Folkestone Playhouse

Charles Vance

presents the

57th Repertory Season



Leas Pavilion Theatre Folkestone

1902

1984

Programme



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ARTA GORD A	TOV 2005	Over 60a	and going places

CHARLES VANCE, the Actor/Manager, welcomes you to the Folkestone Playhouse



Dear Theatregoer,

As always, it gives me great personal pleasure to welcome you to our unique repertory theatre which, this year, enters its fifty-seventh consecutive season of repertory on the Leas in Folkestone.

It has been my privilege, together with my wife Imogen Movnihan, to be responsible for this lovely old theatre since 1976 and, as in former years, we renew our pledge to bring you the best in repertory entertainment during our long season, which will run until the middle of October. We are particularly pleased that, in addition to our long association with the Folkestone and Hythe Operatic & Dramatic Society, who present their annual pantomime here, we now have such close links with the Aldington Amateur Dramatic Society, who will bring their production of 'Habeus Corpus' to the theatre immediately following the repertory season in October. Delightful, too, is our relationship with the now highly acclaimed Channel Theatre Company, who came to us first with a production of 'Pinnocchio' last Christmas

and who, this year, are presenting their touring version of H. G. Wells' The History of Mr Polly' to open our season and, during next Christmas season, will be with us again with 'Hansel and Gretel'.

Our Theatre, of course, is now administered by a charitable Trust, of which I have the privilege of being Chairman. The Trustees include a cross section of business life in Folkestone and Shepway, apart from the distinguished presence of the star actor, Mr Peter Barkworth, who commenced his career in this theatre in the halcyon days of Arthur Brough, and we are grateful for the continuing unstinting service of elected members of the Shepway District Council, who give of their time and experience in formulating the policies of the Trust.

The Trust gratefully acknowledges the generous financial support of Shepway District Council and Kent County Council, without whose aid our seasons would not be possible. We are also grateful to so many firms and, in particular, we express our gratitude to Marks & Spencer, who have supported us so much over the years and last year donated the entire proceeds of their Charity Fashion Spectacular to our Appeal Fund

A word about our Appeal Fund. Our Theatre is now eighty-two years old and is constantly in need of refurbishment, not only technically, but to improve the comfort of our patrons. The £80,000 appeal was launched two years ago and now, by dint of donations, fund raising and covenants, approaches £20,000. Begging letters are always tiresome and I am reluctant to turn the opening page of the programme for your evening's entertainment into such an epistle - having said that, I hope you will bear our Appeal in mind and know that every contribution, however small (or great!), will help build a solid foundation to ensure the future of the only repertory theatre left in South East Kent until the end of the century. Now, on behalf of my wife, the entire team at the Leas Pavilion Theatre, and myself, I invite you to sit back and enjoy this evening's play and we look forward to seeing you again often during our season.

THEATRE CATERING SERVICES

Throughout the day from 10 am until the midevening theatre interval we provide an extensive service to patrons and the public at large in the PLAYBILL CAFE. Recommended in the Egon Ronay 'Just a Bite' Guide for the past five years, we offer a wide variety of sandwiches (freshly made to order), home-made cakes and popular varieties of biscuits, confectionery and ice cream.

Our sheltered sunny terrace provides the ideal place to meet your friends for a relaxing cup of coffee or tea — in fact regular visitors to Folkestone have become old friends over the years, finding our friendly service and reasonably priced food irresistible. Why not give our Playbill Cafe a try? We are sure you will come a second time.

Our FULLY LICENSED BAR at the rear of the stalls is open every evening from half an hour before the performance and during the intervals. For your greater comfort, at the same time, why not order your interval drinks before the performance and they will then be waiting for you without delay when you go to the bar?

If you are planning a party visit to the theatre, Mrs Valerie Hogben, our Catering Manageress, will always be pleased to discuss with you special arrangements for catering for your party, either with the service of light refreshments or drinks or, indeed, a small buffet meal before or after the show.

Whatever the needs of your party, be it for two or two hundred, Mrs Hogben will always be pleased to hear from you and help you with the catering, which will make your visit to our theatre even more memorable.

THE COMPLETE NIGHT OUT

The COMBINED THEATRE/DINNER TICKET has become a very popular complete night out for our patrons. It also makes the ideal gift at a very reasonable price. An excellent four-course meal is enjoyed before the show at the GARDEN HOUSE HOTEL, Sandgate Road, only six minutes' walk from the theatre. This service is available to patrons at every evening performance for just £8.50, which includes a front stall at the theatre. Either contact the Garden House Hotel direct on Folkestone 52278, or the Theatre box office staff will be happy to give you the fullest

details of this combined ticket and can make all the arrangements for your meal and table reservation at the time of booking your theatre seats.

FOLKESTONE PLAYHOUSE LIMITED

(Registered as a Charity, No. 276419)

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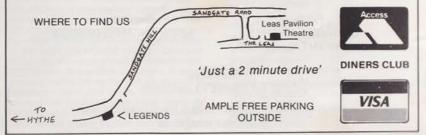
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444

Not forgetting our interesting choice of Starters and mouthwatering array of Desserts.

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P.S. - Don't forget to ask for the Cocktail List!



Tuesday 9th - Saturday 13th October

BREAK-OUT

by Bill Owen

CAST

	0.101
Margaret	ELIZABETH STEPHENS
Betty	HELEN REECE
Bill	HUGO MYATT
Inspector	Ragian RUSSEL GLEED

Directed by IMOGEN MOYNIHAN

Designed by MICHAEL POLLARD Lighting designed by JAMES McKEE

The action of the play takes place in Margaret's country cottage in Hampshire.

ACT ONE

Scene 1 - 10 pm New Year's Eve Scene 2 - Just before midnight

ACT TWO

Scene 1 - An hour later Scene 2 - Early the next morning

The Folkestone Playhouse Company gratefully acknowledges the kind assistance of the following firms and individuals who loaned property and furniture for their production of BREAK-OUT: Telephone table,wooden chest and copper kettle by The Old Rose Gallery; armchair by Mrs A. Oates; sideboard and stool by A.E. Bradley Ltd; Miss Stephens' handbag by The Hospice Shop; Miss Reece's handbag by Just Lookin'; silk scarf, picture frames and carriage clock by F.W. Woolworth & Co. Ltd; glasses and sandwich box by Boots Cookshop; poker and horse brasses by Fendezvous Reproductions; glass dishes and hand torch by Eureka; cigarette lighter by Oclee & Son Ltd; brass vase by Folkestone Antique Arcade; Telephone by British Telecom; crockery and dressings by The Gentle Touch; Bow-tie by G.A. Dunn & Co; pictures by Folkestone Arcade; Champagne by courtesy of Moět & Chandon.

Wardrobe care by Persil Automatic

Terrace floral display kindly donated by The New Folkestone Society
Cleaning services and maintenance of the Theatre carried out by Messrs Busy Bee Cleaners (89 3260)

OCLEE

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Bill Owen's first success which brought him to the notice of the London theatre was the staging of his musical **Matchgirls** for which he wrote both the book and lyrics, the score being written by the late Tony Russell. One critic likened the show to "Britain's answer to West Side Story". His adaptation of a short story by Chekhov **Woman with a Double Bass** has been filmed, starring John Cleese. He has written several plays for television and the theatre, the most recent being **Truth or Murder**. There is a continuous output of short plays for the Youth Theatre in which Bill is very interested and which keeps him very busy. He has fond memories of his first writing job which was the adaptation of **The Ragged Trousered Philanthropist** by Robert Iressall for Unity Theatre. These were the great days at Unity when well known names such as David Kossoff, Maxine Audley and Warren Mitchell, to name but a few, were members of this talented Theatre Company. Included with these was Bill Owen, not only as an actor, but as producer of some of Unity Theatre's greatest successes and where he finally became Artistic Director.

Son of a London bus driver, Bill has been involved in showbusiness for over 40 years. His television appearances have been too numerous to mention, but his most recent and highly successful role has been the character of Compo in Last of the Summer Wine for the BBC. Bill also worked on Brideshead Revisited for Granada and Tales of the Unexpected for Anglia. Last of the Summer Wine was also adapted for the stage and Bill appeared in it in both Eastbourne and Bournemouth.

Bill admits his greatest love is the theatre and one of his fondest memories is the time he spent at the National Theatre in such productions as Lark Rise, Candleford and The Long Voyage Home.

WYN JONES made his first professional appearance at the age of thirteen in Goodbye Mr Chips, playing six generations of schoolboys and, while still at school, appeared in several plays for the BBC. He studied drama at university and his early repertory experience was at Torquay, Swansea and Westcliff, since when he has appeared in many theatres around the country. His appearances include roles in A Streetcar Named Desire, Hamlet, Habeas Corpus and A Voyage Round My Father. He toured the Midlands playing Romeo, Banquo and Billy Liar and was with The Mousetrap at the St Martin's Theatre in London. He recently played Stafford T. Wilkins in the national tour of Alan Ayckbourn's Sisterly Feelings and his most recent television appearance was in the Channel 4 film Owain, Prince of Wales. Wyn was a member of the 1981 Company at the Leas Pavilion Theatre where his appearances included Relatively Speaking, Butterflies Are Free, Abigail's Party, Rebecca and Stage Struck.

HELEN REECE was born in London, but lived a number of years overseas due to her father's business, including India, Brazil, the USA and Mexico. She was educated from the age of 11 at the Arts Educational School with a break of two years at the American School in Rio de Janeiro, returning to the Arts Educational School as a drama student in 1979. Her theatre appearances have included roles in The Crucible, The Miracle Worker, The Taming of the Shrew, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolfe, Rashomon and the title role in Helen Keller. Helen's film work has included parts in Only Truth Will Serve, The Vradling Report and Killing Joke/Fire. She worked for Charles Vance at the Secombe Centre, Sutton, and the Pomegranate Theatre, Chesterfield, during the 1983/84 Christmas season, and this is her first season at the Leas Pavillon Theatre.

HUGO MYATT has been in theatre for eighteen years. Not only has he worked as an actor, but he is well known for his pantomime villains, having played in fourteen consecutive pantomimes. He has also specialised as Chairman of Music Hall with six seasons at the City Varieties, Leeds, to his credit. In repertory he has worked all over the country and played in over fifty productions. Hugo's most recent television appearances include Tales of the Unexpected, Out of the Conflict, Shroud for a Nightingale and regular appearances in Reflections for Anglia Television and Disaster at Thorpe Bay for BBC Television. Last Christmas he starred as the Sheriff of Nottingham in Babes in the Wood at the Tameside Theatre, Ashton-under-Lyne. This is Hugo's second consecutive season at the Leas Pavilion Theatre and we are delighted to welcome him back for 1984.

ELIZABETH STEPHENS began her career with the Leatherhead Repertory Company and then spent five years at the Arts Theatre, Belfast, playing a wide variety of parts ranging from French to Japanese. She has appeared in many Summer Shows, working with Jimmy Logan, Les Dawson and the late Sid James, and in many pantomimes. She spent the last three summers at the Civic Theatre in Ayr where her roles included appearances in Ghosts, Blithe Spirit and On Approval.

ARTS CENTRE

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> > Free Public Exhibition open: Mon. to Sat. 10 am - 5 pm Sun. 2.30 pm - 5 pm

SUSANNA NICHOLAS, following in her actress mother's footsteps, began her theatrical career with the Tivy Theatre Company in Wales in a cycle of plays known as Mixed Doubles. She followed this with two years training at the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art, appearing in such productions as Habeas Corpus, Sisters, Travesties, Cabaret, Absurd Person Singular and a one man production of Katherine of Aragon, which she wrote herself. This season is Susanna's first at the Leas Pavilion Theatre.

RUSSEL GLEED had his first taste of theatre at the tender age of thirteen when he appeared in Lucy Crown with Roy Dotrice and Carroll Baker. Whilst still at school he appeared in A Right Christmas Caper at the Shaw Theatre, London. After professional training at Redroofs Theatre School, Russel played Malcolm in Little Malcolm And His Struggle Against The Eunuchs at South Hill Park, Bracknell. Last year he appeared in a summer season of weekly repertory at the Manor Pavilion, Sidmouth, followed by a Christmas season of The Gingerbread Man for Charles Vance at the Gatehouse Theatre, Stafford, since when he has been touring with the Molecule Club Children's Theatre. Russel's television appearances include roles in Tales Of The Unexpected for Anglia TV and To Serve Them All My Days for BBC TV. He also appeared in the James Bond Film Octopussy.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

Wednesday 17th - Saturday 20th October
ALDINGTON AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

present

HABEAS CORPUS

by Alan Bennett

1984 CHRISTMAS SEASON

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Wednesday 19th December - Saturday 5th January 1985
HANSEL AND GRETEL

Daily at 2.30 pm Evenings at 7 pm - 28th & 29th December, 4th & 5th January only

Seats: Adults £2.25 Children £1.50 Senior Citizens £1.75
Special morning performance - Saturday 22nd December 11 am - all seats £1.00

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TOWNSEND THORESEN 27

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Why not pop in to



The Leas Bar

Carlton Hotel, The Leas, Folkestone before or after the show



200 yards from the Theatre



THEATRE LECTURES AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

As a theatre unit we have a skilled team of professional specialists who can be available to give lectures to study groups and schools on design, stage management, and theatre generally. In this whole field of educational theatre the Administrator will always be pleased to hear from schools and other groups who would like to arrange a visit either to their school or at the Theatre.

Many local societies and clubs invite our Artistic Director, Charles Vance, to talk to their members about his wide theatre experience in all parts of the world. Although the demands on his time professionally can be heavy, nonetheless he is always happy to visit such groups or to speak at functions when time permits. It is recorded in Who's Who that he has given over 300 talks on theatre throughout the world. If you would like him to speak at your function why not have a word with his Production Assistant on Folkestone 59097 or drop her a note. Whether it's a visit to a Women's Institute or responding to the toast of 'The Guests' at a public function he has been a sought-after speaker for many years - and he makes no charge for his services!!

EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY APPEAL

The Folkestone Playhouse gratefully acknowledges the financial support it receives from Shepway District Council and Kent County Council to enable it to maintain its programme for over nine months of every year.

BUT our Theatre is over eighty-two years old, and during the last year or so plans have been laid to develop the Theatre, both in its back-stage amenities to enhance the quality of our production and, of equal importance, to improve the comfort of our patrons.

The project is a very ambitious one and during our eightieth birthday celebrations in 1982 we launched an £80,000 appeal to be the cornerstone of our building fund. Many leading companies and individuals in the district have been generous in their support of the fund, but it still has a long way to go.

We are appealing to all our patrons to contribute to the appeal and we hope that if you have enjoyed our productions you will feel able to give us your support. Every contribution, no matter how small, will help the Folkestone Playhouse to reach its target to ensure the fifty-seven years of continuous repertory at this unique Edwardian theatre will be able to continue to provide a valuable social amenity for our community in the future.



Publishers of the

FOLKESTONE HERALD

DOVER EXPRESS

(Published every Friday)

and

SOUTH KENT GAZETTE SERIES

(Published every Wednesday)

Wish artistes and audience at the Leas Pavilion a very enjoyable evening

EVERY LITTLE HELPS!

In these times of recession money is tight but every small contribution will go a long way to helping us maintain our enchanting Theatre until the end of the century.

FOLKESTONE PLAYHOUSE SUPPORTERS' CLUB

No true repertory company would be complete without its supporters' club, and at the Leas Pavilion Theatre we have a very active and thriving club, run by its own independent committee. Members have regular meetings at the Theatre, and indeed many social occasions, including visits to other theatres as special outings, particularly during the summer months. The first night of every new production is very much Supporters' Club night and members of the club enjoy the privilege of first night price concessions, when they only pay half price for seats. At the end of the performance on those opening nights the bar in the Theatre remains open for club members to meet the cast and discuss the play with them.

Membership costs a modest £2.00pa for an individual, £3.00pa for a married couple—so even after two visits to first nights members of the club have saved money on the subscription. In the last year membership has quadrupled. Why don't you join today and become more closely linked to the activities of YOUR own unique repertory theatre?

For fullest details and a membership application form, write to:

The Secretary
Folkestone Playhouse Supporters' Club
Leas Pavilion Theatre
Folkestone
Kent
CT20 2DP

BOOKING FACILITIES

During the season the theatre box office is open daily from Monday to Saturday from 10am to 8pm, and bookings can also be made by telephone on (0303) 52466. Telephone bookings will normally be held for patrons until half an hour before the curtain

rises on the day in question. For the added convenience of patrons we now have facilities on Access or Barclaycard. This facility is available to patrons who book at the box office, by telephone or by post. Postal bookings should be addressed to the box office at the Leas Pavilion Theatre and cheques made in favour of the Folkestone Playhouse Ltd — and PLEASE, all postal bookings should be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope to enable us to post your tickets back to you.

For those who live farther afield — and we have more and more patrons who travel considerable distances to see our productions — you can, of course, book by post (we do like you to send a stamped addressed envelope so we can send the tickets back to you) or you can take advantage of the conveniently placed ticket agencies which we have established throughout the region. We now have agencies in Ashford, Canterbury, Deal, Dover, Hythe, Margate and Tenterden, and we assure you our agents will give you that same personal service which you would enjoy from our own box office team.

Our booking agents are as follows:

ASHFORD Baldwins Travel Agency 51 High Street. Telephone 25245. Swinards Bank Street. Telephone 34321.

DEAL Fortune Tours 96 High Street. Telephone 4665.

DOVER Pickfords 10 Worthington Street. Telephone 206273.

FOLKESTONE Shepway Tourist Information Centre Harbour Way. Telephone 58594.

HYTHE Swinards 26 High Street. Telephone 66558.

MARGATE Biggs Travel Marine Drive. Telephone 27563.

TENTERDEN Swinards 3 The Fairings. Telephone 2633.

PARTY BOOKINGS

Many clubs and societies from all over Kent and, indeed, as far afield as Sussex bring regular parties to see the productions of the Folkestone Playhouse. We allow a concession of one free seat in every ten for all parties of over twenty and it is very often possible, when a party wishes, for them to meet the cast after the production to round off their visit.

Our Catering Manageress is always happy to arrange a special tea or coffee with light refreshments either before the show or during the interval and, of course, our licensed bar can make arrangements for your drinks to be ready for you in the interval if your party organiser orders them in advance. Either the Box Office Manageress or Mrs Manktelow, our Production Assistant, will be delighted to discuss plans for a party booking with you if you would care to telephone Folkestone 59097.

SEASON TICKETS — FIVE PLAYS FOR £13!!

As patrons of the theatre will be aware, we operate a season ticket scheme for regular theatregoers which represents a considerable saving on the price of your seats. Season ticket holders are able to see FIVE productions for the price of only FOUR.

This means, in effect, that you pay £13 for a front stall at five performances — a saving of £3.25 over the five productions of your choice. The box office have the tickets available now and will be pleased to discuss them with you.

SENIOR CITIZENS' PRIVILEGE SEASON TICKETS

Once again in 1984 we will be operating our scheme to give senior citizens a theatre seat during the repertory season. By means of this scheme a senior citizen can see eight productions at the Saturday matinee each fortnight at a cost to the benefactor of £8.10, and at NO FURTHER COST TO THE SENIOR CITIZEN.

The true value of the ticket is£13.00, and we invite good samaritans to send us £8.10 to enable us to send a ticket to one of the many senior citizens on our waiting list, or you can name the recipient to whom you would wish us to send the ticket with your compliments.

A theatre visit means very much to the older members of the community and the obvious pleasure it gives them is very apparent when one looks into the theatre each week at matinee performances. Why don't you help us bring a little pleasure (eight times over) into the somewhat dull and uneventful lives of one or more of our senior citizens? Our box office staff will be delighted to provide you with any further details you may require.

MAILING LIST

The Theatre regularly publishes a brochure with the fullest details of forthcoming programmes and details of booking arrangements and special attractions. For an annual subscription of only £1.00 to cover the cost of postage, etc, we will add your name to our mailing list and so will ensure you have your Theatre programme as soon as it is published. Please send your name together with your £1.00 to Brianne Manktelow, Production Assistant, Leas Pavilion Theatre, and she will do the rest.

THEATRE SHOP

For some years now the Theatre has operated a Gift Shop with the assistance of members of the Theatre Supporters' Club. It was always our ambition to expand the scope of the shop and, hopefully one day, make it a mecca for those looking for that very special gift or souvenir.

There is a fascinating range of gifts at all prices and you are cordially invited to browse in the shop any time you are passing, without any obligation to buy. The shop continues to be manned by loyal supporters of the Theatre who give their time unstintingly to help the Theatre, and we assure you that nobody will importune you to buy while you enjoy looking at the wide range of goods available.

We hope you will enjoy your visit to the shop and that you will come to look on it as the ideal place to buy that ideal gift.

THEATRE POSTCARDS

A pleasant souvenir of your visit to the Leas Pavilion Theatre is our theatre postcard. There are two different cards, each showing a different view of the interior and are modestly priced at 8p each. Theatres throughout the world have their own personal postcards which are collected by people from all walks of life. We hope you will be able to use our postcards, not only as keepsakes for yourselves, but to send as holiday postcards when writing to your friends.



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