffin

Julie moved to Brighton from Ireland in 2008, and started out at NVT in 2012. Her first role was as Assistant Stage Manager for the 10 Minute Plays, and has since then branched out into stage management, tech and costume design, where she has found her niche. Julie enjoys working backstage, as it is sometimes less pressure than acting!

Liz Miller

Biog. under protest: Former Actress/Singer/dancer. Liz has now retired, hung up her fishnets and is 'almost' behaving herself. She is very happy to be a member of the team for The Winslow Boy.

Jackie Jones

Jackie is a newcomer to the costume team. An experienced seamstress, she hopes her skills will be useful to this and future productions.

Rosie Nicchitta

Rosie has been involved in a number of shows at NVT, in nearly every backstage role. For 'The Winslow Boy' she returns to hair and make up.

Alex Epps


Alex has been hiding in the NVT lighting box for 16 years. She also occasionally operates some lights.

Tim Metcalfe

Tim has been a member at NVT for 2 years and has worked predominantly on sound since joining. He might one day make a cameo on stage but for now he remains in his safe place in the tech box!

Tamsin Fraser

Tamsin has turned her hand to most things theatrical in the last 15 years; from posters to photography, backstage to acting (just the once!). More recently she has dipped her toe into directing - her next production is 'The Herbal Bed' here in June.



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