



WITHERNSEA.

TEDDINGTON THEATRE CLUB PRESENTS AN AMATEUR PRODUCTION BY ARRANGEMENT WITH NICK HERN BOOKS

The Kitchen Sink

By Tom Wells

Directed by Harry Medawar

Sun 27 Sep – Sat 3 Oct 2015

£1.50



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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

For reasons of safety, glassware must NOT be taken into any part of the auditorium.

Latecomers will be admitted at the first convenient moment provided that no interruption or distraction to the performers might be caused.

All gangways, passageways and stairways must be kept free from obstruction. Persons are not permitted to sit or stand in any gangway.

The taking of photographs and the making of sound and/or visual recordings in the auditorium are not permitted.

An induction loop system is installed in the Main Auditorium to assist those who use hearing aids with the relevant settings.

Wheelchair positions are available in both Stalls and the Balcony. The Box Office Manager will be happy to discuss your requirements.

TTC Ltd, as managers of the Theatre, reserves the right to refuse admission and to make alterations to the programme and cast without notice.

Director's Notes

As Tom Wells made clear when his play opened at the Bush Theatre in London, *The Kitchen Sink* is about a family, a year and a sink. As the author said in an interview published before its opening night in 2011, “*I wanted to write a play about a family who were quite nice to each other. Lots of people write about families who are nasty to each other, but that’s not what I know*”.

The Kitchen Sink is set in a part of the country its author knows well – “*Withernsea is a sort of fading seaside town, but it’s smaller than the others, the Scarboroughs and the Bridlington, sort of a seaside underdog. Once the train stopped going there it got a bit lost, I think. A bit eccentric. And it does sometimes feel like a bit of a dead end. But also, it’s very flat with the sea and this big big sky and it is the sort of place – I think, anyway – where you’ve got space to dream big dreams, and look out at the world and imagine a slightly different life for yourself. So it felt right to set **The Kitchen Sink** there really.*”

When I first read this warm, whimsical study of small lives lived out under “*a big, big sky*”, I was immediately struck by how real Tom’s characters are. Whereas the so called ‘kitchen sink drama’ of plays John Osborne and his ilk was hailed at the time for presenting the lives of real people on stage for the first time, much of it now feels far from realistic and in its way as clichéd as the portrayals of working class people in the work of Noel Coward, Terence Rattigan and others. There is nothing clichéd about Kath and Martin and their children Billy and Sophie or their friends Pete and Danny. And there can surely be no one quite like Pete’s grandma Edna, an enthusiast for all things modern. This then is a genuinely ordinary family with ordinary hopes and dreams, and ordinary ambitions and secrets. And, however far away Withernsea may seem – and it is a very, very long way from London – there is much to recognise in this comic and compassionate play. You don’t laugh *at* Kath and Martin and their functioning, dysfunctional family, you laugh *with* them.

For one reason or another the notion of family has been on my mind a lot in the last two years and, after rehearsals started, I was astonished to discover a connection between my own family and Withernsea, a place I had never heard of before I read *The Kitchen Sink*. Several relatives lived there in the 1920s and 30s, and my mother went to school there briefly.

So, with one member of the cast turning 18 during the run (not Gary!) and another about to become a parent for the first time (not Laura!), *The Kitchen Sink* has provided a lens for me and for all of us to reflect on the meaning of Family. As Charlie Sheen once put it, “Family is forever”. Indeed it is.

THE TOP 10 SECRETS TO A HAPPY FAMILY... ACCORDING TO PARENTS

1. Enjoying time together as a family
2. Having a garden
3. A balanced home work life
4. Watching television together
5. Having no secrets
6. Parents sharing chores
7. Eating Sunday lunch together every weekend
8. Having shared interests or hobbies
9. Spending at least two evenings a week together
10. Not arguing in front of the kids

“Family is the most important thing in the world”

Princess Diana

“Sticking with your family is what *makes* it a family”

Mitch Albom

“I sustain myself with the love of family”

Maya Angelou

“It's very hard to grow up in a perfect family when you're not perfect”

EL James

Kitchen sink realism (or kitchen sink drama) is a term coined to describe a British cultural movement that developed in the late 1950s and early 1960s in theatre, art, novels, film and television plays, whose protagonists usually could be described as angry young men.

“Everyone has a family”

Tom Wells

Cast and Crew

Billy Steve Shepherdson
Kath Ali Hannant
Sophie Laura Marcus
Martin Gary Parkinson
Pete Antony Scott

Director Harry Medawar
Stage Manager Meg Hird
Set Design Colin Swinton
Set Construction Colin Swinton
Alan Corbett
Meg Hird
Lighting Design William Adams
Lighting Operation Malcolm Maclenan
Sound Design Harry Medawar
Sound Operation John Pyle
Props Penny Heighes
Wardrobe Alison Barker
Photography JoJo Leppink

This Production is Dedicated to Our Families



Picture
from the
original
production,
featuring
Steffan
Rhodri

Running Order

Withernsea, Yorkshire 2009

SPRING

Scenes 1 to 3 an evening in March
Scene 4 the following Wednesday

SUMMER

Scene 5 a day in July
Scenes 6 and 7 the next day

AUTUMN

Scenes 8 and 9 a day in September
Scene 10 a day in October
Scene 11 a few days later

WINTER

Scenes 12-14 Christmas Day

There will be a 20 minute interval

Warnings: This production includes a brief scene of smoking, mild drug references and some music by Dolly Parton

The Bar is open after the show

The foyer bar remains open after the show and is well used by cast, crew and members. We extend a very warm welcome to everyone who has been to see the performance - it is an ideal opportunity to meet the actors you have seen performing, find out more about our theatre and our club or simply relax over a drink.



Please
Turn off Your
Mobile Phones

Please don't spoil the performance

We respectfully request all members of the audience to make sure that mobile phones are switched off during the performance.

Thank you.

Withernsea, Yorkshire



Cast Biographies



STEVE SHEPHERDSON (Billy)

Since joining TTC in September last year Steve has been incredibly busy. His first role was as Billy in the critically acclaimed *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice* under the brilliant direction of Nigel Cole. This was shortly followed by *Equus* for which he was nominated for a Swan Award. *Proof*, Steve's third production, and first in the Coward Studio, was a wonderful challenge and another great success. *The Kitchen Sink* is his fourth production and, judging by the bags under his eyes, possibly his last.



ALI HANNANT (Kath)

Having first appeared at HHT in *The Country Wife* as the titular young, flirty and impressionable spouse, Ali is really excited to be returning as another wife, albeit one much nearer her own age and in a much happier marriage. Other notable strong women that Ali has played include Beatrice in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Mistress Ford in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (all at Polesden Lacey Shakespeare), plus the title role in Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler* (Chipstead Courtyard Theatre) and Valerie in Conor McPherson's *The Weir* (Horley Archway Theatre). In the real world Ali can be found hunting gruffalos, climbing trees and chasing dragons, as well as working with all things educational. Kath is a woman who lives for her family... this one's for you, Mum.

Cast Biographies



LAURA MARCUS (Sophie)

Laura is delighted to be appearing in her first TTC production. She last performed on the Hampton Hill Theatre stage, aged eight, while flaunting her somewhat precarious tapping skills with a local theatre school. In more recent years, she has played the Marquise de Merteuil in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, Lady Sneerwell in *The School for Scandal* and Kitty in *Anna Karenina*. Laura also performed this year in *Female Transport* at The Edinburgh Festival. After years of appearing in costume dramas, Laura is excited to be making her post 19th century debut as Sophie.



GARY PARKINSON (Martin)

Having enjoyed such diverse roles as Robin in Christopher Marlowe's *Faustus*, EJ Lofgren in Mary Chase's *Harvey* and Sir Lancelot in a Camelot-themed pantomime, Gary has recently concentrated more on music (with 6music-approved band Howl Griff) and writing (he's the Global Digital Editor of FourFourTwo). However, he was drawn back to acting by the fascinating character of Martin the milkman: a struggling everyman trying to make the best of life.



ANTONY SCOTT (Pete)

Antony has just finished studying HND Performing Arts at West Thames College and now will be moving on to Roehampton University. He has appeared in many different plays during his studies like *Sure Thing*, *Two* by Jim Cartwright and *Fen* by Carol Churchill. *The Kitchen Sink* is his first amateur production with TTC and he is delighted to be playing Pete in this great comedy. Antony enjoys watching television series, which inspired him to want to take up a career in acting!

Crew Biographies

HARRY MEDAWAR (Director)

This is Harry's second production for TTC, after *Dinner* last year. His next production, for OHADS next April, is *The River* by Jez Butterworth.

MEG HIRD (Stage Manager)

Meg has been with YAT and TTC for almost three years, and has enjoyed working in various capacities on a large number of shows. Of the shows she has worked on with various companies, some of her favourites include *All's Well That Ends Well* (YAT), which went to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, *Bás*, *A Shallow Death* (Schizothemia) at the Prague Fringe Festival, and *Snow Queen* (TTC). Meg is currently freelancing around work at HHT, but is looking forward to some upcoming ventures.

COLIN SWINTON (Set Design)

Colin has worked in amateur and professional theatre in Zimbabwe and South Africa, taking on a number of backstage roles, including lighting design, set design and stage management roles. This is Colin's sixth show for TTC, having most recently completed the set design for *Colder Than Here*.

WILLIAM ADAMS (Lighting Design)

William has been a London-based theatre and events lighting technician for the past five years, working in a wide variety of venues and shows. He has worked with Punchdrunk, Shunt as well as OHADS and now TTC among others, instilling in him a preference for immersive theatre and smaller, more intimate shows and venues offering a more personal experience for the audience.

MALCOLM MACLENAN (Lighting Operation)

Malcolm has been involved with drama in Richmond upon Thames since 1973, primarily with Park Players, a group that had use of the old theatre at Hampton Court House. He formally joined TTC five years ago and has since been involved with many productions, including *Arcadia*, *Equus* and *Much Ado about Nothing*.

Crew Biographies

JOHN PYLE (Sound Operation)

John's a member of several groups where he sings, acts and enjoys designing/operating sound for shows. In 50 years on stage - at 13 with two solo roles at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, he's played most tenor/baritone leads in the G&S repertoire – most recently two years ago as Captain Corcoran - *HMS Pinafore*. Other singing roles - the Baker (*Baker's Wife*), Mushnik (*Little Shop of Horrors*), Oliver Warbucks (*Annie*), Mr Beaver (*Lion Witch/Wardrobe*), Dr Neville Craven (*Secret Garden*) and Scrooge (*Christmas Carol*) - all RUT Swan Award-winning shows. He also loves making authentic, realistic and timely sound effects for plays/shows and hopes you all enjoy this production.

PENNY HEIGHES (Props)

Penny looks after all the small properties we keep at TTC and sources new ones for shows as they come along. Penny has sourced props and set dressings for *Calendar Girls*, David Haig's *My Boy Jack*, *The Country Wife*, *Pravda*, *Boy on a Swing* and *The Thrill of love*. Now presenting a realistic family life, she finds herself looking towards her own home for inspiration, and has found herself getting intimately acquainted with Dolly Parton in a way she never imagined!

ALISON BARKER (Wardrobe)

Alison has been a member of TTC for over 20 years and has been involved in both dressing plays and maintaining the wardrobe's store of costumes. Her most recent outings into costume making have been *Beauty and the Beast*, *Brimstone and Treacle* and *My Boy Jack*.

JOJO LEPPINK (Photographer)

When it comes to TTC and YAT, JoJo is the definition of 'Jack of all trades, master of none' - she'll either be found on stage, backstage, in the workshop or behind the camera as Handwritten Photography. Production photography allows for a lot of fast-paced camera work to keep up with actors and lighting states but is also fantastically varied. Some of JoJo's favourite shows, aesthetically, to photograph have been *My Boy Jack* (TTC), *The Way of the World* (YAT) and *RENT* (LSU Stage). It has reached a stage where JoJo is beginning to be introduced to people as 'Handwritten Photography' but this is something she is entirely okay with!

In Rehearsals...



Letter from the Author

This is just a note to wish you and the cast all the very best for your run of *The Kitchen Sink*. It is always lovely when a play gets another life and good to think of all those characters plodding round again. You've obviously put a lot of time and heart into the production which is the biggest compliment you can give to a play. I'm sorry I won't get to see it, but I hope you all have a great time doing it. It's lovely to know there's a spark of Withernsea so far away from home.

All the very best

Tom Wells

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Tom Wells

Special Thanks...

- * Shihan Frank T Perry and the staff and students of Bu'Sen Martial Arts School, Twickenham
- * Milbank Carpets Ltd and Andrew Milbank for their support for this production
- * Nella Shepherdson
- * Tom Wells for helpful advice
- * Linda and Clive Sirker, for giving up their kitchen
- * Stewart & Young Ltd, Domestic Appliances, Sales, Service & Repairs
- * Louise Bishop, West Sussex County Council
- * Barbara Macniven, Humber Bridge Tourist Information Centre
- * Martin Noble of British Sea Power
- * Simon Pattern, BBC Radio Humberside
- * Gina Hobbs of The Holderness Gazette
- * Lizzie Dealey of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

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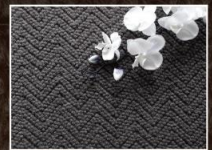
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Teddington Theatre Club acknowledges with grateful thanks the practical and financial support given by local residents, businesses and community groups.



Teddington Theatre Club is affiliated to the Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain and to Arts Richmond.

This production is entered for the Arts Richmond Swan Awards for Drama and Musicals.

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Teddington Theatre Club is a Club Theatre open to members and their guests. It is easy to join as an audience member, or as a full performing and technical member.

Each month, details of forthcoming productions are mailed to each member together with Theatre, our club magazine and newsletter.

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