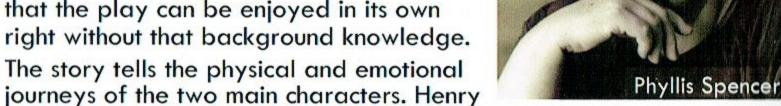


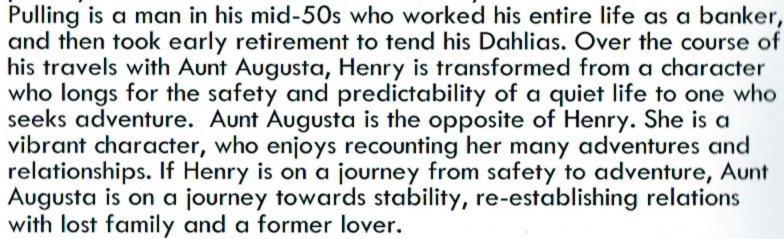
19-21 OCTOBER 2017
TIVOLI THEATRE
WIMBORNE

## Director's Notes

Welcome to our production of *Travels With My Aunt*, a play by Giles Havergal based on the novel of the same name by Graham Greene.

Those of you who have read the book will find the play is true to both the spirit and narrative of the book, but necessarily condensed somewhat. If you are not familiar with the book, then rest assured that the play can be enjoyed in its own right without that background knowledge.





Act 1 centres around the London homes of Aunt Augusta and Henry, with the action also moving across Europe. Act 2 is set in South America, where Aunt Augusta has made her new home. There are, in total, about 30 different locations, and clearly we cannot represent all of these in a realistic way. So we have sought to suggest the locations to you, and hope that you will enjoy using your imagination. We have a very talented pool of actors, all of whom are a pleasure

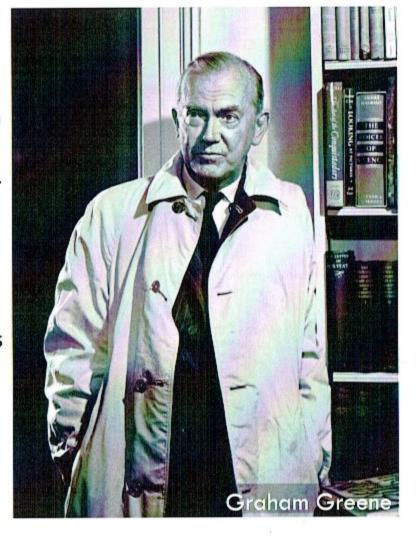
to work with and I believe will give you great pleasure to watch. It is impossible to put on any production without a good backstage team; and that is particularly true of this play which is technically demanding. I would like to thank every member of my team; all have put in many hours of hard work behind the scenes. They have been ably led by Tracey Nicholls as stage manager. Thanks are also due to the Tivoli staff who are without fail helpful, cheerful and full of good advice.

So it just remains for me to thank you, the audience, for coming, and to say relax and enjoy!

Phyllis Spencer - Director

# The Adventures of Graham Greene

Henry Graham Greene OM CH was born in 1904 in Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire. He was the fourth of six children. His younger brother, Hugh, became Director-General of the BBC, and his elder brother, Raymond, an eminent physician and mountaineer. His parents were first cousins, both members of a large, influential family that included the owners of Greene King Brewery, bankers, and statesmen; his mother was cousin to Robert Louis Stevenson.



Graham Greene had an unhappy childhood. He boarded at Berkhamsted School where he was actively victimised by his fellow pupils because his father was headmaster. He made several inept attempts at suicide and spent six months in psychoanalysis.

He studied modern history at Oxford where he published Babbling April, a volume of poems, and fell in love with Vivien Dayrell-Browning, an employee of his publisher. Vivien being a devout Roman Catholic, Greene embraced her faith in order to marry her in 1927. Although it was a conversion of convenience, it was to have a profound effect on his life, for he spent the rest of it apparently striving to justify the decision to himself. The gulf between Christ's teachings and the way in which they were interpreted by imperfect human beings was a topic to which his

novels would perpetually return. The marriage to Vivien was at first passionate and produced two children, but years of separation during the war put a strain on their relationship and they separated in 1947. They never got round to getting divorced, but the potential for sin was no impediment to Greene's libido and he had a number of female lovers over the subsequent years.

Throughout his life, Greene travelled far from England, to what he called "the world's wild and remote places". These travels led to his recruitment into MI6 by his sister, Elizabeth, who worked for the agency. Accordingly, he was posted to Sierra Leone during the war. Kim Philby, who would later be revealed as a Soviet agent, was Greene's supervisor and friend at MI6. As a novelist Greene wove the characters he met and the places where he lived into the fabric of his novels.

Greene is regarded as one of the great 20th century novelists, with a reputation as a writer of both deeply serious novels, and of "suspense-filled stories of detection". He described *Travels* With My Aunt, published in 1969, as "the only book I have ever written for the fun of it".

He was also a successful screenwriter, collaborating with Carol Reed on The Fallen Idol and The Third Man, and a skilled journalist, reporting from Mexico on the state persecution of priests (the inspiration for The Power and the Glory), Malaya on the Communist insurgency and Kenya during the Mau Mau rising. He covered the early years of the Vietnam War, the catalyst for The Quiet American. He also visited Liberia, Cuba (where he gained inspiration for the comic thriller Our Man in Havana), Haiti, Chile and Paraguay, which he visited to check out locations for the climactic scenes of Travels With My Aunt. Brighton Rock, The Heart of the Matter and The End of the Affair are among some of his other acclaimed titles. He was twice shortlisted for the Nobel Prize for Literature.

He died in Vevey, Switzerland, in 1991.

# From Page to Stage

# How do you create 28 characters and 25 locations?

We clearly cannot do that with any degree of realism.

Our main characters have what one might term 'proper' costumes, being dressed appropriately for their role.

But there are many characters who make brief but important appearances to help enact the details of Henry's story as it unfolds. To have each of these played by a different person, in full costume, would be impossible. We therefore have an ensemble, all



It would also be impossible to represent all the locations which Henry and Augusta visit on their travels. So we will suggest those to you by using different areas of the stage, adding evocative

lighting and sound effects. For example, you will not see a station but you will hear one.

All we need, then, is for you to enter into the spirit of our presentation and use your imagination. The result will be a fascinating journey across Europe, and South America. We hope you enjoy travelling with us.

### Travels with the Cast

66 Sometimes travels can change your life completely. It was whilst travelling with my friends around South West Cork in 2002, that I met my Devon-born husband Nick, who was on a trip to the South of Ireland to dive some of the many wrecks off the coastline. Communication via email and phone followed, then many flights back and forth, eventually ending up with my living in the beautiful South West of England. Ann McColgan-Clark

66 When my 66 Many years ago, when my children husband and I were on our honeymoon in Cuba, we were nearly conned in to buying fake rum. We were led down these back alleys and the Cuban man asked us to hold a briefcase while he went off round the corner to get the rum. So there we were, on a street corner holding this random case. Then I thought maybe he's marked us out and somebody is going to drive by and shoot us. Luckily Dominic saw

sense, we dumped the

briefcase and ran.

**Rob Cording-**

Cook

holiday in Woolacombe. While on the journey there, one of my daughters exclaimed, "That's my friend from school!" as a car sped by us on the dual carriageway. I took little interest. We continued on our way, reached the car park of the hotel, only for my daughter to say "That's my friend's car!" And she was quite right. The girl from her class, whom she was convinced she had seen on the dual carriageway, and the rest of her family were staying in the same hotel as us! Both children and parents were delighted the children had readymade pals on the beach and the adults had lots of peace!! Sheila Dove

were quite young, we went for a

**66** I remember when I was younger, my parents tricked me into thinking we were going to Butlins for two weeks but we actually ended up going to Lanzarote. Even on the aeroplane, I was told it was a direct flight to Butlins. (Because why wouldn't Butlins have its own private runway?!). Jemma Cable

66 Mr. Visconti's activities remind me of the time I was once nearly arrested by the Spanish police for attempting to smuggle whisky and cigarettes out of Gibraltar into Spain which, rather like Paraguay, had a fascist dictator then. As my companion and I passed through the border checkpoint with our bag of groceries, we were



pounced upon by a gun-toting Spanish policeman who informed us that we could not bring anything that we had bought in Gibraltar

into Spain. When I protested, we were frogmarched into the police hut to see El Capitan. He eyed our bag of contraband suspiciously but did not notice the whisky and cigarettes which were hidden under a packet of cornflakes and chocolate biscuits. "You must take it all back!" he commanded. We were returned back over the border where a friendly British bobby informed us that we could get back into Spain with our shopping via the Spanish workers' ferry across the bay to Algeciras, which we dutifully took.

Simon Jackson

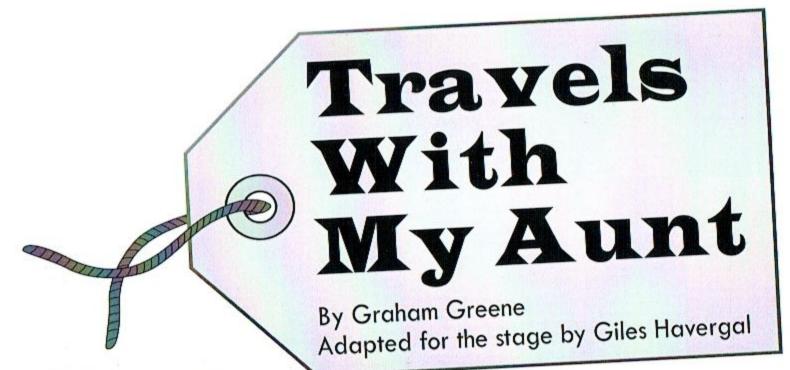
66 While on holiday in Sardinia, we decided to see the famous horse race in Sedilo, L'Ardia di San Costantino Festival, which commemorates **Emperor Constantine's** victory over Maxentius at Rome in 312 AD. It was a very hot day. The church was crowded while a few took shelter under trees. After the priest had done his blessing, we sat outside waiting for the horsemen. It seemed to get hotter by the minute, and we had to hold towels over our heads. Just as the sun seemed to go down, we saw the horsemen in white shirts appear at the top of the hill. They came down and circled the church leaving a cloud of dust everywhere, they kept circling, then lots of people came down from the hills to join us. They started cooking eels and then offered us cake. It was a time I will always remember. Carole Courtney-

Coles









### The Cast

Henry Pulling Aunt Augusta

Wordsworth

Miss Keene

**Detective Sergeant Sparrow** 

Hatty

Tooley

Colonel Hakim

Miss Paterson

O'Toole

Visconti

Ensemble parts played by

JOHN SIVEWRIGHT **SHEILA DOVE** ROB CORDING-COOK ANN McCOLGAN-CLARK **COLIN PILE** JENNY HUGHES JEMMA CABLE **ROB CORDING-COOK** JUDY GARRETT **MARTYN BROWN** SIMON JACKSON MARTYN BROWN CAROLE COURTNEY-COLES JUDY GARRETT JENNY HUGHES SIMON JACKSON ANN McCOLGAN-CLARK **COLIN PILE HEATHER SEATON** 

### The Creative Team

Director

PHYLLIS SPENCER

Assistant Director & Continuity DAVID PILE

Company Stage Manager

Deputy Stage Manager

**ASMs** 

TRACEY NICHOLLS

**CALUM HEARNE** 

BEVERLEY BECK

**RUSS GUILLAUME** 

SAM MOULTON

TONY PARKINSON

Sound

Lighting

Costumes

Scenery

**Properties** 

PETER GRAY

KIERAN HENSHAW-RAY

ANN McCOLGAN-CLARK

**JENNY HUGHES** 

**COLIN PILE** 

and members of the company

**VAL MANTLE** JUDY GARRETT

KYLE BEST

**Tivoli Production Manager** 

Assistant Production Manager GEORGE WOODS

The action of the play takes place in the early 1970s in London and various locations around the world. The running time is approximately 2 hours 30 minutes including an interval.

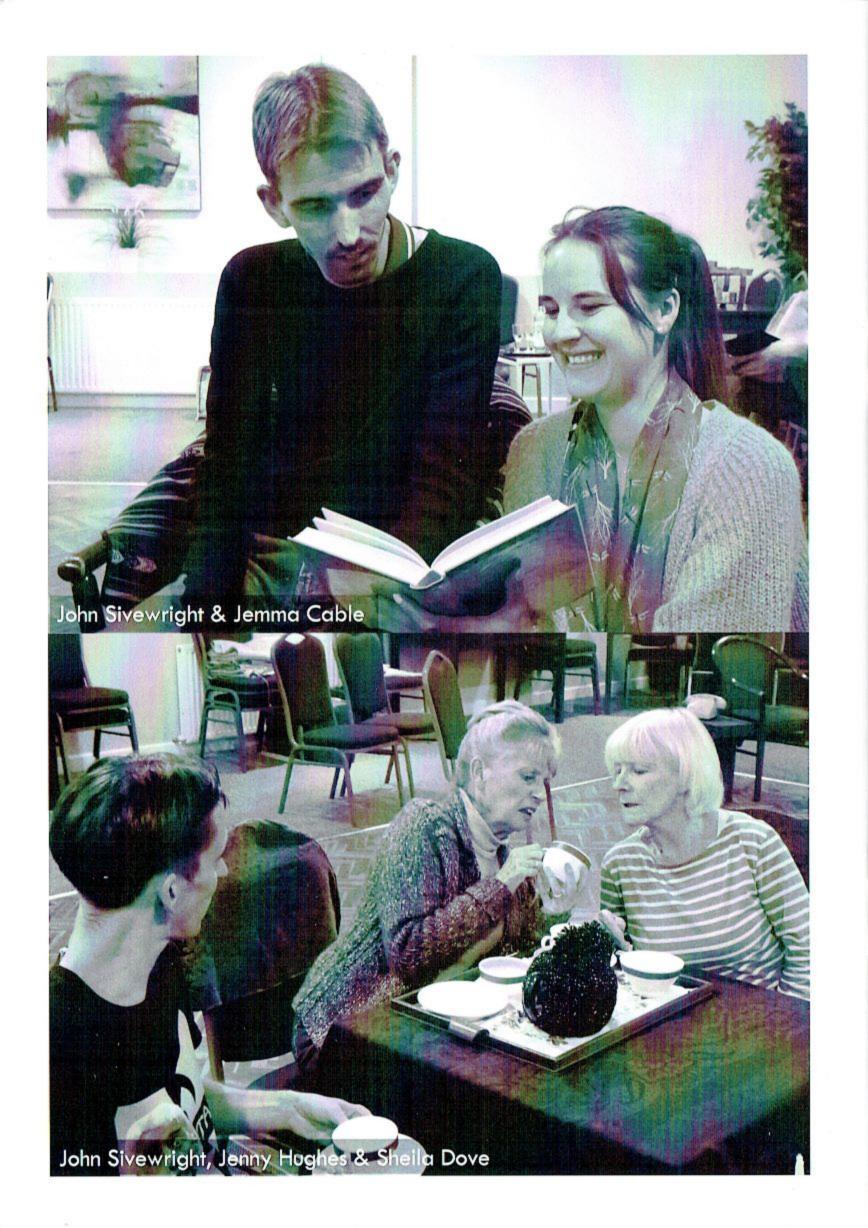
### **Production Acknowledgements**

We are grateful to the following for their assistance: Daisy Graphic, Forest FM, Gullivers Bookshop, Hirearchy Costumes, Joliffe Funeral Directors, Royal British Legion Wimborne, St Mary's Church Ferndown, Tina Nicholls, Tivoli Theatre and Wimborne Tourist Information Centre

Produced by Wimborne Drama Productions at the Tivoli Theatre, 19-21 October 2017, by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD. In loving memory of Muriel Brooks, a member of WDP for more than 50 years, and a dear friend to so many









# Cast Biographies

#### MARTYN BROWN

Martyn caught the acting bug only last year when he appeared in The Poole Passion's Through the Eyes of a Child, playing several parts including one of the disciples, Thomas. The passion play featured in the BBC's Songs of Praise Easter special. This led to a couple of small roles with Bournemouth Little Theatre and then his first major part, Stanley, in Run For Your Wife (directed by John Sivewright). This is Martyn's first role for Wimborne Drama Productions.

#### **JEMMA CABLE**

Peggy in The Ghost Train in
February, but her most recent
appearance at the Tivoli was this
summer when she played Sister
Mary Patrick in Sister Act with
Wimborne Musical Theatre. Other
roles at the Tivoli include Connie in
Habeas Corpus, No-Wit the Pirate
in Sinbad and the Big Orange
Chicken in Jack & the Beanstalk,
and Patricia in Crazy for You. At
Stage Wise she played the
Scarecrow in The Wizard of Oz

and Mother Abbess in The Sound of Music.

#### **ROB CORDING-COOK**

Rob has appeared in several productions here at the Tivoli. He is also a regular in our summer plays at Deans Court, most recently playing Don John and a member of The Watch in Much Ado About Nothing. His favourite parts have been Simon Bliss in Noël Coward's Hay Fever and Jan Warwick in The Unexpected Guest. Other plays include The Ghost Train, Pride and Prejudice, Relative Values, A Man For All Seasons, Lord Arthur Savile's Crime, The Importance of Being Earnest, And Then There Were None, Run For Your Wife, Great Expectations and The Talented Mr Ripley.

#### **CAROLE COURTNEY-COLES**

Carole last appeared on stage at the Tivoli in 2015, as one of the ladies who comes to tea in *The* Ladykillers, and before that she played a German woman in *On* The Razzle.

#### SHEILA DOVE

In 2016 Sheila played Felicity in Relative Values and in 2015 she took the part of Mrs Wilberforce in The Ladykillers, one of her favourite roles, along with Grace in Entertaining Angels, Isobel in An Experiment With an Airpump, both with Broadstone Players, and Anna in The Day After the Fair ("when I was much younger!"). In 2004 she received a Daily Echo Curtain Call award for her portrayal of Mary in The Memory of Water, also with Broadstone Players.

#### **JUDY GARRETT**

Judy played Antonia in our summer production of Much Ado About Nothing at Deans Court. Her last role here at the Tivoli was Mrs Swabb in Habeas Corpus. Other recent highlights for WDP include Mrs Gardiner in Pride and Prejudice, Miss Erikson in Present Laughter, Maria in Twelfth Night and Costanza in Enchanted April.

#### **JENNY HUGHES**

This is Jenny's third outing with WDP, having played Muriel in Habeas Corpus last autumn and Verges, the cerebrally challenged

constable, in this summer's outdoor production of Much Ado About Nothing. This time she has several small roles, including a Spanish lady who only speaks Spanish, and two more not very brainy police officers. "Travels With My Aunt, which is based on a favourite book of mine, has been a very different kind of play to do and I hope you have as much fun watching as we've had rehearsing," says Jenny.

#### SIMON JACKSON

Simon is a stalwart of WDP having appeared in many productions over the years, most recently as Jack Feeble, a member of The Watch, in Much Ado About Nothing, and Gudgeon, the butler, in The Hollow – the second time he has played the role. Other favourites include Major Courtney in The Ladykillers and General Mackenzie in And Then There Were None, both for WDP, and Igor Romanoff, in Romanoff and Juliet, a comedy by Peter Ustinov, for Penistone Players in Yorkshire.

#### ANN McCOLGAN-CLARK

This is Ann's fifth production with WDP since joining the company in

2015, having previously been with The Tower Theatre in London and The Southbank Players in Belfast. She played Julia Price in The Ghost Train, Gerda Cristow in The Hollow and also appeared in Shadowlands and Much Ado About Nothing. Her favourite roles include Mrs Manningham in Gaslight with the Southbank Players and Linda in Death of a Salesman with the Tower Theatre.

#### **COLIN PILE**

Colin has played many varied roles since joining WDP in 2000. Most recently he played Balthasar and a member of The Watch in Much Ado About Nothing and Edward Angkatell in The Hollow. Other plays include Shadowlands, Pride and Prejudice, A Man For All Seasons and Pack of Lies. Colin is also much in demand as a set designer, his credits including The Ghost Train, The Hollow, The Ladykillers and An Inspector Calls.

#### **HEATHER SEATON**

Heather returns to the stage after a break of a couple of years,

although she has been busy playing Mrs. Rose Selfridge at Highcliffe Castle and various venues in the Christchurch area, and having supporting artist roles in Silent Witness, Broadchurch and a commercial for Halfords. For WDP, Heather previously appeared in The Ladykillers, Cash on Delivery and Present Laughter. "I am looking forward to playing Frau Schmidt and brushing up on my German. I have also played Frau Schmidt, the housekeeper, in The Sound of Music. I wonder if it's the same Frau Schmidt and this is where she ended up?"

#### JOHN SIVEWRIGHT

John last appeared at the Tivoli in 2016 when he played Canon Throbbing in Habeas Corpus. Other roles for WDP include Cromwell in A Man For All Seasons (one of his favourites), Mr Podgers in Lord Arthur Savile's Crime, Mr Collins in Pride and Prejudice, Borachio in Much Ado About Nothing, and Louis in The Ladykillers. John will soon be directing the pantomime Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs for All Saints Dramatic Society.

## WIMBORNE DRAMA PRODUCTIONS

# THE WINSLOW BOY

### By Terence Rattigan 15-17 February 2018 TIVOLI THEATRE

Based on a real-life event that took place just before the First World War, THE WINSLOW BOY by Terence Rattigan is a gripping and moving family drama.

When 14-year-old naval cadet Ronnie Winslow is expelled from the Royal Naval College at Osborne for allegedly stealing a five-shilling postal order, his family are pulled apart by the repercussions of this charge, as they fight to clear his name or face social ostracism as the case becomes a national scandal. Driven by the father's passionate belief in justice whatever the personal cost, the family battle for the truth, played out under the media spotlight, testing themselves to their very limit.

By special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD. Directed by Michael J Smith.

# President of Wimborne Drama Productions

Malcolm Angel

# Patrons of Wimborne Drama Productions

Frances Alton

Ron Bignell Roger Billings Robin Cook (H) Susan Cook (H) John Dickson Maureen Dickson **Dorothy Dodman** George Dodman Michael Evans Roy Hudd (H) Val Jolliffe Roy Joseph (H) Diann March Mayor of Wimborne (H) Michael Medwin (H) Carol Neal Peter Neal Ting Nicholls Anthony Oliver (H) Christine Oliver **Anthony Pawley** Linda Pawley Diana Prestige Pamela Wood H signifies honorary



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