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The Ladykillers

BY GRAHAM LINEHAN

FROM THE MOTION PICTURE SCREENPLAY BY WILLIAM ROSE BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH STUDIOCANAL
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TIVOLI THEATRE WIMBORNE

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A Wimborne Drama Production

A Man For All Seasons

by Robert Bolt



16th - 18th Oct 2014

TIVOLI THEATRE
WIMBORNE

Welcome

A very warm welcome to the Tivoli Theatre and to our production of A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS.

The play was written in 1960 by Robert Bolt, the Manchester-born son of a shopkeeper. Bolt was educated at Manchester grammar school and university, served with the RAF in the Second World War and spent eight years teaching at Millfield public school while writing plays in his spare time. Encouraged by his early success, he gave up teaching to concentrate on writing full time for theatre, film and television.

I first saw A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS back in 2005 with Martin Shaw in the role of Thomas More. I should confess that he was the main reason my mum and I went to see the play; little did I know then that that I would fall in love - not with Martin Shaw but with this amazing play!

There is something about the Tudors which continues to fascinate us, arguably more than any other period in history. An EASTENDERS script writer could not have concocted more scandalous and intriguing plots or more complex and compelling characters! The fact that these were real people living life in extraordinary times only serves to fuel our curiosity.

When Henry VIII wanted to establish himself as the head of the Church in England, Thomas More and all his contemporaries were on the cusp of a change that would transform everything - the implications were huge. Following the recent Scottish Independence Referendum and the advance of radical Islam, we can perhaps imagine a little of the anxiety the nation must have felt. Division and religious strife loomed over England. Many like The Common Man just followed the line of least resistance; some like Cromwell and Rich rode the waves of change to their own advantage. But then there were a few like Thomas More who swam against the tide, unable to compromise on their beliefs and in so doing were to "court disaster".

In A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS the historical characters we know so well from their paintings, step out of their frames and come to vivid life again - and for a few precious moments we feel the hand of history on our shoulder reminding us that human nature never changes.

It has been an absolute pleasure and privilege to direct my favourite play with such a talented and committed cast and crew - I owe them all a huge debt of gratitude. I would like to say a particular "Thank You" to my stage manager, Phyllis Spencer, for all her hard work and for reigning me in when my ideas got too ambitious (apparently a revolving stage was unrealistic...) Special thanks must also go to Colin Pile, one of the most gifted men I know, who took my set design concept and made it a physical reality. Thanks too to Kyle Best and the Tivoli team who have gone the extra mile for us. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my wonderful mum who, for the past 12 months, has put up with me bouncing ideas and has provided support and encouragement every step of the way. Finally, thank you dear audience - you wonderful people out there in the dark - for coming to support us. Enjoy!

Tracey Nicholls - Director



Tracey Nicholls

show that however many important/self important people fall by the wayside the common man will always be necessary to keep things ticking over. He presents this idea with a lot of humour and by speaking for the ordinary people that appear in the play.

VERENA SMITH-MAURER

(Catherine Anger)

Occupation: I am an (almost) retired language teacher. **Favourite roles:** I love acting but get very nervous on stage so I am always looking out for small parts such as Edna in AN INSPECTOR CALLS last year. I love being part of the team and if I cannot be on stage. I at least try to help with the backstage crew. **Your character:** In this play I have a short but fantastic part - a vicious aggressive female. I love it and just hope I am not typecast!

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Michael J Smith

can be witty, serious, intellectual and sometimes angry, and others often find him difficult to fathom. He loves his family, serves his king loyally and has an almost pedantic obsession with the law, but ultimately what is most important to him, is his conscience and thus his service to God.

PENNY PEARSON

(Lady Alice More)

Occupation: Graphic designer. **Favourite roles:** Hmm. Now that would be a toss-up between Romaine in WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION (German accent and costumes - what could be better?) and Judith Bliss in HAY FEVER. **Your character:** Alice is described in the script as being "absurd at a distance, impressive close to" and I think this is reflective of her character. Practical and no-nonsense, she doesn't display her husband's intellectual depth but is loyal, steadfast, and clearly loves More deeply. She ultimately shows great dignity in the face of his death and, presumably, a possibly bleak future.

COLIN PILE (Will Roper)

Occupation: computer engineer. **Favourite roles:** Most recently Norman Bassett in CASH ON DELIVERY; farther back Melchior in ON THE RAZZLE. **Your character:** Will was

principal clerk of court of the King's Bench, Justice of the Peace and Politician. He married Thomas More's daughter Margaret and was a loyal member of the family. He became fascinated by the Lutheran doctrine, was outspoken and ingenuous about his faith and argued with Thomas More on points of religion. Later he returned to the Catholic fold.

JOHN SIVEWRIGHT

(Thomas Cromwell)

Occupation: Insurance administrator. So like Cromwell I'm often seen carrying a lot of paperwork! **Favourite role:** Loved playing Gerald in AN INSPECTOR CALLS last year, particularly after playing Eric for All Saints Dramatic Society back in 2006. **Your character:** Having to step into the role of Cromwell at two weeks' notice, I've had a little bit less time than the others to get stuck into characterisation! But Cromwell's an intense character who'll stop at nothing to further himself and, as he says, "If the King wants something done, I do it". He stops at nothing to prove it.

MICHAEL J SMITH

(The Common Man)

Occupation: Retired as Theatre Accountant but certainly not as an actor. **Favourite roles:** This current role is the most rewarding for some time; in the past, oh dear so many, but if I have to choose I guess KING LEAR & Second Voice in UNDER MILKWOOD for Richmond Shakespeare Company; Father in A VOYAGE ROUND MY FATHER and Marquis de Sade in THE MARAT SADE for Limelight Players. **Your character:** The Common Man is an observer, a link between the audience and the actors. He is there to

Turbulent Times

1478 Thomas More is born in London, the son of a successful lawyer. He goes on to study at Oxford and also enters the legal profession despite considering a call to the monastic life.

1485 Henry Tudor wins the Battle of Bosworth (where Richard III is killed) and takes the crown. He marries Elizabeth of York, uniting the Houses of Lancaster and York, thus ending The War of The Roses. Thomas Cromwell is born in Putney, the son of a blacksmith.



Catherine of Aragon

1501 Catherine of Aragon (aged 15) marries Prince Arthur (the eldest son of Henry VII, aged 16). The alliance was designed to ally England and Spain.

1502 Prince Arthur dies, leaving Catherine a widow. She swears that the marriage was not consummated.

1504/1505 Thomas More is elected to Parliament to represent Great Yarmouth. He also marries Jane Colt, who bears him 3 daughters and a son. Margaret is their eldest daughter. Unusually for the period, More educates his daughters to the same level as his son.

1509 Henry VII dies and his surviving son, Henry VIII succeeds to the throne aged only 18. In order to continue the alliance with Spain a dispensation from the Pope is granted to annul the marriage between Catherine and Arthur, enabling Henry to marry her. For the first few years, accounts suggest that the marriage was happy.

1510 - 1518 Catherine bears 6 children over this time but all die in child-birth or in infancy, apart from a daughter, Mary. In 1510 Thomas More's first wife dies. With a young family, More remarries within a few weeks, this time to a widow, Alice Middleton. The same year More becomes an under-sheriff of London and then Master of Requests in 1514 (this is when he would have encountered Catherine Anger in the Court of Requests). In 1517 More enters the King's Service, becoming one of Henry VIII's most effective and trusted civil servants and acting as his secretary, interpreter, speech-writer, chief diplomat, advisor and confidant.

1527 Catherine is now past the age of child-bearing and Henry is desperate to sire a male heir to secure the Tudor dynasty. He has also become infatuated with one of Catherine's



Henry VIII

ladies in waiting, a certain Lady Anne Boleyn. Henry begins to pursue a divorce. Cardinal Wolsey, Henry's Chancellor and "right hand man" appeals to the Pope for an annulment. Under normal circumstances this would have been granted but unfortunately for Henry, the Spanish Emperor had sacked Rome and the Pope was effectively his prisoner. The Spanish Emperor also happened to be Catherine of Aragon's nephew. Needless to say the Pope does not grant the annulment.

1529 Cardinal Wolsey falls from the King's grace following his inability to procure a divorce. Wolsey is accused of treason but dies of pneumonia before he reaches The Tower Of London. Sir Thomas More succeeds him as Lord Chancellor.

Henry VIII is adamant that his marriage to Catherine is sinful. He also convinced himself that the Pope has no right to rule over him as God's anointed King of England. As a result Henry decides to break with Rome and establish himself as the Head of The Church in England, thus assuming complete authority over church and state.

1532 As a committed Roman Catholic, More is unable to support Henry as he seeks to break from Rome. Following the Submission of the Clergy (which recognised Royal Supremacy over the church), More resigns from office. Thomas Cromwell becomes the King's chief minister.

1533-1534 The Act of Supremacy (making Henry VIII the Head of the Church in England) is passed. Henry grants himself his long-desired divorce (with the help of his new Archbishop, Thomas Cranmer) and marries Anne Boleyn. In 1534 The Treason's Act is passed which made it high treason punishable by death to deny the royal supremacy. The Act of Succession is also passed and required subjects to swear an oath to recognize the children of Anne Boleyn as heirs to the throne as well as asserting the royal supremacy and the invalidity of Henry's first marriage. More refuses to swear to the act and is subsequently arrested and imprisoned in The Tower of London.

1535 More is tried for High Treason. Cromwell has arranged for Richard Rich to give evidence stating that More has denied the royal supremacy. The evidence is very implausible but the jury finds More guilty and he is sentenced to death. More was executed on 7th July 1535.



Anne Boleyn



Thomas More

Food, sport and music are his lifeblood but he often falls foul of the ladies in his life. He is something of an intellectual who surrounds himself with people who stimulate and challenge him. His monarchy, volatile character and people fear him, making him used to getting his own way, but because of this friendship and respect do not always follow.

CALUM HEARNE (Servant Lad)

Occupation: Barman and Post Office assistant. **Favourite roles:** I have just appeared in Broadstone Players PLAYS 'N' CHIPS. Before that I played Roland Maule in PRESENT LAUGHTER (Wimborne Drama), but my favourite role so far was Pop in WE WILL ROCK YOU (QE School). **Your character:** Apprentice to The Common Man, loyal and fairly simple minded!

CLAIRE HUTTON

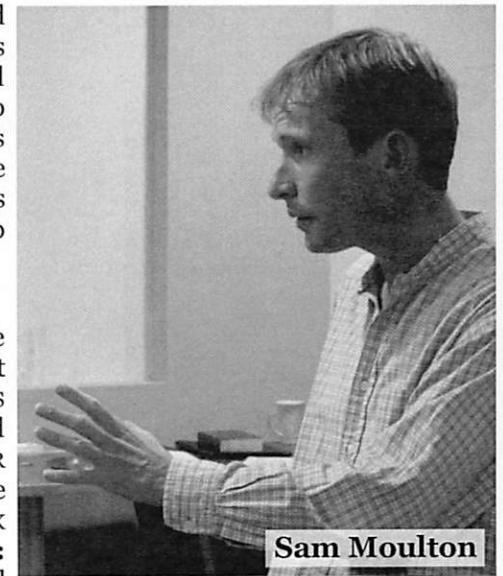
(Lady Margaret More)

Occupation: Front of house at Pavilion Theatre and visitor receptionist on Brownsea Island. **Favourite roles:** Daphne in PRESENT LAUGHTER (Wimborne Drama), and Tellus in ENDYMION while at university. **Your character:** Margaret is the daughter of Thomas Moore. She is intelligent and sensitive, and close to her father. She is the soon-to-be wife of William Roper and appears to have a knowledge and interest in the current state of political affairs, to the point where she even takes an oath to try and persuade Thomas to give up his beliefs.

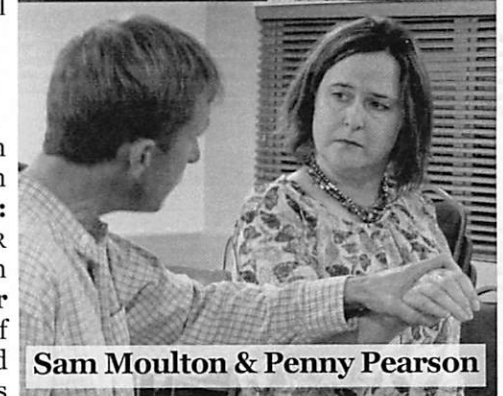
SAM MOULTON

(Sir Thomas More)

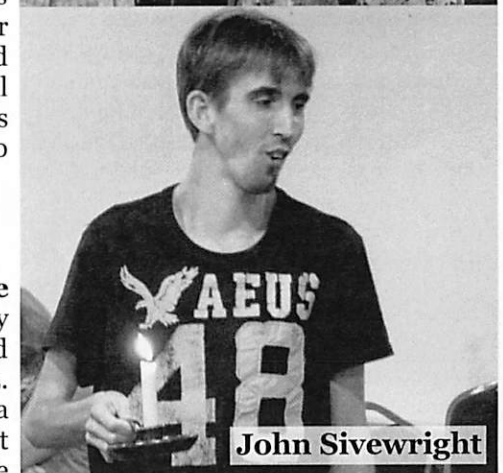
Occupation: Teacher. **Favourite roles:** Recent favourites include Garry Essendine in PRESENT LAUGHTER and Bains in LORD ARTHUR SAVILE'S CRIME. **Your character:** I think Thomas is a complex man and I have found it fascinating exploring his character. He



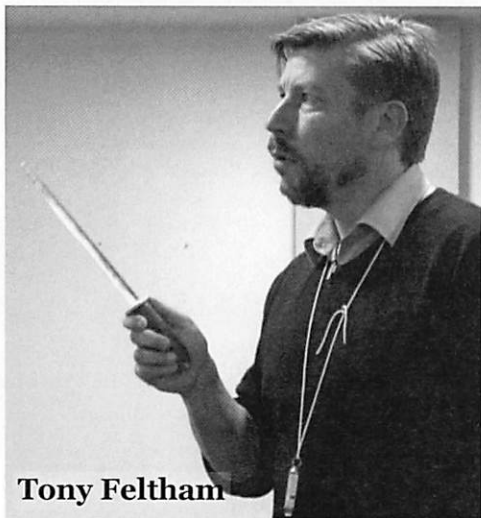
Sam Moulton



Sam Moulton & Penny Pearson



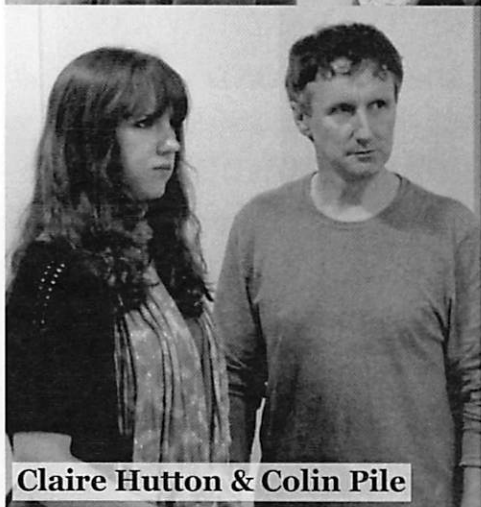
John Sivewright



Tony Feltham



Calum Hearne & Verena Smith-Maurer



Claire Hutton & Colin Pile

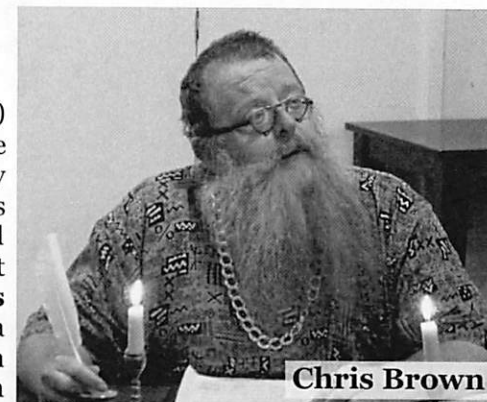
ROB CORDING (Richard Rich)
Occupation: Insurance advisor.
Favourite roles: Arthur in LORD ARTHUR SAVILE'S CRIME and Simon Bliss in HAY FEVER. **Your character:** I like to think of Rich as an ambitious fellow who has simply fallen at most of life's hurdles. He doesn't show any loyalty, especially to More. This said, in the first scene More tells him to be a teacher. A little research shows that Rich went on to found a school; maybe he felt guilty after all!

CHRIS DURHAM
 (Duke of Norfolk)
Occupation: Consultant, testing tactical communications systems on behalf of the MoD. **Favourite roles:** This is my first acting role with Wimborne Drama, although I have been involved in amateur dramatics for 40 years in Germany, Hong Kong and the UK. I loved playing Scrooge in A CHRISTMAS CAROL (Blandford Camp Drama Club) and Dr Arthur Wicksteed in a 6-week run of HABEAS CORPUS with the Balloon Theatre in Christchurch. **Your character:** The Duke of Norfolk is the 3rd to hold that title in his family and is an aristocrat who enjoys sports such as falconry. Also the Earl Marshal of England, the 8th highest post in the realm. A good friend of Sir Thomas More, but who will do whatever is necessary to protect his family and his titles.

TONY FELTHAM (Henry VIII)
Occupation: Web developer / programme manager. **Favourite roles:** Lord Fancourt Babberley in CHARLEY'S AUNT, Herr Winkelkopf in Lord Arthur Savile's Crime, 2nd Lieutenant Trotter in JOURNEYS END (Wimborne Drama). Bill Snibson, ME AND MY GIRL (Wimborne Musical Theatre Society). **Your character:** Henry loves and lives life to the full.

Meet the Cast

CHRIS BROWN (Cardinal Wolsey)
What's your occupation? Well the day job is Social Work but I enjoy my other jobs much more: Town Mayor's Serjant & Crier of Wimborne and producing a radio show for Forest FM. **What are the favourite roles you've played?** I haven't acted for a while but I loved playing Mr Peggotty in DAVID COPPERFIELD (2001), Brassett in CHARLEY'S AUNT (2004) and Charles in FLESH & BLOOD (2005). My best ever experience was with Wimborne Drama though was directing JOURNEY'S END in 2007. **Tell us about your character in A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS:** Cardinal Wolsey was an incredible man in turbulent times. He was pragmatic and a highly skilled politician and statesman, to have died in his bed of apparent natural causes was a testament to his skills. He also came up to the highest office from a lowly birth which in those times was really not heard of.

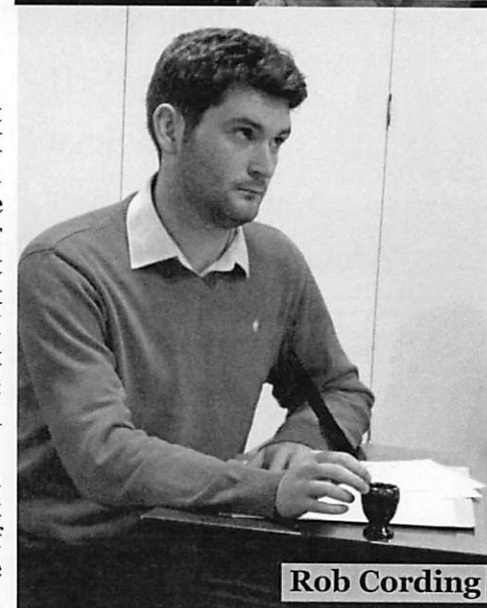


Chris Brown



Chris Durham & John Bruton

JOHN BRUTON
 (Archbishop Cranmer)
Occupation: Retired government estate surveyor. **Favourite roles:** I prefer cameo parts, like the Judge in WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION and the German Doctor in THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR. However, from the modest role of Priest in TWELFTH NIGHT to that of Archbishop of Canterbury can, I think, be looked upon as a significant promotion. **Your character:** Cranmer, who I see as a rather detached Cambridge-educated academic, was responsible for the Book of Common Prayer. He was undoubtedly the most influential cleric in this Tudor period of history, a period which resulted in the Protestant Reformation in England.



Rob Cording

A Man For All Seasons

By Robert Bolt

Cast in Order of Appearance

The Common Man	MICHAEL J SMITH
Servant Lad	CALUM HEARNE
Sir Thomas More	SAM MOULTON
Richard Rich	ROB CORDING
Duke of Norfolk	CHRIS DURHAM
Lady Alice More	PENNY PEARSON
Lady Margaret More	CLAIRE HUTTON
Cardinal Wolsey	CHRIS BROWN
Thomas Cromwell	JOHN SIVEWRIGHT
Will Roper	COLIN PILE
King Henry VIII	TONY FELTHAM
Anne Boleyn	TRACEY NICHOLLS
Catherine Anger	VERENA SMITH-MAURER
Archbishop Cranmer	JOHN BRUTON

The action of the play takes place in various locations
around London from 1528-1535

Running time approximately 2 hours 40 minutes

Produced by Wimborne Drama at the Tivoli Theatre
16th - 18th October 2014

Creative Team

Director	TRACEY NICHOLLS
Assistant Director / Continuity	CAROL BRUTON
Company Stage Manager	PHYLLIS SPENCER
Tivoli Production Manager	KYLE BEST
Assistant Stage Managers	JUDY GARRETT SHEILA DOVE PHIL SPENCER DAVID PILE
Set Design	TRACEY NICHOLLS COLIN PILE
Set Construction	COLIN PILE
Costume Design & Production	BSP WARDROBE
Costume Supervisors	LIZZIE PETERS JAN STEVENSON
Lighting	KIERAN HENSHAW-RAY
Sound	JILL RICHMOND

Production Acknowledgements

Special thanks to Larry Frost (Dependable Decorating Services), Glenn Schollar, St Mary's Church Ferndown, Dumpton School, Ruth Biffen, Anne Brown, Tina Nicholls, Broadstone Players, Poole & Parkstone Productions, Palmers Brewery Bridport, Daisy Graphic, Forest FM, Gullivers Bookshop, Royal British Legion Wimborne and Wimborne Tourist Information Centre

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