

FORUM THEATRE
BILLINGHAM
CLEVELAND

14th February to 26th February, 1977

**THE TAMING OF
THE SHREW**

by

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Freeman



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**Wendy Craig
Joss Ackland**

in

The Taming Of The Shrew

by

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Nicholas Amer
Judy Bridgland
Alex McAvoy
Martyn Richards
Anthony Donovan

Harvey Ashby
Penny Casdagli
Patrick Mcnckton
Christopher Scott
Adrian King

Peter Aubrey
Johnny Dennis
Kendrick Owen
Robert Swales
Jane New

and

Bob Grant

Directed by FRANK HAUSER

Designed by PETER RICE

Lighting by NICK CHELTON

A Forum Theatre Billingham Production

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Joss Ackland

Trained at the Central School. He worked with various Repertory companies and was at the Midland Theatre Company with Frank Hauser when he left for Central Africa to be a Tea Planter. He subsequently became a Disc Jockey and Script Writer in Cape Town. On his return to England he rejoined Frank Hauser at the Oxford Playhouse and the following year he joined the Old Vic where he played many leading Shakespearean roles including Falstaff, Toby Belch and Caliban. He toured with the company in the USA and Russia. In 1962 he became the Associate Director at the Mermaid, and stayed and acted in numerous productions there, his roles including Galileo, *The Bed Bug*, Long John Silver in *Treasure Island* and Sotmore and then Justine Squeezum in *Lock Up Your Daughters* when it transferred to Her Majesty's Theatre. Later he played the title role in *The Professor* at the Royal Court Theatre. More recently his West End appearances have been the title role in the musical *Jorrock*, Gus in Osborne's *Hotel in Amsterdam* with Paul Scofield, four roles in John Mortimer's *Come As You Are* opposite Glynis Johns, Brassbound in *Captain Brassbound's Conversion* opposite Ingrid Bergman, Sam in Mortimer's *The Collaborators* with Glenda Jackson, Mitch in *A Streetcar Named Desire* with Claire Bloom and his most recent role was Frederick in *A Little Night Music* in which he played opposite Jean Simmons and then Virginia McKenna. Mr. Ackland's most recent films have been *Villain*, *England Made Me*, *The Little Prince*, *Royal Flash*, *S-P-Y-S*, *Great Expectations*, *The Black Windmill*, *One of our Dinosaurs is Missing*, *Operation Daybreak*, and he has just completed *The Silver Bears* with Michael Caine. His most recent TV film is *The Strange Case of the End of Civilisation as We Know It* to be shown shortly in which he plays two Presidents of the United States. Other notable TV roles include Ingmar Bergman's *The Lie*, *Access to the Children* and David Mercer's *The Bankrupt*. This year he was in *The Crezz* for Thames Television. He lives in Surrey with his wife Rosemary Kirkcaldy, a former actress he met when both were acting in James Barrie's *Mary Rose*. They have seven children.

Wendy Craig

Was born and educated in County Durham, and trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama. She went straight into Rep. at Ipswich, after which she was chosen by J. B. Priestley to appear in *Mr. Kettle and Mrs. Moon*, which she followed with starring roles in Osborne's *Epitaph for George Dillan*, Anne Jellicoe's *The Sport of My Mad Mother* and N. F. Simpson's *A Resounding Tinkle*, all at the Royal Court. Then followed John Mortimer's *The Wrong Side of the Park* and *Three*, J. P. Donlevy's *The Ginger Man*, David Mercer's *Ride A Cock Horse* and John Bowen's *I Love You Mrs. Patterson*. She was the last Peter Pan at the Scala and starred as Nora in *A Doll's House*. Many film appearances include a British Film Academy nomination for her role in *The Servant*, and her most recent film is Tony Richardson's production *Joseph Andrews*. Apart from many serious TV roles including *Candida* and *Wings of a Dove*, Wendy Craig was voted TV Actress of 1969 by the Television Producers and Directors Guild and BBC Personality of the Year by the Variety Club of Great Britain — who also conferred on her the rival honour of ITV Personality of the Year in 1973 — her performances in *Not in Front of the Children* and *And Mother Makes Five* have earned her international acclaim. She is married to journalist Jack Bentley and has two sons.

BOB GRANT

Born in London of a very un-theatrical family, Bob couldn't wait to get on the boards. At the age of five he saw his first pantomime and announced that he was on the wrong side of the footlights! After leaving public school ("They'd never produced an actor before, and a red-nosed comic was too much for them!") Bob trained at RADA for two years and then went into Repertory at York, Watford, Leicester and many other towns. There were plenty of periods out of work in those early days, however, and at various times he was a frozen-food salesman, a Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery and a bus driver.

His first big break came when he was given the male lead in Lionel Bart's *Blitz!* at the Adelphi Theatre. Other West End hits followed, including *Instant Marriage*, which he wrote himself, *Pajama Tops*, and *Mrs. Wilson's Diary* in which he played George Brown, the then Foreign Secretary.

In 1968 came the biggest break of all when Bob was cast as Jack the conductor in the immensely successful TV show *On The Buses*. The show has been a hit in over forty countries and the team have also made three *On The Buses* films for the cinema. In 1971 hundreds of fans blocked all

the roads round Caxton Hall when Bob married his young and beautiful wife Kim. In fact this was another record-breaker: there were more people there than for Elizabeth Taylor's wedding! The fleet of Rolls-Royces and Bob's double-decker bus from the series that had been arranged to take guests to the reception couldn't get through the crowds, so everyone had to walk!

In 1973 Bob delighted audiences in Australia with his portrayal of Brian Runnicles in *No Sex Please, We're British*. While he was "down-under" Bob met Anthony Marriott, co-author of the play, for the first time. They got on so well that as soon as they got back to England they wrote three plays together.

Since *No Sex Please*, Bob has been in two new plays, *Package Honeymoon* at Eastbourne and *Darling Mr. London*, which he wrote with Anthony Marriott. He was also in *Cinderella* at Aldershot. Bob made a pilot of a new television series for ATV entitled *Milko*.

Bob never goes anywhere without his "family" — his wife Kim and their pedigree white Chinchilla cat, Tiberius, who made his acting debut in *On The Buses*.

NICHOLAS AMER

was born in Birkenhead, studied at the Webber Douglas Academy, and began his professional career with the Liverpool Rep. His first overseas tour was to Southern Rhodesia with Sir John Gielgud's Company (Green in *Richard II*); he played *Hamlet* at the Wimbledon Theatre in 1959, and in 1960 toured India, Pakistan and Ceylon, playing Aguecheek in *Twelfth Night*. In 1963, with Harold Lang and Greville Hallam, he formed his own company, Voyage Theatre, over the

next five years doing three world tours; in Argentina the company won the "best actors of the year" prize. His last West End play was Molnar's *The Wolf*, with Judi Dench and Leo McKern, and recent films include *The Message* with Anthony Quinn and the soon-to-be-released *Prince and the Pauper*, with Rex Harrison and Charlton Heston. His latest television plays include *Spaghetti Two-Step* and *I Claudius*, in which he played Messalina's lover, the actor Mnester.

The Taming Of The Shrew

Characters in order of their appearance :

The INDUCTION — Scene : A Street and a Lord's house in London

CHRISTOPHER SLY, a tinker

HOSTESS of an alehouse

A LORD

Huntsmen & Servants of the Lord

BARTHOLOMEW, a Page

PLAYERS in a Travelling Company

BOB GRANT

JUDY BRIDGLAND

NICHOLAS AMER

CHRISTOPHER SCOTT

ADRIAN KING

ANTHONY DONOVAN

MARTYN RICHARDS

JOSS ACKLAND

WENDY CRAIG

HARVEY ASHBY

PETER AUBREY

PENNY CASDAGLI

JOHNNY DENNIS

ALEX McAVOY

PATRICK MONCKTON

KENDRICK OWEN

ROBERT SWALES

The PLAY — Scene : Padua and Petruchio's house near Verona

LUCENTIO

TRANIO, servant to Lucentio

BAPTISTA MINOLA of Padua

GREMIO
HORTENSIO } suitors of Bianca

KATE
BIANCA } daughters of Baptista

BIONDELLA, servant to Lucentio

PETRUCHIO

GRUMIO, servant to Petruchio

MESSENGER

CURTIS, servant to Petruchio

PEDANT

TAILOR

HABERDASHER

VINCENTIO of Pisa, father of Lucentio

A WIDOW

SERVANTS

ROBERT SWALES

PETER AUBREY

KENDRICK OWEN

ALEX McAVOY

HARVEY ASHBY

WENDY CRAIG

PENNY CASDAGLI

PATRICK MONCKTON

JOSS ACKLAND

JOHNNY DENNIS

JANE NEW

CHRISTOPHER SCOTT

NICHOLAS AMER

ALEX McAVOY

ADRIAN KING

BOB GRANT

JUDY BRIDGLAND

MARTYN RICHARDS

ANTHONY DONOVAN

CHRISTOPHER SCOTT

ADRIAN KING

Directed by

FRANK HAUSER

Designer

PETER RICE

Lighting Designer

NICK CHELTON

Assistant to the Director

HUGH WOOLDRIDGE

For THE TAMING OF THE SHREW COMPANY

Company and Stage Manager

Deputy Stage Manager

Assistant Stage Managers

Costume Supervisor

Costumes by

Wigs by

Hats by

TONY CUNDELL

RUTH HALLIDAY

JANE NEW

REBECCA PEEK

DAVID BARTRAM

VAL JOHNSON

ARTHUR DAVEY

SHIRLEY REID

DEREK EASTON

GERALD CHESHIRE

There will be one Interval of 15 minutes

HARVEY ASHBY

Trained at RADA. Subsequently acted with many leading companies in England and abroad, including seasons at the Liverpool Playhouse, a tour of Scandinavia with Vienna's English Theatre, and at the Mermaid.

During the previous five years he has, in addition, directed at Liverpool, Watford, Cheltenham, in Vienna and Paris.

Television credits include *The Saint*, *Danger Man*, *Avengers*, *War and Peace*, and most recently *The Naked Civil Servant*.

Films include *Eye of the Devil* and *Scrooge*.

Married to actress Bridget McConnel.

Hobbies include cricket, collecting antiques and gardening.

PETER AUBREY

was born in Chelmsford, and before training for the theatre worked as a hairdresser in America where he viewed at first hand the world of *Shampoo*. After his training at the Drama Centre he joined Brian Way's Theatre Company and toured throughout England, and has just returned from Perth Repertory

Company where he played in Shaw's *Man and Superman* and Marlowe's *Dr. Faustus*. His interest in fringe theatre has taken him to The Posk Theatre, for a Polish play *The Party*, and to the Edinburgh Festival for *Mock Hero's Heron* which won the Best Fringe Play Award for 1976.

JUDY BRIDGLAND

was trained for three years at the Drama Centre and has since done seasons in repertory at the Byre Theatre, St. Andrews, the Connaught Theatre, Worthing, where she played Sonia in *Uncle Vanya*, one of her favourite parts, and at the Everyman Theatre in Liverpool. Her work in television includes

appearances in *Bless This House*, *General Hospital*, *Love Thy Neighbour*, *The Squirrels* and as Margaret, Patrick Cargill's daughter, in *Many Wives of Patrick*.

Keeping fit problems have now been solved by her cocker spaniel who exercises her regularly on Hampstead Heath.

PENNY CASDAGLI

was born in Athens, and trained as a dancer before going to the Central School of Speech and Drama. Has worked extensively in repertory and in children's theatre. Plays in London include *The Waltz of the Toreadors* (with Trevor Howard and Coral Browne), *Under Milk Wood* (the Shaw Theatre, Euston), *Beauty and the*

Beast (playing Beauty at the Jeannetta Cochrane), and *History of the Tenth Struggle* (at the I.C.A.). Films include Trudi in Alistair Maclean's *Puppet on a Chain* and *The Open Window*, and among recent television work she played the title role in *The Little Mermaid* for the BBC and Sally in *Cinderella C.N.D.* with Wendy Craig.

JOHNNY DENNIS

This is his sixth appearance at the Forum, others being 'Tony Lumpkin' in *She Stoops to Conquer*, *The Porter*, in *Macbeth*, *The Tender Trap* and, in 1973, 'Willie' in *Hobson's Choice* and 'Henry VIII' in *Man for all Seasons*.

Stands 5 ft. 6 in. in his elevated shoes, but what he lacks in height he makes up for in experience. Born in London he made his start in Variety and Music Hall before making his London debut with Brian Rix in *One for the Pot* at the Whitehall Theatre, followed by appearances in *An Ideal Husband* at the Mermaid Theatre.

He spent two years travelling the world entertaining aboard cruise ships. In 1970 he played 'The Soldier' in Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale*. In 1972 was at the Chichester Festival Theatre in *The Beggar's Opera* and *The Taming of the Shrew* in which he played 'Biondello'. He is the regular Chairman at the Players Theatre Music Hall in London, and enjoys playing Cabaret. In Panto this year he played 'Idle Jack' in *Dick Whittington* at Harlow.

A keen sportsman, he plays cricket for The Lords Taverners.

ALEX McAVOY

Trained at the Royal Scottish Academy of Dramatic Art. After many seasons in the Scottish Theatre, joined the Young Vic Company and appeared in such productions as *Romeo and Juliet*, *Comedy of Errors* and *Bible One* at the Edinburgh Festival — his sixth festival. Alex played Jacob in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* with the Young Vic at the

Round House and the Albery Theatre. Television appearances include *Z Cars*, *The Julie Felix Show*, *Dad's Army*, *The Vital Spark* and *Sunset Song*.

Trained as a Mime in Paris with Jacques Lecoq and had his own TV programme *A Matter of Expression* entered for Montreaux *Hors Concours*. Alex now lectures in Mime.

PATRICK MONCKTON

Born in Budapest, the son of an English father and Hungarian mother, Patrick Monckton came to England at the age of seven. He attended the Arts Educational School and, whilst there, appeared on television in the original Jimmy Edwards' series of *Whack-O!* as well as in *Nicholas Nickelby*. After leaving school he worked at the Goldoni Theatre in Rome for a year before returning to England

to appear at many leading Repertory Theatres, including the Oxford Playhouse where he worked with Frank Hauser in *The Misanthrope*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *The Wolf* (which subsequently transferred to the West End of London). Patrick has just completed 14 months with the National Theatre, appearing in *Hamlet*, *Plunder*, *Troilus and Cressida* and *Tamburlaine the Great*.

KENDRICK OWEN

Trained at the Central School and since then has played in many leading companies all over the country and abroad. He has appeared in films and on television, but his first love is the theatre. Kendrick believes an actor

must somehow get to play as many parts as he can — going almost anywhere to do so ; so that finally, when he's sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything, he can mutter, thanks.

CHRISTOPHER SCOTT

Christopher Scott, after jobs with Fine Fare, Express Dairies and the Ford Motor Company, abandoned any thought of a business career and took himself off to the Webber Douglas Academy of Dramatic Art.

On leaving there in April last year he worked with the Prospect Theatre

Company, and followed this with a Rep season at the Little Theatre, Sheringham. Prior to starting rehearsals for *The Taming of the Shrew* he was in Rep at Canterbury, and amongst the plays he appeared in there was *The Taming of the Shrew* !

ROBERT SWALES

having spent five seasons with the National Youth Theatre, went to the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. After graduation he joined the Old Vic Company in Bristol and thence to repertory companies in Sheffield, Oxford, Liverpool, Worcester and Manchester.

In 1973 he joined the Prospect Theatre Company for *Royal Hunt of the Sun*, *Twelfth Night* and *Pericles*. These plays toured extensively and some of the cities visited were Moscow, Leningrad, Helsinki, Cairo,

Athens and Hong Kong. Since that season Robert has played Happy in *Death of a Salesman* at Guildford, Sky Masterson in *Guys and Dolls* at Colchester and Mark in Robert Patrick's *Kennedy Children* which toured England and Holland. Appearances on television include *Space 1999*, *Jackanory Playhouse*, *Man About the House*, *Within These Walls*, *Van De Valk* and *The Lover* by Harold Pinter, which also toured throughout England for Jackal Productions.

FRANK HAUSER (Director)

Born in Cardiff, Frank Hauser went to Christ Church, Oxford, at the beginning of the war, and then spent three and a half years in the Royal Artillery. In 1948 he joined the BBC as a radio drama producer. Following that came seasons at Salisbury and Coventry, until in 1956 he founded the Oxford Playhouse Company (Meadow Players), and was its Director of Productions for 17 years. Many of his productions have transferred to London, including *Dinner with the Family*, *A Passage to India*, *A Heritage and its History*, *The Promise* (with Judi Dench), *Volpone* (with Leo McKern), and, more recently, Sartre's *Kean* (with Alan

Badel), Molnar's *The Wolf* (with Edward Woodward, Judi Dench and Leo McKern) and *On Approval* (with Edward Woodward and Geraldine McEwan). His most recent production was *The Seagull* in Athens. He directed the 1974 production of *Cinderella* at the Casino Theatre, and has also directed several operas, at Sadler's Wells and Glyndebourne. His association with the Oxford Playhouse came to an end in January, 1974, when the company disbanded, his achievements having been recognised with a C.B.E. in 1969. He is the author of a book of light verse, 'Dinosaur Days'.

NICK CHELTON (Lighting)

Nick Chelton was born and educated in London and is one of Britain's youngest and most prolific lighting designers with over a hundred productions to his credit. In 1972/73 he was lighting consultant at the Northcott Theatre, Exeter, where his work included Howard Brenton's *Measure for Measure* and Edward Bond's *Bingo*. He has lit productions as diverse as the New Opera Company's *Arden Must Die* directed by Jonathan Miller, and with the same director the *Family Romances* season and *The Importance of Being Earnest* at Greenwich, *The Freeway* at the

National Theatre and *Così fan Tutte* for Kent Opera ; *Their Very Own Golden City* for Arnold Wesker at Aarhus, Denmark ; *Life Class* and *The Farm* for Lindsay Anderson at the Royal Court and *Hans Andersen* at the London Palladium. His recent credits include *The Norman Conquests* at the Globe, *Cole* at the Mermaid, *A Family and a Fortune* at the Apollo, *Absent Friends* at the Garrick, and *Macbeth* for the Royal Shakespeare Company's 1974 Stratford season. He is lighting consultant to the Royal Court Theatre and the Greenwich Theatre.

PETER RICE (Designer)

Studied painting at the Royal College of Art, afterwards won a competition to design the opera *Arlecchino* at Glyndebourne, subsequently worked for Covent Garden Opera and Ballet, the Royal Danish Ballet, also Sadler's

Wells. Peter has designed many plays and musicals. Currently designing *Twelfth Night* at the Greenwich Theatre and the opera *Cenerentola* at Wiesbaden in Germany.

**For FORUM THEATRE, BILLINGHAM,
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