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Off Centre Theatre

Charity No: 1112602

Presents two one act plays

## The Rose and Crown

By J B Priestley

## What's For Pudding?

By David Tristram

1st, 2nd & 3rd May 2008

at 7.30pm

at the Savoy Theatre,  
Church Street, Monmouth

## About the author of *The Rose and Crown*



**John Boynton Priestley (1894-1984)** - was pre-eminently a dramatist and a novelist. Many of his works have become 20th century literary classics, among them 'The Good Companions', 'When We are Married', 'An Inspector Calls' and 'Time and the Conways'. But he was undoubtedly the most versatile writer of his time, producing essays, short stories, verse, literary criticism, social histories, travel books and film

scripts, as well as an opera libretto and an autobiography. He was also a practitioner in, and an enthusiast of, painting and music.

Away from the arts Priestley played many roles as a political activist and commentator; a campaigner for nuclear disarmament and public lending right; a cultural ambassador; and a student of time and of dreams. He once, memorably, became an actor in one of his own plays and stood as a Parliamentary candidate in the 1945 General Election.

In his later years Priestley wrote two volumes of autobiography: *Margin Released* (1962) and *Instead of the Trees* (1977). He was one of the interviewees for the documentary series *The World at War* (1973), in the episode *Alone: May 1940-May 1941*.

John Boynton Priestley died on 14th August, 1984.



The *Rose and Crown* was specially written for television by J.B. Priestley. The play was first transmitted on by the BBC on Tuesday 27th August 1946, repeated twice on February 6th September 1946, first in the afternoon and then in the evening. The picture (left) is from the original transmission.

## The Rose and Crown

by J B Priestley

### Cast

Mr Stone	Jim Newcomb
Mrs Reed	Fee de Bruler
Percy Randle	Peter Spence
Ivy Randle	Ann Long
Ma Peck	Anne MacFarlane
Harry Tully	Brian Pearce
A Stranger	Tony Wells

Directed by  
**Judith Rossiter**

Fed up with life? So are most of the people who gather one windy night in the *Rose and Crown*, an unremarkable London pub. Most of them are not the least bit hesitant about voicing bitterness and disappointment, nor shy about telling someone else they'd be better off dead. Even a young newly-wed husband, who wanders in with his pretty wife, has a listless air about him. Only one man, who dances through the door and buys the ladies drinks, seems to enjoy life. So the complaining and backbiting go on, until the arrival of a stranger.

Time: 1946



## Who's who in The Rose and Crown?



**Jim Newcomb - Mr Stone.** Jim is well know to the people of Monmouth having played the dame in thirteen OCT pantomimes up to 2005. He hung up his tights and bras for three years until he was lured back to play Dame Deirdre in the recent OCT / Stennett Company production of *Babes in the Wood*. Jim is very versatile and has appeared in countless productions for OCT he also directs plays for the society. He is a regular comère for the Town's fundraising shows most recently for the *Showcase Spectacular* fir the Mayor's Charities. When not performing Jim is a senior lecturer in education at the University of Wales.



**Fee de Bruler - Mrs Reed.** Born in Staffordshire, she came to Monmouth as a child where her father, Roy Wallis, was town clerk. Wallis Close and the Wallis Room in the museum are named after him. Fee lived in Cornwall for 20 years before returning to Monmouth in 1986. She joined OCT in 1995 and has appeared in many shows, plays and pantomimes. Fee is sure people will remember her Fairy Peapod in *Jack and the Beanstalk* (1996) when she wowed the audience in her lime green costume. Fee is an accomplished artist and OCT has benefited from her skills with the scenery and other art works she has created. She is a qualified aroma-therapist, masseuses and nutritionist.



**Peter Spence - Percy.** Peter is originally from Ffestiniog in North Wales moving to Monmouth when he was 18mths old. He has been a member of OCT since 1995 appearing first in *Piccalilli Circus* as a knife thrower. He has also appeared in 5 of OCT's renowned pantomimes. He studied Chemistry at university where he played Quince in *A Midsummer Nights Dream*. He returned to OCT last year when he played the part of Doom in *A Little Box of Oblivion*. He now works in HMSG as the Chemistry Technician. In his spare time he enjoys photography and playing the violin.



**Ann Long - Ivy.** Ann is from a Monmouth farming family. A talented singer she performs as one half of a country music duo who tour up and down the country singing in different country clubs. Ann has appeared in many OCT pantomimes and also in a number of plays. She won a Gwent Drama League award for her performance as Sophie in *Murder at Priorswell Manor* in 2006. She last appeared on stage for OCT as Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*. In April she completed the London Marathon for the third time when she raised money for *Action on Pre-eclampsia* you can still donate at: [www.justgiving.com/annlong2](http://www.justgiving.com/annlong2)



## Who's who in The Rose and Crown?



**Anne MacFarlane - Ma Peck.** Originally from Preston, Anne has been an active member of OCT since it was formed in 1986. She is renowned for directing OCT's annual pantomime from 1991 - 2005. A talented musician, Anne has been musical director not only for the pantomimes but also for many other shows for OCT. She has also "trodden the boards" many times. Anne was also a member of *Moss Empires* - a touring company who staged music halls to raise funds for charity. Anne was awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship by Monmouth Rotary in recognition for her charitable works and services to the community. When not in the spotlight Anne teaches the piano.



**Brian Pearce - Harry Tully.** Brian was born in Fulham. He retired to Monmouth with his wife Margaret in 2005 after 41 years as a parish priest serving in Birmingham, Swindon and Bristol. Music and drama have played a major part in their lives and faith and they were 20 years with the Swindon and Bath Opera. Brian had his stage debut with OCT in 2005 when he was Gus in Harold Pinter's *The Dumb Waiter*. He followed this with the roles of Toad in *Wind in the Willows* and the Wizard in *The Wizard of Oz*. Brian is currently chairman of OCT.



**Tony Wells - A Stranger.** Tony has been a member of OCT for 11 years but for many of them he hid his light back stage as part of the stage crew. This all changed when he took the small part of a parent in *The Happiest Days of Your Life*. Having been bitten by the bug he has since appeared as among other things an escaped nazi soldier, a member of the mafia and Lord Arthur in *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime* (described as the romantic lead). Last year he played the part of Cool in *Little Box of Oblivion*. When not on or back stage Tony works in education for Gloucester County Council.



**Judith Rossiter - Director.** After a glittering career in amateur dramatics with British Forces in Germany Judith joined OCT in 2003. Her first roles were as props for 3 pantomimes after which she trod the boards in *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime*. Following this she played Pat in *Murder at Priorswell Manor*. In 2006 she directed OCT's Youth Theatre production of *The Virtuous Burglar* which went on to win "Best Youth Theatre" trophy at the Hereford One Act Play Festival. She last appeared on stage for OCT as The Wicked Witch of the West in *The Wizard of Oz*. When not acting or directing Judith keeps herself busy organising Monmouth Festival and as a TEFL teacher - that's Teaching English as a Foreign Language for those that don't know.

## About the author of *What's For Pudding*



**David Tristram** - Was born in 1957 at Quarry Bank in the West Midlands. He has published nineteen plays and a comedy novel. Widely performed by amateur and professional groups, his plays have parodied such pop-culture genres as soap operas and detective stories.

Educated at Dudley Grammar School and Birmingham University, where he studied English and music, Tristram was a commercial copywriter before turning to comedy. In 1985

he founded the Flying Ducks Theatre Company, which has now become a professional touring company. The enterprise has expanded into the Flying Ducks Group, which stages conferences and other events, provides audio-visual and Internet production services, and represents actors. Tristram's plays take a farcical view of sex, alcohol, drugs, crime, and theatre itself. Tristram claims he writes only comedy because he can't take himself too seriously. He usually tests his new work at a small theatre in Bridgnorth near his home in Highley before wider release. His plays have been performed in South Africa, Mexico and Europe among other locations.

Reflecting on his success, he said: "It's fascinating. I am amazed by some of the emails I get from bizarre places around the world like the South Pacific where amateur dramatic societies are performing my plays."

## What's For Pudding?

by David Tristram

### Cast

Mary Paula Brady

Jack Chris Ryde

Maureen Caroline Pearce

Ted Tom Rigby

Dennis Peter Pearce

Directed by  
Stephanie Harris



Jack and Mary are preparing themselves for yet another stultifyingly boring night in, when the doorbell rings unexpectedly. What follows is a series of anarchic comic revelations, as we meet their friends Ted and Maureen, and the foursome proceed to get the wrong side of a bottle of whiskey. Their antics are witnessed by a bemused Dennis, who only turns up to order a pair of brown flared trousers from Mary's catalogue, but ends up with a lot more than he bargained for.

Time: The present