

What is this YAT ?

I hope you enjoy tonight's production. YAT is an extra ordinary venture, it continues to surprise me even 25 years. Tonight's is its 66th full production!

Year after year, new young adults come along - nervous, insecure and unsure of what they have joined. But deep inside of them, a spark of talent is always discovered, nurtured, developed and is soon enhancing our productions for a few years, then pass on to the wider 'stage' of life beyond. And our question of those of us left behind is 'How do we replace them?' - but we always do.

To say that YAT explores, looks for new challenges - tonight is typical - for tonight we present a world famous novel, adapted by one of our own talents, Colin Smith, whose first play 'Briticanna' we presented this time last year. Certainly a new writer with a distinct talent and we are proud that he has consented to be our Writer in Residence for this year.

Eleven years ago another young talent joined us and played in the productions of the succeeding years. Chris Ivey whose talents continue to develop, undertakes tonight his first solo production for the group - I am sure it won't be his last.

For many of the early years, a rehearsal week-end was held at an old disused watermill in Northamptonshire. Ten years have passed since our last visit, but for this production, Chris decided to resurrect the custom and we spent this recent Easter weekend rehearsing at the mill - quite literally living rough - Were we cold!

Youth Action Theatre welcomes new young adults approaching sixteen and up to twenty-five years of age, enthusiastic to participate in all drama activities: no fees or subscriptions to pay, and no experience necessary. But each must be keen to learn and improve all drama techniques and skills through drama workshops and practical experience. But most important, prepared to accept the rigorous disciplines that such activities demand.

The future - following this production YAT undertakes a commitment to the Kingston Mayfest under Peter Gardiner, tonight's Gatsby. Peter with the help of YAT members and other local youth groups will be devising and rehearsing 'Street Theatre' to be presented at various locations in Kingston on Bank Holiday Monday, May 6th. It will be based on the Kyngham Games, a Mediaeval window in the Kingston Museum.

During this YAT will be casting its next production which will not go into rehearsal until commitment to School/ College exams is completed. This production will be taken during August, for presentation in The Eastern Connecticut State University, USA.

Anyone interested in becoming a member should contact YAT at:
17 The Wilderness, Park Road, Hampton Hill,
TW12 1HS
(Telephone: 0181 979 7904)

Eric Yardley

YOUTH ACTION THEATRE

Presents the premiere of

The Great Gatsby

Adapted from the classic novel
by F. Scott Fitzgerald
by YAT resident playwright Colin Smith

Directed by Christopher Ivey
Produced by Eric Yardley



Tuesday April 16th to
Saturday April 20th 1996

Crew

Directed by Christopher Ivey
Produced by Eric Yardley
Directors Assistant Alex Beauchamp
Movement Coach Lorain Bertorelli
Lighting Designer Simon Roose
Stage Management Bill Compton &
John Battersby
Costumes Eileen Baker /
Alison Barker &
Alex Beauchamp
Set constructed by Den Baker /
Chris Ivey & cast
Make-up / Hair Lynn Howes
Furniture from Joy McQuaid

Directors Note:

Fitzgerald, it is rumoured, once said to Hemmingway that "The rich are different from us", "Yes" replied Hemmingway, "They have more money than us" and *The Great Gatsby* illustrates this showing us the same dreams and flaws that wake us every morning and accompany us into sleep.

On embarking on the journey that has been directing *The Great Gatsby* I spoke to many friends whose opinions I value asking what they felt were the novels central themes, all of their answers differed and some quite drastically, from a savage indictment of the American Dream to an eulogy of the dying class structure at the beginning of this century, leaving me perplexed. I had read the novel and whilst I could not disagree with any of the advise I had been given I could not help but feel that they had missed the point, *The Great Gatsby* is a classic text because at its centre there is a beautiful storyline with carefully drawn characters you can believe in and some you can truly care for.

Colins adaptation misses none of this, moving dramatically along the lines of the novel, illustrating the glamorous facade of the times - hiding the passions, universally felt, which drive the play to its tragic ending.

Cast

Jay Gatsby Peter Gardiner
Nick Carraway Steven Peters
Tom Buchanan Ben Davies
Daisy Buchanan Tania Foley
Jordan Baker Anneke Sando
Myrtle Wilson Hannah Smith
Catherine Anna Snook
Mr McKee Jerome Phelps
Mrs McKee Alice Langrish
Lucille Joanne Campey
Paula Kitty-Marie Beck
Edith Alice Langrish
Late Arrivals Minnie Gale &
Jerome Phelps
Clinton Aiden Redmond
Dwight Rob Lee
Meyer Wolfsheim Pablo Reyes
Miss Waid Marina Campbell
Guest in Library Chris Waiting
Mr Sloane Richard White
Minister Richard White
Mr Gatz Jerome Phelps
Young Carraway Jerome Phelps
Mr Carraway Snr. Richard White

Other party guests and domestic staff
are played by the cast

Original Score composed by Gary Powers

Orchestra Leader Gary Powers
Trumpet Cliff Wilson
Clarinet 1 Ruth Abergel
Clarinet 2 Minnie Gale
Tenor/Saxophone/Flute Marinos Onissiphorou
Piano Richard Whalley
Guitar Gary Powers
Electric Bass Simon Ives

With Special Thanks to:

Eric, Derek, Phil, Biddy, Lorain, Dave,
Lynn, Betty, Stephen & especially
Christine