

FORUM THEATRE BILLINGHAM TEESSIDE

18th to 23rd March, 1974

CROWN MATRIMONIAL

by
ROYCE RYTON

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Theatre Administrator: JEAN RANSOME

Licensee: TOM FLANAGAN

Theatre Telephone No.: Stockton-on-Tees 551381

Box Office: Stockton-on-Tees 552663

18th to 23rd March

MICHAEL CODRON

presents

Phyllis Calvert

Owen Holder

STEVEN BARNES MARCIA ASHTON

in

Crown Matrimonial

by **ROYCE RYTON**

with

ELEANOR THOMAS

NANCY SEABROOKE

JEAN HARDWICKE

BARBARA SHACKLETON

MAX HARVEY

Directed by **TREVOR BENTHAM**

Scenery and costumes designed by **FINLAY JAMES**



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PHYLLIS CALVERT

Phyllis Calvert went to the Margaret Morris School of Dancing and Acting and appeared with Ellen Terry at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, in 1925 in *Crossings* by Walter de la Mare. She made her first professional London stage appearance in 1939 in *A Woman's Privilege* at the Kingsway Theatre ; and she starred in several important British films during the war. She appeared in Terence Rattigan's *Flare Path* at the Lyric Theatre. Her other West End plays have included *Escapade*, *It's Never Too Late*, *A River Breeze*, *Love From Margaret* and *The Complaisant Lover* at the Globe Theatre in 1959. Since then she has appeared in *The Rehearsal*, originally at the Bristol Old Vic and subsequently at the Globe Theatre, where it ran for over a year ; *Menage a Trois* at the Lyric Theatre ; *Portrait Of Murder* at the Savoy and Vaudeville Theatres ; *The Scene Of Flowers* at the Duke of York's and two Noel Coward revivals *Present Laughter* and *Blithe Spirit*. She recently appeared in Edward Albee's *All Over* at the Theatre Royal, York.

Her many notable films include *Kipps*, *The Man In Grey*, *Fanny By Gaslight*, *Of Two Worlds*, *They Were Sisters*, *Madonna Of The Seven Moons*, *Men Mr. Denning Drives North*, *The Net*, *Mandy*, *Indiscreet*, *Oscar Wilde* with Robert Morley, *Twisted Nerve*, and *Oh, What A Lovely War !* Miss Calvert has played Kate in the enormously successful television series of that name.

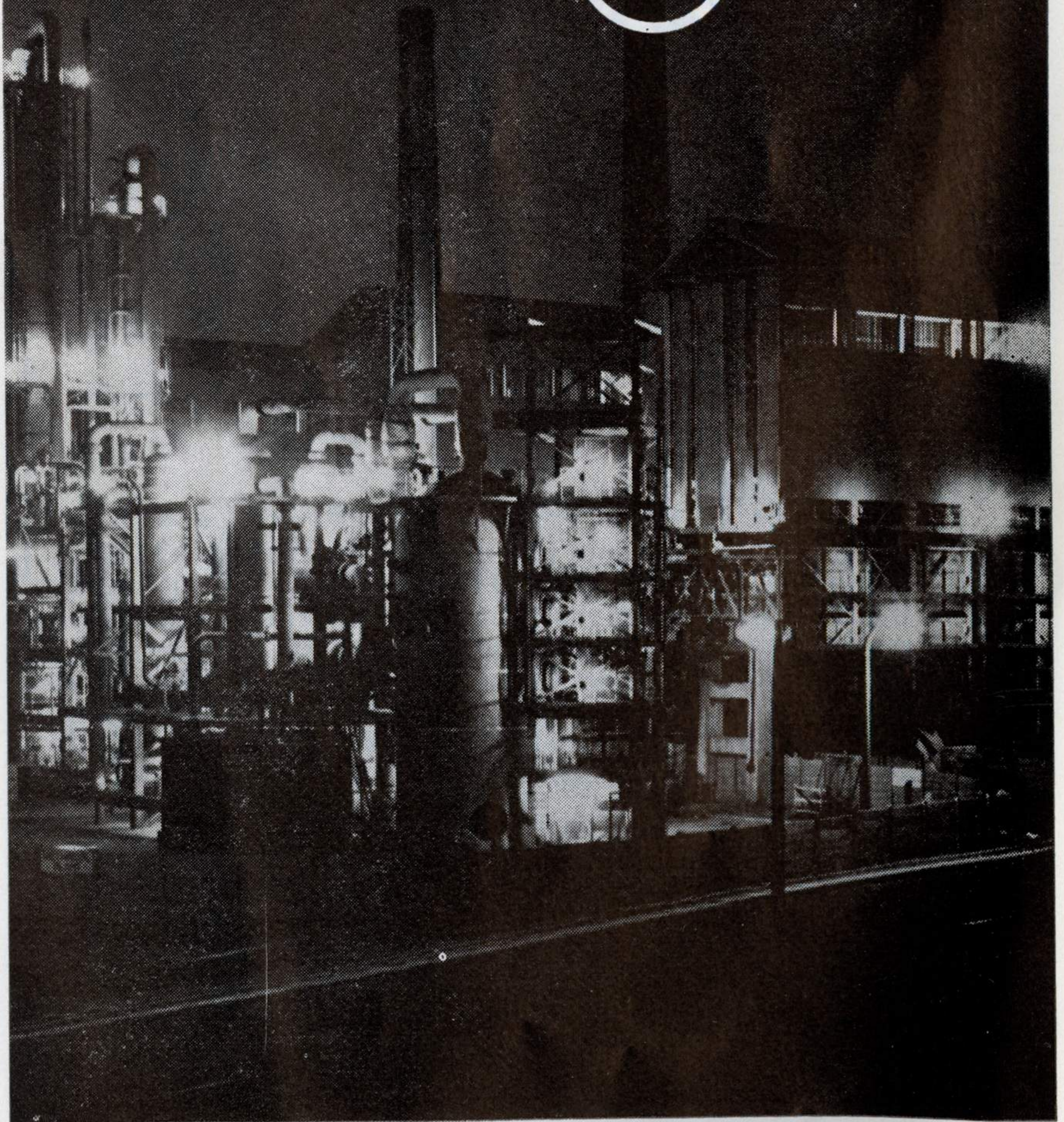
OWEN HOLDER

Owen Holder made his debut in London's West End in 1945 in *The Simpleton Of The Unexpected Isles* at the Arts Theatre and since then has appeared in many of London's principal theatres in a variety of plays, including *The Amiable Mrs. Luke*, *Now Barabbas . . .*, *Black Chiffon* (his son was born on the first night). *Waters Of The Moon*, *The White Countess*, *A Kind Of Folly* (his own play), *Mr. Bolfry*, and *The Wings Of The Dove*, *The Winslow Boy* and *The Confidential Clerk*.

In addition to live theatre Owen Holder has appeared in several films. He has also directed several plays, and a major part of his time is now spent script writing for both films and television.

He is married to actress Joyce Cummings and has a son, who is on the way to becoming a television director, and a daughter still at school.

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STEVEN BARNES

Steven Barnes was born in Buckinghamshire in 1944 and educated at the Merchant Taylor's School. He then did a two year stint in advertising but decided to make the stage his career and entered the Central School of Speech and Drama in 1964.

He is a versatile artiste and his stage appearances include principal roles in *Caste, Eh? Crucible, Ghosts, Cinderella* (Prince Charming), *This Story Of Yours, Erb* (a musical), *Journey's End, Midsummer Night's Dream, The Tempest, Candida* and *Toad Hall*.

He is also well-known on television, having appeared in *Z Cars* and *The Avengers*.

His hobbies are mending old clocks, poetry, cooking, driving, antiques and avoiding all sports except water ski-ing.

MARCIA ASHTON

Born in Sheffield she went to school in Sheffield and Derbyshire. She trained at RADA where she taught several years later. On leaving RADA she played Hedwig in *The Wild Duck* and Raina in *Arms And The Man*, both on television. Then straight into the London Arts Theatre production of *Hobson's Choice*. After that came the hard but pleasant grind in rep in various companies around the country. Among her favourite roles was Lily in *Alfie* which she played in London and America. Other favourites were the Nun in *Valmouth* and the original *Cranks* devised by John Cranko.

Between these productions came the twice-weekly soap opera *Compact* for BBC television playing once again Lily (the tea girl) and straight after this a third Lily in *The Rag Trade*. Last television show was *Upstairs Downstairs* and appeared until the beginning of May with Rogers and Starr at the Hampstead Theatre Club in a late night revue.

Married, with two teenage children, neither of whom wish to follow in their mother's footsteps.

No real hobbies due to shortage of time, but she finds gardening a great relaxation which is just as well as nobody else knows how to use the lawnmower. As another relaxation reads quite a lot — almost anything — as it's difficult to garden after a late night show!

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ELEANOR THOMAS

Born in Swansea, Wales, she trained at LAMDA and as a teacher taught speech and drama for two years. She began her professional career with Brian Way's Children's Theatre Company, and has appeared several times on Television for BBC Wales and Harlech. She played Shakespeare's Juliet in Germany ; and a selection of parts in Dylan Thomas' *Under Milk Wood* in Holland and at the Edinburgh Festival. Further Festival appearances include *The Hollow Crown* ; Galsworthy's *The Skin Game* and Zoe in *A Scent Of Flowers*. She has also appeared in readings at the Royal Festival Hall with Derek Jacobi and at Swansea Rep where she played Violet in *Twelfth Night* ; Queen Victoria in *Portrait Of A Queen* ; Stella in *Street Car Named Desire* ; Becky Sharp in *Vanity Fair* and Heloise in *Abelard And Heloise*.

NANCY SEABROOKE

Nancy Seabrooke trained at RADA. After repertory seasons at Northampton, York and elsewhere, numerous tours, the war years with ENSA, a season at Stratford-on-Avon and stage management for BBC television and ITV, she has concentrated on stage management in the West End. *Crown Matrimonial*, which she stage managed at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, was her thirty-sixth West End show. She has played parts in the television series *No Hiding Place*, *Maigret*, *Sentimental Agent*, and others.

JEAN HARDWICKE

Jean Hardwicke trained as a ballet dancer with Marie Rambert, but gave it up to do acting when she gained a scholarship for RADA. She is the niece of Sir Cedric Hardwicke and her brother John is now Professor of Pathology at Birmingham and was one of Sir Alexander Fleming's team working on the discovery of Penicillin.

After gaining experience at Northampton, Coventry and other repertory companies, also appearing on BBC television a number of times, she gave up acting for some years to live in Ceylon. After returning to England she resumed her career appearing in numerous London productions including *Waltz Of The Toreadors* at the Criterion, *Girl In My Soup* at the Globe, *The Killing Of Sister George* at the Duke of York's, *The Winslow Boy* at the New, *Butley* and *Dolls House* also at the Criterion.

Crown Matrimonial

by ROYCE RYTON

Characters in order of appearance :

Mabell, Countess of Airlie	NANCY SEABROOKE
Queen Mary	PHYLLIS CALVERT
The Hon. Margaret Wyndham	JEAN HARDWICKE
Queen's Page (John)	MAX HARVEY
King Edward VIII (David)	OWEN HOLDER
The Princess Royal (Mary)	ELEANOR THOMAS
The Duchess of Gloucester (Alice)	BARBARA SHACKLETON
The Duchess of York (Elizabeth)	MARCIA ASHTON
The Duke of York (Bertie)	STEVEN BARNES

Marlborough House, London

ACT ONE

- Scene 1 September 1936
Scene 2 November, early evening
Scene 3 Later, the same evening

ACT TWO

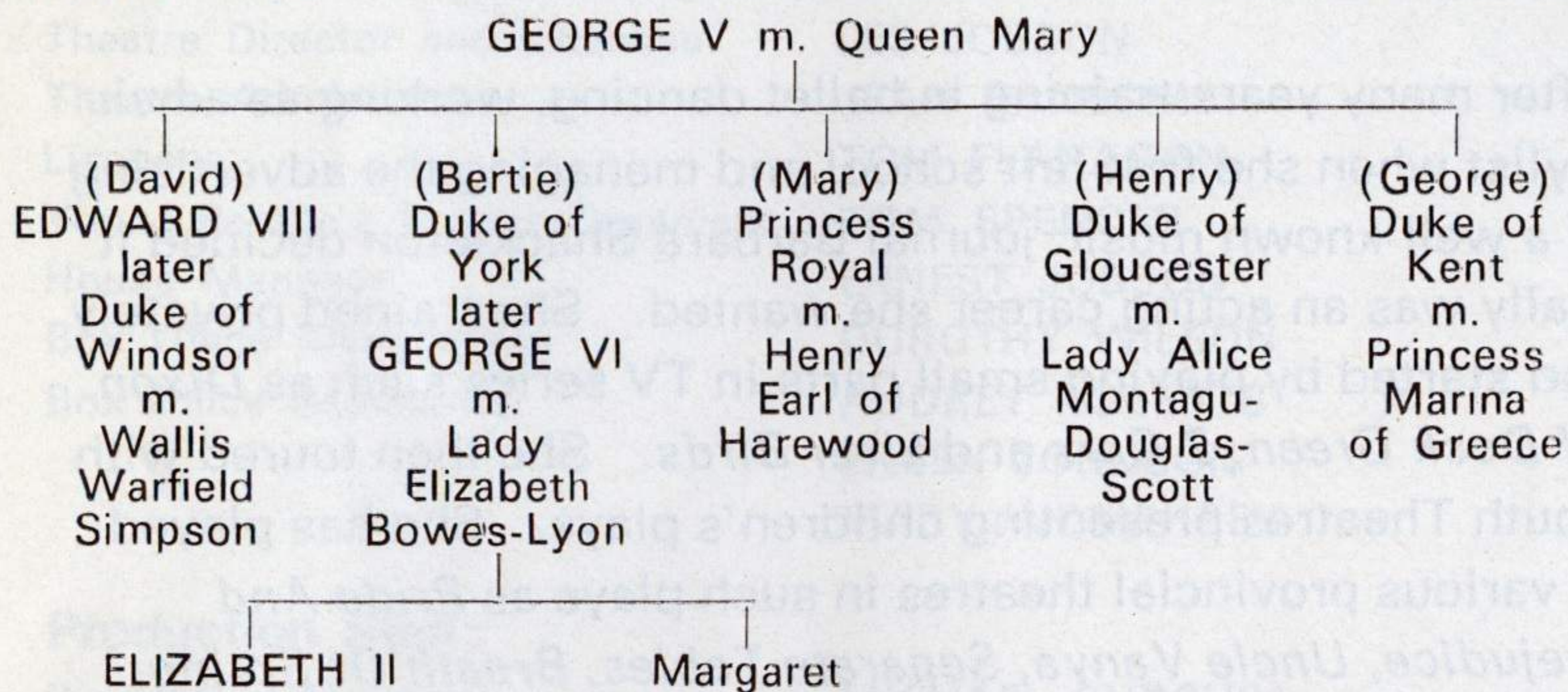
- Scene 1 Early December 1936
Scene 2 A few days later
Scene 3 Later, the same week
Scene 4 Autumn, 1945
-

Directed by **TREVOR BENTHAM**

Scenery and costumes designed by **FINLAY JAMES**

There will be one interval of 15 minutes

FAMILY TREE



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Production Manager	J. SCOTT PARKINSON
Company Stage Manager	JEFFREY CAMPBELL
Deputy Stage Manager	MARC ASHLEY
Assistant Stage Managers	BARBARA SHACKLETON MAX HARVEY TRICIA CLARKE
Costume Supervisor	PATRICK WHEATLEY
Wardrobe Master	CLIVE V. PHILLIPS
Press Representative	BARBARA SHACKLETON

CREDITS

MISS CALVERT'S COSTUMES MADE BY JEAN HUNNISET.

Other ladies' costumes made by DILYS ELSTONE.

Men's Suits made by ARTHUR DAVEY.

Jewellery by COROCRAFT.

All china by courtesy of WORCESTER ROYAL PORCELAIN COMPANY LIMITED.

Scenery built and painted by Babbage Decor.

Wigs by Wig Creations.

Make-up designed by Stanley Hall.

Lighters by Ronson.

Sound by Autograph.

Mr. Barnes briar pipe by courtesy of the House of Bewley.

Ladies' shoes by Gamba.

Hats by Alice et Lucie.

BARBARA SHACKLETON

After many years training in ballet dancing, working as a hair stylist when she first left school and managing the advertising of a well-known music journal Barbara Shackleton decided it really was an acting career she wanted. She trained privately and started by playing small parts in TV series such as *Dixon Of Dock Green*, *Z Cars* and *Liver Birds*. She then toured with Youth Theatres presenting children's plays. She has played in various provincial theatres in such plays as *Pride And Prejudice*, *Uncle Vanya*, *Separate Tables*, *Breath Of Spring*, *Candida*, *She Stoops To Conquer*, *The Prime Of Miss Jean Brodie*, *Blithe Spirit*, to name a few.

She has been with the *Crown Matrimonial* company since it first opened at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, London, in October 1972. Her avid interest apart from the theatre is astrology and her hobbies include driving and dressmaking.

MAX HARVEY

Max Harvey was born in South Africa but educated in England. Since training at The Webber-Douglas Academy he has played in repertory theatres in most parts of the country including York, The Phoenix at Leicester and The Devonshire Park at Eastbourne. Among his favourite parts have been Maitland in *The Chalk Garden*, Mick in *The Caretaker* and Jack in *Charley's Aunt*. In his spare time he listens to music, plays the guitar and writes songs.

For Forum Theatre, Billingham, Teesside

Theatre Director and Licensee	LES JOBSON
Theatre Administrator	JEAN RANSOME
Licensee	TOM FLANAGAN
Young People's Theatre Organiser	TOM SPENCER
House Manager	ERNEST JOBSON
Box Office Manageress	DOROTHY WILSON
Box Office Assistants	AUDREY ROBERTS EILEEN JOHNSON MARY WOMPHREY

Production Staff :

Production Manager	MICHAEL BURCHILL
Resident Stage Manager	BRIAN HARRIS
Stage Dayman	NEVILLE FENWICK
Chief Electrician	ALAN SEADON
Electricians	DAVE ASHTON ROBIN JOHNSON

Please no smoking or photography in the auditorium.

The Management reserves the right to refuse admission to the theatre and to change, vary or omit, without previous notice any item of the programme.

Coffee is available during the interval in the restaurant area.

Drinks for the interval may be ordered before the show commences.

For quick and convenient exit after the performance theatre patrons are advised to leave by the emergency exits.

FORUM THEATRE, BILLINGHAM PRODUCTIONS TOUR THE COUNTRY

Three productions designed, built, cast, rehearsed and produced at Billingham are now playing in various parts of the country. *The King And I* with Peter Wyngarde and Sally Ann Howes continues its successful run at the Adelphi Theatre, London, where it has been for five months and looks like staying for a long while yet. *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum* with Phil Silvers finishes its second week at the Pavilion Theatre, Bournemouth, and continues its British tour for at least the next nine weeks. Meanwhile, this week at the Theatre Royal, Bath, Richard Todd stars in *The Hasty Heart*. All these productions are carrying the name of the Forum Theatre to cities and towns all over the British Isles.

Fifteen shows produced at Billingham have now either toured or been transferred to the West End and one of these toured Canada and America. These shows have starred such artistes as David Kossoff, Harry Worth, Lionel Blair, Aimi MacDonald, Joe Baker, Michelle Dotrice, Michael Denison, Dulcie Gray, Jimmy Thompson, John Paul, Glynis Johns, John Bluthal, Joe Lynch, Tony Booth, Wendy Craig, Wilfred Pickles, Joan Greenwood, Peter Wyngarde, Sally Ann Howes, Phil Silvers and Richard Todd.

FORUM YOUNG PEOPLE'S THEATRE COMPANY

The Forum Y.P.T. Company is a small permanent professional company, formed in the Spring of last year, to bring theatre to, and make theatre with young people of all ages in Teesside. We perform in schools, youth clubs, colleges, community centres, the Forum Theatre and in the open air, and run participatory workshops in our centre on the corner of Marsh House Avenue and Causeway (back of Probation Office). We are currently touring the area with the following productions :—

SWEETIE PIE

For 5th and 6th forms and college students "Sweetie Pie" is a play about the role of women in our society. It pleads the case for women's liberation, not of the flag-waving bra-burning variety, but the case of the ordinary housewife who wants more out of life than housework and child-bearing can offer. "Sweetie Pie" is the story of one average woman and her struggle to exist as an individual in her own right in a male-orientated society.

Although originally written with a 6th form and student audience in mind, we would very much like to hear from any women's organisations who would like a performance.

BILLY'S LAST STAND

by **BARRY HINES**

(for all ages)

Billy is a loner. All his life he has scraped a living shifting coal from pavement to coal shed. His irregular, easy-going life is turned upside down by the arrival of Darkly, who has convincing reasons why Billy should change his life-style and organise his work into a proper business with regular clientele.

This amusing and tragic play by the author of "Kes" is about the struggle between two men and the events that lead to their downfall.

THE EAGLE, THE CACTUS AND THE SNAKE

for a junior school (7-11 years) audience

Charging down from the North come the fierce Aztecs, led by their warlike God, Huitzilopochtli (left-handed hummingbird), and bringing death and destruction wherever they go in their search for a permanent home.

A peaceful tribe of farmers called Toltecs are living on Crooked Hill, near Lake Texcoco. Can Cox-cox, their leader stop the Aztecs killing his people and destroying their homes ?

Set in Central America, a thousand years ago, and based on Aztec legends, "The Eagle, The Cactus And The Snake" tells the story of how Cox-cox journeys to seek the advice of Quetzalcoatl, the God of Learning, of his adventures with Micantehcutli, the Lord of the Dead, with the Knife-throwing Wind and with Tekalotl the Giant Owl, and of how the Aztecs find their home at the place of the Eagle and build the great city of Tenochtitlan (now Mexico City).

Any schools, colleges, youth or adult organisations who would like us to present any of the above productions, please contact the Organiser, Tom Spencer, Stockton 562236.

FUTURE PLANS

MAN AND THE EARTH

A two-part programme for the 9-12 age group about man's relationship to his environment. The first part, "Touch The Earth" is about the destruction by the invading white man of the Red Indian culture in North America. The second part "Where Even The Birds Cough" concentrates on a local subject, the destruction by pollution of the community in Haverton Hill.

This will be available for booking for next term.

DRAGONFLY

an Easter Holiday show about evolution for young children in the **Forum Theatre 17th to 25th April. Daily at 2.30 p.m.**

Why did fish leave the sea? Why do birds fly? Was there really such a thing as a pterodactyl? Could he spell his name? Dragonfly is about evolution, and about men who controlled fire, and invented the wheel and writing.

ZIGGER ZAGGER

by Peter Terson

Stockton/Billingham Technical College Hall — 16th to 20th April

A production of Peter Terson's exciting play with over 200 local young people. Anyone over the age of 12, who would like to take part, is welcome. Rehearsals currently in progress.

WORKSHOPS

Next term we plan several workshop sessions with young people in our centre on the corner of Marsh House Avenue and Causeway (back of Probation Office) including:—

A weekly session with puppets and masks for children of primary school age:

Two weekly sessions for 13-18.

Any young people interested in coming and having fun at these sessions should either write to the Organiser — Tom Spencer — at The Forum, or watch out for posters in schools and The Forum.

Members of the company are also available to take occasional sessions in schools and youth clubs.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If anyone would like further information about the company and its activities, please contact the Organiser — Tom Spencer, Phone: Stockton 562236.

The company is: Elliott Day (Stage Manager), Roz Ebbetts (Actress), Caroline Harrington (Actress), Sharman Macdonald (Actress), Peter McGowan (Actor), Les Miller (Actor), Tom Spencer (Organiser), Huw Tyler (Actor).

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Tuesday, 30th April 7.30 p.m.
H.M.S. PINAFORE

Wednesday, 1st May 2.30 p.m. & 7.30 p.m.
THE GONDOLIERS

Thursday, 2nd May 7.30 p.m.
IOLANTHE

Friday, 3rd May 7.30 p.m.
THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD

Saturday, 4th May 2.30 p.m. & 7.30 p.m.
THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

Monday, 6th May 7.30 p.m.
THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

Tuesday, 7th May 7.30 p.m.
PATIENCE

Wednesday, 8th May 2.30 p.m. & 7.30 p.m.
H.M.S. PINAFORE

Thursday, 9th May 7.30 p.m.
RUDDIGORE

Friday, 10th May 7.30 p.m.
THE SORCERER

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Party Bookings

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for most shows.

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COFFEE MAKING
FACILITIES**



**THE PORTCULLIS
RESTAURANT**



THE MATCHMAKER GRILL



ROYAL GEORGE BAR



COCKTAIL BAR & LOUNGE



**'ELECTRIC ONION'
DISCOTHEQUE
AND DIVE BAR**

**(and for good measure — full
car parking facilities)**

