

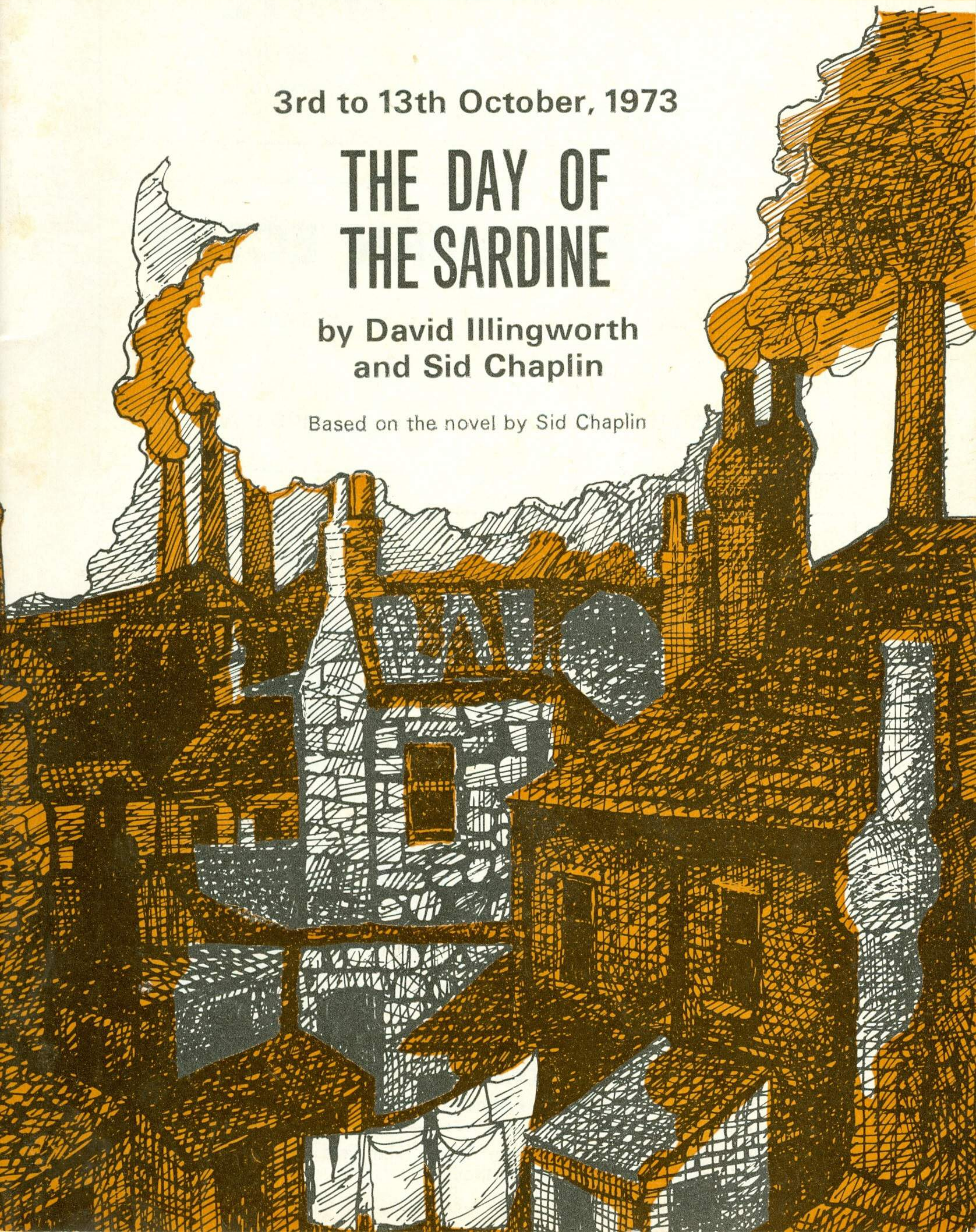
FORUM THEATRE BILLINGHAM TEESSIDE

3rd to 13th October, 1973

THE DAY OF THE SARDINE

by David Illingworth
and Sid Chaplin

Based on the novel by Sid Chaplin



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3rd to 13th October, 1973

FESTIVAL OF BRITISH THEATRE

THE FORUM THEATRE COMPANY

presents

The Day of the Sardine

by **DAVID ILLINGWORTH** and **SID CHAPLIN**

Based on the novel by **SID CHAPLIN**

Songs by **ALEX GLASGOW**

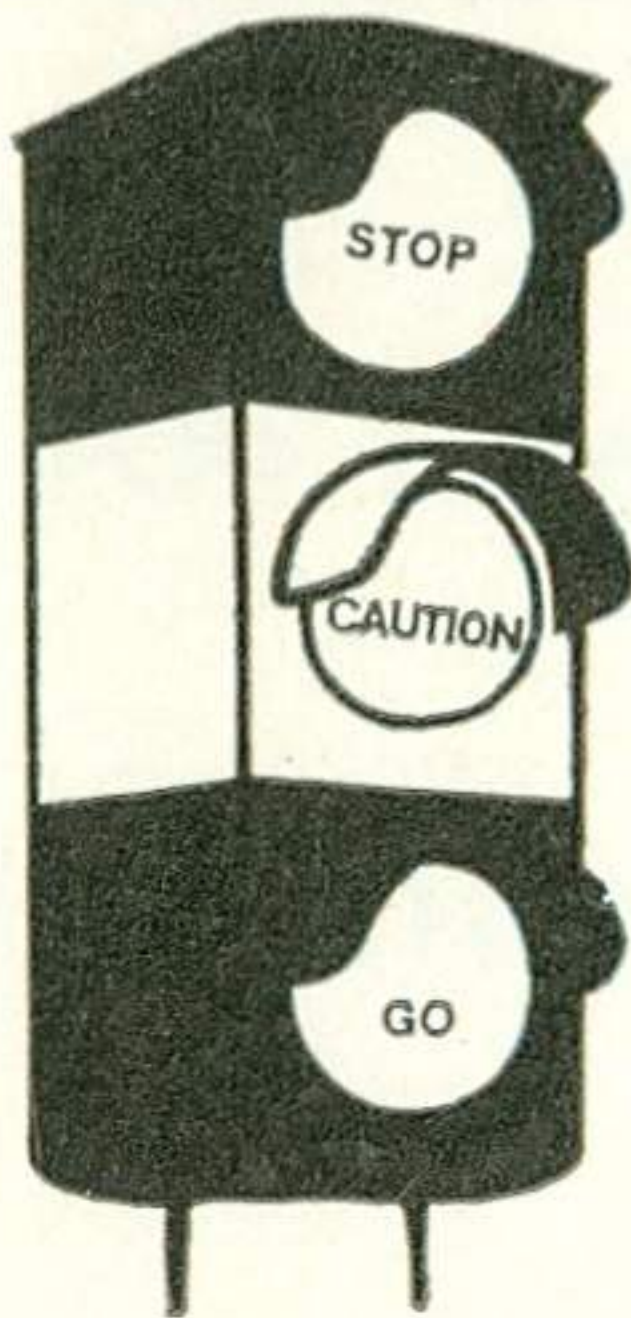
Directed by **KENNY MCBAIN**

Sets and Costumes designed by **BRENDA HARTILL-MOORES**

Lighting by **JOHN BECKETT**

Musical Director **DON FRASER**

Choreography by **KEVIN WILLIAMS**



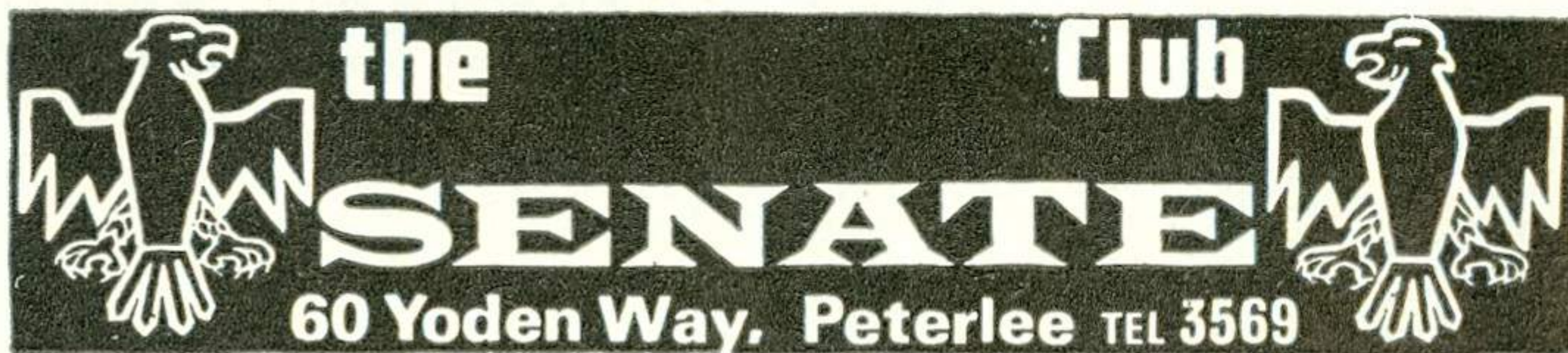
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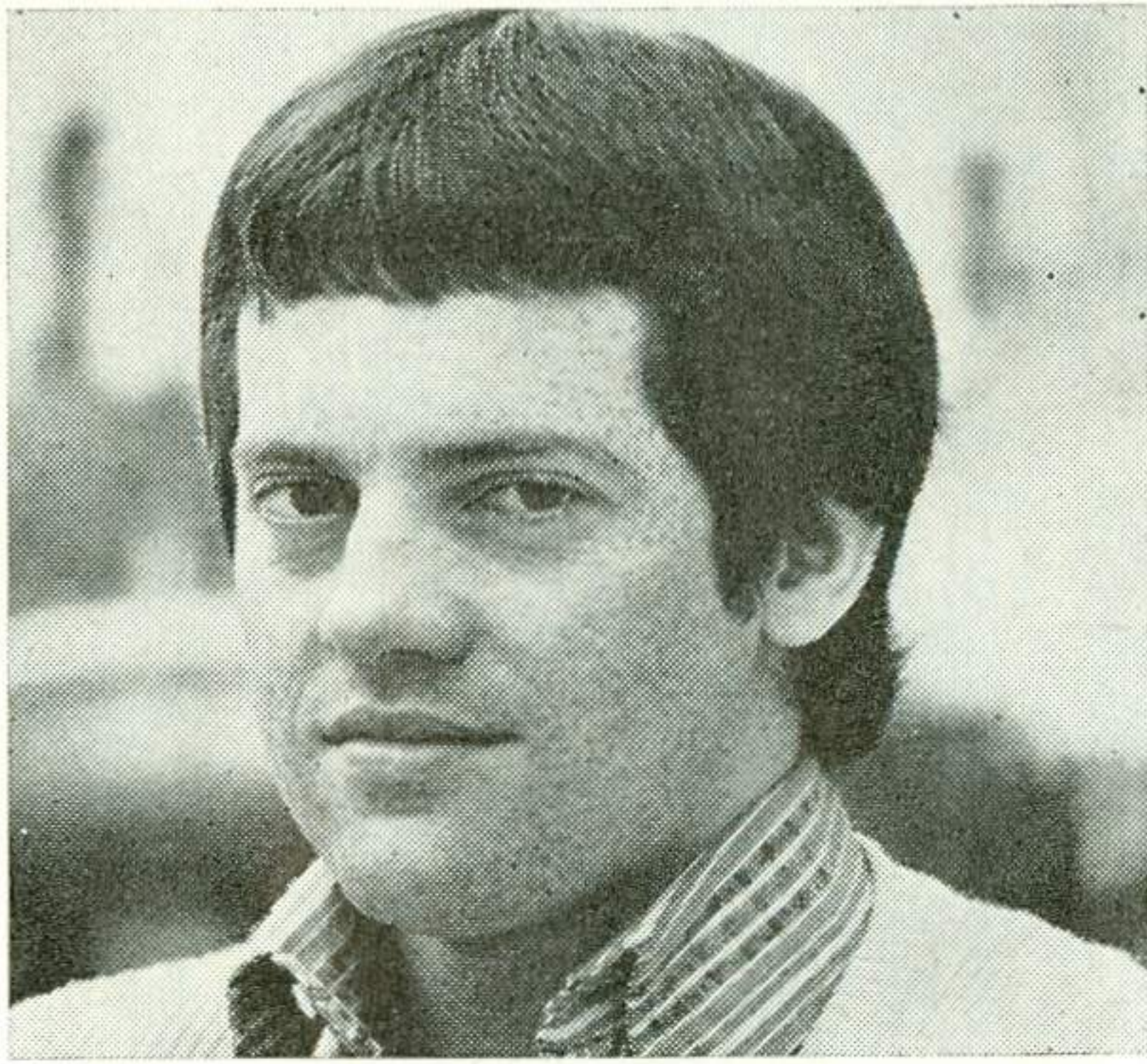
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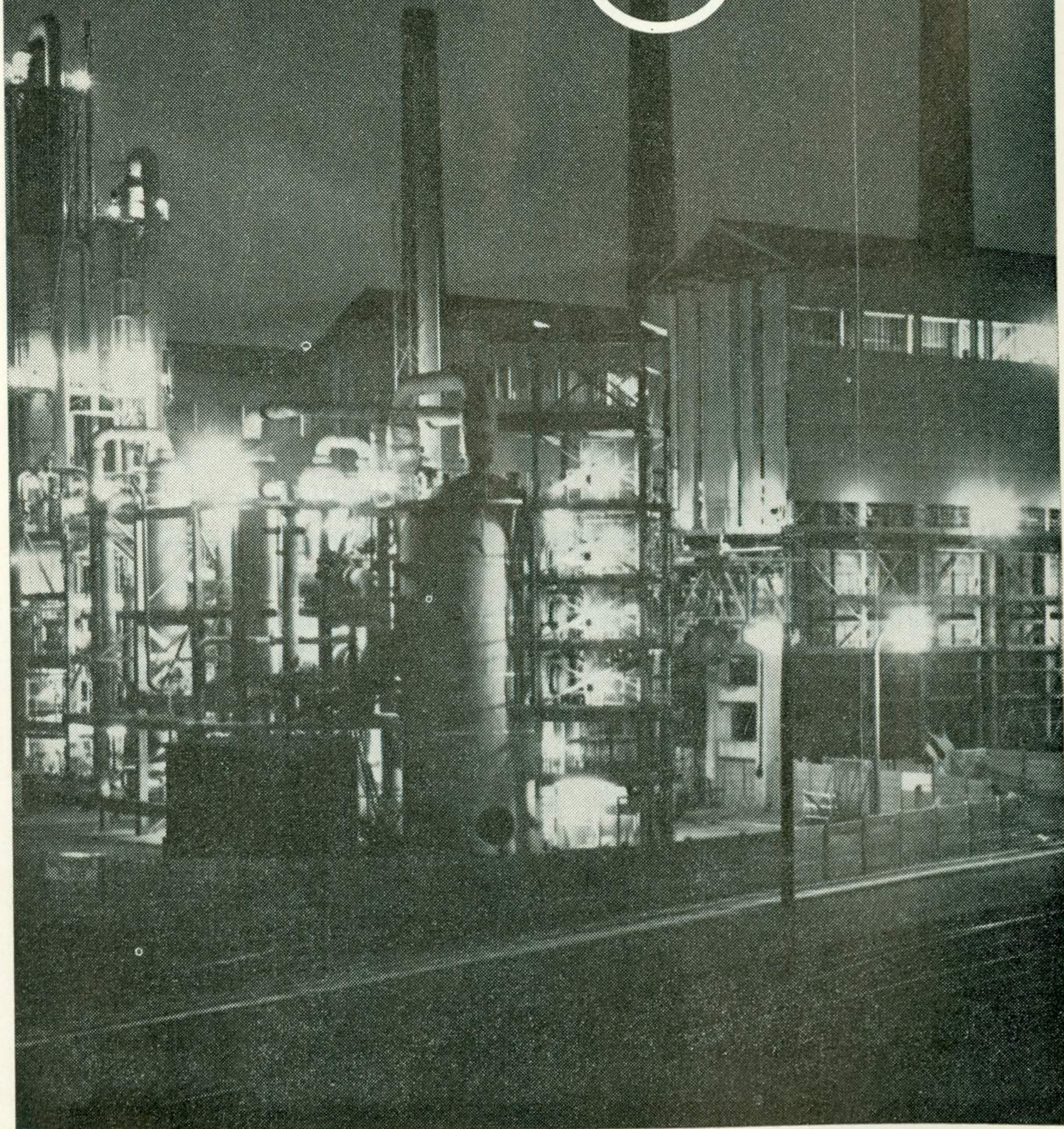
In planning the autumn season of the Forum Theatre Company this basic equation was very much in my mind. I can provide the actors, but how do I interest you, the Teesside public ?

Theatre is, of course, not merely entertainment, although it ought to be entertaining. In other words it should stimulate and challenge your mind and imagination, as well as giving enjoyment. I hope the three plays in our season — *The Day Of The Sardine*, *Hobson's Choice* and *A Man For All Seasons* — will do just that, and in a way that is more vital than the average TV programme or film. They do not require a specialised knowledge of theatre or any kind of aesthetic sophistication — just an open mind and a willingness to respond. If you like them perhaps you'll tell your friends. If you don't like them you'll probably tell them anyway, but why not come along to one of our informal discussions after the show and let us know why. We look forward to seeing you.

KENNY MCBAIN

There will be a discussion with members of the company after the performance on Thursday, 11th October, 1973.

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CHRISTINE BRADWELL was born in Yorkshire, trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and has appeared in repertory at Hull, Darlington and the Georgian Theatre, Richmond, her parts including Maria in *Twelfth Night*, Jean Turner in *Separate Tables*, Cecily Cardew in *The Importance Of Being Earnest* and Vivie Warren in *Mrs. Warren's Profession*. During 1972 Christine appeared in TV's *You In The Seventies* and the film *Looking For Love* as well as playing parts in plays and pantomime on stage. She has recently been seen in four episodes of the current TV serial *Moonbase 3*.

NEIL DAGLISH trained at the Webber Douglas Academy. He made his stage debut at the Liverpool Playhouse where he stayed for ten months and played such parts as Varlin in *Days Of The Commune*, Ray in *The Local Stigmatic* and Irwin in *Little Malcolm*. His TV debut was made in *Z Cars*.

RUSSELL DIXON trained at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and on completion of training joined the Bristol Old Vic Company, playing in all three Bristol theatres, his most recent part being Bob Phillips in *How The Other Half Loves* at the Little Theatre. He has also played five seasons with the National Youth Theatre, appeared at the Berlin Festival, appeared on the European tour of *Twelfth Night*, playing Toby Belch, and various Peter Terson plays, i.e., *Zigger Zagger* and *The Apprentices* which was subsequently adapted for BBC TV. Main interests : Country walks, music and home cooked mixed grills.

IRLIN HALL is a native of County Durham. One of her first professional appearances was in Noel Coward's revue *Sigh No More* followed by a Shakespearean season for Sir Robert Atkins, before another Noel Coward musical at Drury Lane with Mary Martin. Irlin was also the first English artist to join the American cast of *Oklahoma* at Drury Lane, playing Ado Annie. She has appeared in *A La Carte* by Alan Melville with Hermione Baddeley and 18 subsequent London revues including the famous Lyric and Globe revues in which she co-starred with Dora Bryan and Ian Carmichael. Her many television appearances include *Coronation Street*, *The Dustbin Men*, and *Love Story* with Beryl Reid. TV shows for Alan Melville and Ned Sherrin for whom she also played 5 parts in his co-production with Caryl Brahms of the musical *Sing A Rude Song* which was directed by Robin Phillips and told the life story of Marie Lloyd. She played opposite Joe Melia in a play by Peter Barnes, directed by Charles Marowitz. She has made many films including *Private's Progress* with Ian Carmichael

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and *Up Pompeii* with Frankie Howerd. Recently she did *The Filleting Machine* by Tom Hadaway shown in the Gulbenkian Studio and also on BBC television. She also played Mrs. Milburn in *Close The Coalhouse Door* which was written by Alan Plater, music by Alex Glasgow, from the story by Sid Chaplin, and *Forget Me Not Lane* by Peter Nichols, both outstanding successes of the last Tyneside Theatre Company's season.

ALAN HOCKEY comes to Billingham for the first time direct from the Edinburgh Festival where he has been appearing in the Fringe Award Winning Play *Union Jack And Bonzo*. A trained singer, Alan's early career was spent mainly in musicals and he played in lots of the major ones including the then longest running show *Salad Days* in which he gave over 700 performances as the Tramp. Most of this year he has spent in the film world on location in Cornwall in a film called *Malachi Cove* and then into a film called *The Little Prince*, both to be released early next year. He was also cast in the film *Get Carter* which was filmed in Newcastle. Alan's many TV appearances include *Call The Gun Expert*, *The Very Merry Widow*, *The Onedin Line*, *Department S*, *The Magistrate* (Play of the Month), *The First Lady*. Other new Tyneside plays in which he has appeared include *Close The Coalhouse Door*, *Prisoners Of The War* and *The Grace Darling Show*. A Geordie bred, born in South Shields, where he is living at the moment. Hobbies : classical records, cooking.

RICHARD HENRY was born in North Shields. The last time he appeared in Billingham was in *She Stoops To Conquer* playing Hardcastle. He has had varied experience playing at Manchester, Newcastle, Liverpool, Salisbury and recently with the Welsh Theatre Company at Cardiff. TV roles include parts in *Coronation Street*, and plays including *The Breaking Of Col. Keyser*, *Achilles Heel* and *A Day In The Life Of An Actor* for Welsh TV. This is only the second Geordie part he has had, the other being in Peter Terson's *Prisoners Of The War* at the University Theatre, Newcastle.

ALAN MEADOWS — born in Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama. He has worked mainly in theatre including Coventry, Hull, Lincoln, Canterbury, Northampton, Billingham (in *Dr. Faustus* with the Newcastle Playhouse Company) and the Royal Court, London. Films and television — most recently the film *QBV11* and *Big City* for American TV. A Geordie by marriage — to actress and writer Val Georgeson. They are about to escape from London and move to a village in Lancashire.

MICHELLE NEWELL trained at the Central School of Drama (1969-1972). In 1972 her television appearances included *Cranford* (BBC 1) and *Six Faces Of Man* (BBC 2) and stage appearances included *Toad Of Toad Hall* at the Mercury Theatre, Colchester. In 1963 she played Maria Christina at Chichester Festival Theatre in Anouilh's *Director Of The Opera*.

CHRISTIAN RODSKA joined the theatre as a student at Salisbury rep nine years ago and has since worked in theatres in Lincoln, Liverpool, Perth, Harrogate and Watford. His numerous television appearances include the Wednesday play *Honey Lane* and *Z Cars* and most recently a leading part in Yorkshire Television's long-running series *Follyfoot* in which he played Ron Stryker. His films include *The Reckoning* and *Penny Gold*. Christian likes painting and ski-ing. He lives in Ilkley with his French-born wife and two year old son, Benjamin.

RON SMERCZAK trained at R.A.D.A. leaving in April 1971. He came to The Forum to play Octavius in *Julius Caesar*, afterwards joining the Prospect Theatre Company in the summer of 1971 and toured with them in productions of *King Lear*, *Love's Labours Lost* and *Richard II*. He also took part in Prospect's experimental productions of *The Bacchae*, *Offending The Audience* and *Portrait Of A Planet*. He returned to The Forum for the Spring Rep Season, playing in *The National Health* and *Major Barbara*. Television appearances include *Dixon Of Dock Green* and *Z Cars*. Ron has just completed *A Play for Today* for the BBC and a short film *House Of Whipcord*.

ADRIAN STOKES trained at LAMDA and has worked in rep at Colchester and Ayr. He has made several tours with Brian Way's Theatre Centre playing parts including Banquo in *Macbeth* and Stephano in *The Tempest!* He has just finished directing two plays for Brian Way. Adrian's father's family comes from Stockton and Adrian travelled the world as a child when his father was an Army Chaplain. Adrian spent eight years at Barnard Castle School.

RICHARD STEELE is a Geordie and started at Newcastle Playhouse. He played in rep at Sheffield, Leatherhead, Guildford, Bromley and Windsor. He first appeared on television as Sgt. Dewar in *Dr. Finlay's Casebook* and has since been seen in many plays and series on both channels, most recently in *Joe And The Gladiator* (based on Catherine Cookson's Tyneside novel) *The Villains* and *The Witch's Daughter*. He has just finished playing Captain Watson in the BBC's serialisation of Fenimore Cooper's *Hawkeye*, *The Pathfinder* and an episode of *Special Branch* for Thames. Married to actress Sylvia Burrows, has two sons aged ten and eight, and lives in a Victorian house near Hampton Court.

LEWIS TEASDALE commenced his career as a boy actor at Newcastle Playhouse and then joined the Wilson Barrett Company in Edinburgh where he stayed for two years. His first West End appearance was with the late Dame Margaret Rutherford in *Alice Through The Looking Glass*. He played the leading roles in the post-London tours of *Cosh Boy*, *Serious Charge* and *Tea And Sympathy* before making his next West End appearance in Laurence Olivier's production of *One More River*. Repertory seasons include Birmingham and Bristol followed by a great success as *The Microbe* in Bernard Shaw's *Too True To Be Good* at the Garrick Theatre, London, with Dora Bryan, Alistair Sim and Athene Seyler. His television work includes *Z Cars*, *The Power Game*, *The Likely Lads*, *Full House* and an episode of *Spy Trap* soon to be seen. Last year he played the lead in a new play by Howard Brenton at the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh.

CLARE WELCH was born in Newcastle, trained at R.A.D.A. and has appeared in rep at Wolverhampton, Windsor, Leatherhead, Bromley, Northampton, Lyceum and Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh and the Stables Manchester as well as appearing in several pantomimes. In addition she has toured in both musicals and straight plays and has played in five West End musicals — *Toad Of Toad Hall* (when she met her future husband, actor, Paul Williamson), *All In Love*, *Something Nasty In The Wood Shed*, *High Spirits* and *On The Level* (in which she was understudy to Irlin Hall). Her television appearances have included parts in the BBC 2 classic series *Henry VIII*, *Elizabeth R*, *War And Peace*, *The Strauss Family* and *Portrait Of A Lady*.

KEVIN WILLIAMS has recently finished a six month run playing Jacob in *Joseph And His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at the Albery Theatre, London. His other London appearances include *Liberty Ranch* (*She Stoops To Conquer* in Western style) at the Greenwich Theatre, *High Diplomacy* at the Westminster Theatre and following a national tour *West Side Story* at the Collegiate Theatre, London. Prior to the run of musicals he appeared in a season at the Library Theatre, Manchester in plays which included Marowitz's *Hamlet*, *Dingo*, *Loot*, *Lion In Winter*. He has also played in *I Want To Marry A Goldwyn Girl* at the Stables Theatre, Manchester. The summer before last he devised an evening of dance and drama which he and a small company took to the south of France. TV appearances include *Coronation Street*, and Sunday Night Theatre's *The Insider*.

The Day of the Sardine

by DAVID ILLINGWORTH and SID CHAPLIN

Based on a novel by SID CHAPLIN

Songs by ALEX GLASGOW

*Cast in order
of appearance :*

Arthur Haggerston	CHRISTIAN RODSKA
Nosey	RON SMERCZAK
Mrs. Haggerston	IRLIN HALL
Harry Parker	ALAN MEADOWS
Uncle George	RICHARD STEELE
Joanie	CHRISTINE BRADWELL
Roly Poly	NEIL DAGLISH
Teresa Kelly	MICHELLE NEWELL
Mick Kelly	KEVIN WILLIAMS
Sam Sprogget	RICHARD HENRY
Site Workers	NEIL DAGLISH ADRIAN STOKES RUSSELL DIXON KEVIN WILLIAMS
George Flack	ALAN HOCKEY
Stella Brown	CLARE WELCH
Lorry Driver	LEWIS TEASDALE
Manager of 'The Albion'	RUSSELL DIXON
Dopey	ADRIAN STOKES
Donovan	RUSSELL DIXON
Police Sergeant	RUSSELL DIXON
Police Constable	KEVIN WILLIAMS
Dorothy Johnson	MICHELLE NEWELL
Pastor Johnson	LEWIS TEASDALE
Tramp	RICHARD HENRY

Directed by	KENNY MCBAIN
Sets and Costumes by	BRENDA HARTILL-MOORES
Lighting by	JOHN BECKETT
Musical Director	DON FRASER
Choreography by	KEVIN WILLIAMS

Music played by . . .

Alto Sax and Flute	DEREK GRAHAM
Drummer	KEVIN O'NEILL
Bass Guitar and Singer and Guitarist	RICHARD IHNATOWICZ JOHN BULL

For Forum Theatre, Billingham, Teesside

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House Manager	ERNEST JOBSON
Box Office Manageress	DOROTHY WILSON
Box Office Assistants	AUDREY ROBERTS EILEEN JOHNSON MARY WOMPHREY

Production Staff :

Production Manager	SEAN J. HURST
Production Secretary	MARGARET JOHNSON
Resident Stage Manager	BRIAN HARRIS
Deputy Stage Manager	GILES BARNABE
Assistant Stage Manager	ALEX ALEC-SMITH
Stage Dayman	NEVILLE FENWICK
Prop Supervisor	SUE V. RUMBALL
Assistant Props	ANN PUGH
Wardrobe Supervisor	FELICITY HARVEST
Wardrobe Assistants	IRENE WHEM IRLENE SOUTH ALISON THOMAS LUCILLE COLLIER JILL DAY ALAN SEADON ROBIN JOHNSON LESLIE ROBINSON PAUL EASON RICHARD RAWLINGS LESLIE DONALDSON ELIZABETH REED MARGARET BALLHAM JOSEPHINE HENDON
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There will be one interval

SID CHAPLIN, author of the best-selling novel from which *The Day Of The Sardine* is adapted, first made his mark with a book of mining stories written between shifts at one of Dorman, Long's Ferryhill collieries — but now reveals that it really all began, with "a gloriously gloomy" series of pieces he wrote as a 16-year-old, under a nom-de-plume wild horses wouldn't persuade him to reveal, for the Middlesbrough Northern Weekly Gazette. *Sardine*, which has continuously been in print since 1961 when it was first published, has also been published in France, Germany and Russia, where the first print of 150,000 was sold out in a couple of weeks, and currently yet another translation is enjoying a vogue in Czech. Although the mining stories provided the story-line and inspiration for *Close The Coalhouse Door*, and another novel *The Big Room* was adapted for the *Forum Theatre*, the present production marks his first full-scale venture into collaborating on a stage adaptation of one of his own novels. A new book, *A Tree With Rosy Apples*, appeared earlier this year, and Mr. Chaplin, who is at present resting after an illness, looks forward to resuming work on a fictional autobiography, *In Blackberry Time*, as soon as the doctor gives him a clean bill of health.

DAVID ILLINGWORTH, 27 originally from Horsforth, Leeds, educated at Bradford Grammar School, has lived in Bristol since going there to read drama in 1964, (apart from a 12 month spell in stage-management at the Mermaid Theatre, London). In 1971 *The Oz Obscenity Trial* was staged by the Bristol Old Vic (and later by, among others, the Royal Shakespeare Company and the Prospect Theatre Company). The Bristol Old Vic has since given premières of *The Great West Show*, about the Reform Riots of 1831, *The Road Show*, about the problems created by urban motorways, and *Bristol Ditty* for the city's 600th anniversary celebrations this year. A television play, *At Last The M5 Bridge Show* has been made by the BBC in Bristol for transmission later this year.

ALEX GLASGOW, the son of a pitman, studied languages at Leeds University and now lives in Gateshead where he "belongs". He has written many songs and in addition to his own highly successful musical based on the life of Joe Wilson, *Joe Lives* has collaborated with Alan Plater and Stan Barstow on plays as well as with Henry Livings, his co-partner, in radio's *Northern Drift* (and the TV version *Get The Drift*). More recently he has toured extensively backed by a quintet headed by Bill Southgate who arranged the songs for *Close The Coalhouse Door*. An LP featuring Alex and the William Southgate Quintet with songs from the TV documentary *The Tyne Slides By* and *Close The Coalhouse Door* is due to be released shortly.

KENNY MCBAIN was born and brought up in Glasgow. After graduating from Harvard University in the United States, where he was President of the Dramatic Club, acting in and directing numerous productions, he returned to this country to work in theatre. Prior to his appointment at Billingham, Mr. McBain was Associate Director of the Prospect Theatre Company for whom he recently directed the British premiere of Friedrich Durrenmatt's *Portrait Of A Planet*. Among his other productions for Prospect were *Endgame*, *Escorial*, and a new adaptation of *The Bacchae*. Mr. McBain has also worked in his native Scotland, most recently at the Royal Lyceum in Edinburgh where he directed the world premiere of *Carnegie* by Ian Brown. Other companies for whom he has worked include the Cambridge Theatre Company and the Belgrade, Coventry. Mr. McBain devised a one-man show for Prospect called *Autobiographobia* based on the letters of Chekhov, and for this year's Edinburgh International Festival he devised and directed a specially commissioned entertainment called *Don Juan In Love*.

BRENDA HARTHILL-MOORES (Set and Costume Designer) was born in England and emigrated to New Zealand where she obtained Diplomas in Fine Arts and Fine Arts in Painting. On her return to Great Britain she attended the Hornsey College of Art and the Central School of Art, London, for post-graduate studies in theatre design. From 1968-69 she became Designer/Technical Director at the Thompson North Carolina State University, U.S.A., and this was followed by three years of design work and lecturing in U.S.A. University Theatres. In 1971 Brenda received The Arts Council Design Award and in 1972 she was set and costume designer for several productions by the National Theatre at the Young Vic. During the present year she has been associate designer with John Bury for *A Slight Ache* starring Dame Peggy Ashcroft and David Waller for the Royal Shakespeare Company and she was set and costume designer for the National Theatre at the Old Vic's production *Twelfth Night*.

DON FRASER (Musical Director) studied music at the Royal College of Music and first started writing music for the theatre when he was fifteen. Since then he has written the music for the films *Body Snatchers*, *Drop Out*, etc., for television. He has been involved in the music for the variety shows starring Tommy Cooper, Tommy Steele, Joe Brown, Susan Maugham, Dusty Springfield and the group, Middle of the Road.

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Free Mailing List

If you are interested in the Theatre's
future programmes please hand in your
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Party Bookings

Price reductions of 5p off per seat for
parties of twenty or more are allowed
for most shows.

Photographs of the Forum are available, price 3p. Please ask attendants
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The Forum Theatre, Billingham, gratefully acknowledges financial support
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Sunday 14th October only at 8.00 p.m.

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Concert in aid of National Society for Cancer Relief

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Sunday 4th November only at 3.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m.

MOIRA ANDERSON IN CONCERT

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