The Country Wife

by WILLIAM WYCHERLEY

I FIRST CAME ACROSS *The Country Wife* when, as a relatively inexperienced director, I undertook to direct the show for Groombridge dramatic society for their outdoor summer production in 1996. I very quickly grew to love the play but my limited directorial experience at the time meant I didn't see its' full potential.

Returning to the play 22 years on (ouch!) has been an absolute pleasure and I've incorporated all I've learnt as a director in the intervening years to make this production something very different to the version from 1996. For example, I've now directed several full-scale musicals so understand the value and joy that music can bring to a production. *The Country Wife* seemed to me to be a play that leant itself to incorporating music into the show.

So, I quickly approached Anna Thompson to be my musical director and she then spent many weeks researching 17th century songs and music, contemporary to the play, which we've woven into the plot. Thanks to Anna and her band for all the hours of hard work they've put into the production, I believe it really adds something to it (but then I am biased).

Huge thanks must also go to Robert Chesterton and Derek Holland (my Producer and Stage Manager respectively) who've not only undertaken all the work that these involve but have also both taken on key roles in the play.

Written in 1675, *The Country Wife* is an early example of restoration comedy which is a very specific and stylised type of theatre that requires a real understanding of the genre to do well. It's very pleasing to know that as soon as it was cast, all the cast members did the background research necessary to understand both the historical context and language of the time and truly do the play justice. They have since applied this at rehearsals, thanks to them all for the time and energy they have shown throughout.

Learning baroque 17th century songs and 'catches' (rounds) is also a real challenge that the cast have risen to incredibly. In fact, since day one of rehearsals this wonderfully talented cast have worked tirelessly to help realise the vision that I've had for this production; the best way I can describe it is 17th century 'Carry On'!

I hope that you enjoy watching *The Country Wife* as much as we've all enjoyed putting this production together.

KATE ORGAN

Setting – London in the early 18th Century

Act 1
Mr Horner's Residence

Act 2
Mr Pinchwife's Residence

Act 3
SCENE 1 Mr Pinchwife's Residence
SCENE 2 'The New Exchange'

INTERVAL

Act 4
SCENE 1 Mr Pinchwife's Residence
SCENE 2 Mr Pinchwife's Residence
SCENE 3 Mr Horner's Residence
SCENE 4 Mr Pinchwife's Residence

Act 5
SCENE 1 Mr Pinchwife's Residence
SCENE 2 Mr Horner's Residence
SCENE 3 Covent Garden at Night
SCENE 4 Mr Horner's Residence

Music:
Pre-show entertainment
'A True Catch' BY HENRY PURCELL
'Confusion to the Power of Cupid' BY J ECCLES
Overture:
'The Beggars Opera Overture'
BY JOHANN CHRISTOPH PEPUSCH

Act 3 Scene 2
'London Cries' BY THOMAS ARNE
Entr'acte
'Tom the Tailor' BY HENRY PURCELL

Act 5 Scene 4
'Why Can't Our True Tyrants?'
WORDS BY WILLIAM WYCHERLEY
music based upon a traditional country dance
'Come Let Us Drink' BY HENRY PURCELL

Incidental Music
'Tantze' BY PAUL PEUERL
'Gigue' BY JOHANN MATTHESON
'Dance of the Haymakers' BY HENRY PURCELL

The Persons

Mr Horner	**Mr Barry Shyvers**
Mr Harcourt	**Mr Larry Robinson**
Mr Dorilant	**Mr Derek Holland**
Mr Pinchwife	**Mr Robert Chesterton**
Mr Sparkish	**Mr Rob Darling**
Sir Jasper Fidget	**Mr David Adams**
Mrs Margery Pinchwife	**Mrs Heather Campbell**
Mrs Alithea	**Mrs Louise Coe**
My Lady Fidget	**Mrs Becky Syms**
Mrs Dainty Fidget	**Mrs Emma Harrison**
Mrs Squeamish	**Mrs Kate Awcock**
Old Lady Squeamish	**Mrs Alison Organ**
A Quack	**Mr Bob Broad**
Lucy, Alithea's Maid	**Mrs Ros Williams**
Mr Horner's servant	**Master Scott Boorman**
Mr Pinchwife's servant	**Mrs Sarah Boorman**
A Parson	**Mr Andy Miller**
Street sellers	**Mr Andy Miller** **Mrs Alison Organ** **Mr Bob Broad** **Mrs Sarah Boorman**
Singing Group	**Mr Barry Shyvers** **Mrs Kate Awcock** **Mrs Louise Coe** **Mrs Sarah Boorman**

Production Team

Director	*Kate Organ*
Producer	*Robert Chesterton*
Musical Director	*Anna Thompson*
Musical Arrangements	*Julian Broughton*

Band

Harpsichord	*Anna Thompson*
Violin	*David Haggen*
Viola	*Monica Das*
Cello	*Thomas Ballantine Dykes*
Guitar / Tambour	*Jeremy Smith*
Recorder	*Robert Chesterton*

Backstage and Production Crew

Costumes and Wigs
Robert Chesterton
Alison Organ
Ros Williams

Hair and Makeup
Heather Campbell
Beth Campbell

Prompt
Jess Hardy

FOH
Judith Hardy

Box Office
Courtyard Café
Ticketsource.co.uk

Programme and Poster Design
Stephen Knowlden

Photography
Mark Kennedy

Publicity
Kate Organ
James Gallifan
Alison Organ
Ros Williams

Stage Manager
Derek Holland

Sound and Lighting
Brian Hampton

Set Design
Robert Chesterton
Kate Organ

Set Construction
Mark Tasker
Andy Miller
Alan Yates
Trevor Lowdnes

Set Painting
Alison Organ
Ros Williams
Andy Miller
Robert Chesterton

Properties
Robert Chesterton

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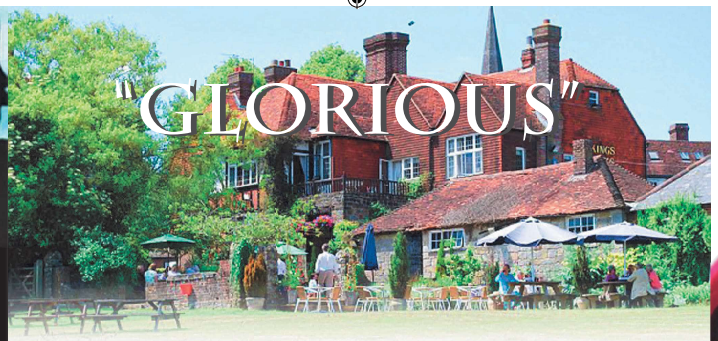
2018 Charity Collection Rotherfield branch of the Royal British Legion

Our collection buckets this year will be collecting for the Royal British Legion. As everybody knows, it is 100 years since the end of the Great War, the war to end all wars (or so it was hoped). Being a "bulge" baby, just after the Second World War, I was brought up with dramatic stories of German bombers flying overhead and bomb craters in the fields near where we lived, let alone the destruction that was still evident in London some ten years after the end of that conflict.

Modern media has highlighted the impact of war on those that take part and the injuries that are suffered; let alone the impact upon the families of the soldiers. The Royal British Legion provide a magnificent support function to those who have suffered from recent conflicts and we consider them to be so worthy of our charitable collection in 2018 in this 100th anniversary year of the end of the First World War. Please donate generously in our buckets at the end of the show.

James Gallifant

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



This charming listed 17th-century coaching inn is set in the heart of the beautiful, historical village of Rotherfield. There are un-spoilt views over the High Weald from the extensive garden and patios, while inside the open fires and exposed beams lend plenty of warmth and character to the bar and restaurant areas. We offer an atmospheric and inspirational location to share and enjoy food and drinks with friends and family, whatever the season. We are known for our well-conditioned ales and fine wines, including British wine producers. The menu offers a variety of delicious classic and modern homemade dishes that reflect the abundance of fresh, seasonal local produce, including home-reared pigs and fresh eggs from our chickens.

We host many community events, Jazz & Arts evenings, Beer & Music Fairs, Wine Nights & Gin Nights, amongst many more.

KINGS ARMS

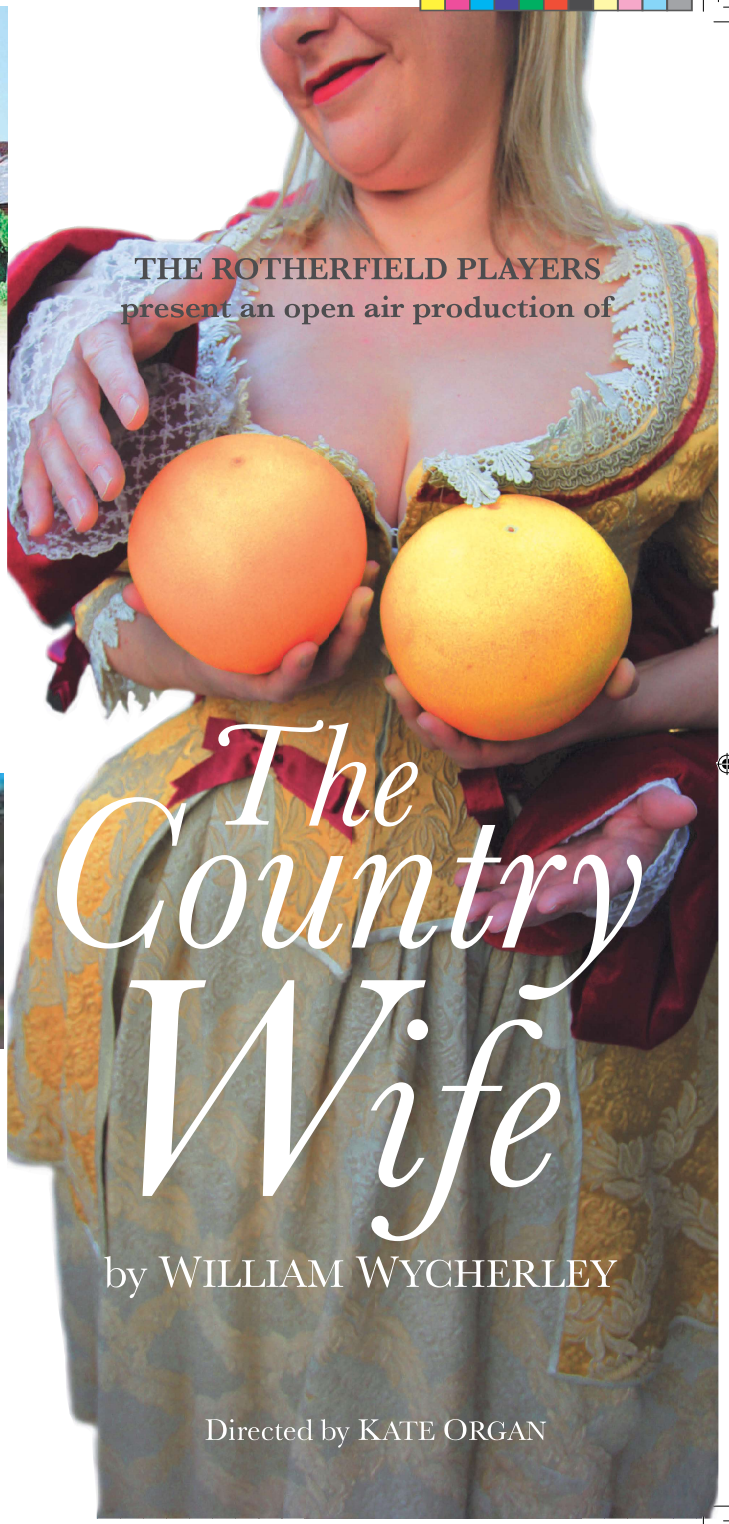
High Street,
Rotherfield TN6 3LJ
Telephone 01892 853441
kingsarmsrotherfield@gmail.com

The Noah's Ark is a wonderful 16th Century pub, overlooking the cricket green, tucked away in a picturesque village on the border of Surrey & West Sussex.

The Noah's maintains a traditional pub atmosphere while placing great emphasis on outstanding food made with locally-sourced, seasonal ingredients. The regularly changing menu relies on the best of Sussex produce including cheese from the Goodwood estate, ice cream from Caroline's Dairy in Sidlesham, vegetables often provided by locals from the village allotment, and meat, fish & cheese home-smoked on the premises.

There is an extensive and interesting wine list, and three ales; IPA, Abbot Ale, and a regularly changing guest. We are proud to be recommended by the Michelin and AA guides, among others. We look forward to welcoming you to Lurgashall.

THE NOAH'S ARK



THE ROTHERFIELD PLAYERS
present an open air production of

The Country Wife

by WILLIAM WYCHERLEY

Directed by KATE ORGAN

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