

Programme Notes

This is Terry Johnson's adaptation of Charles Webb's landmark novel, published in 1963 and Mike Nichols' much loved 1967 movie classic. It premiered in April 2000 at the Gielgud Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue. Originally scheduled for a short run, it was continually extended, and ran until 2002 when it transferred to Broadway for another two years. Since then it has been performed many times to enthusiastic reception.

Terry Johnson has a celebrated theatre, film and television career both as a director and playwright and has had many West End productions, winning nine British Theatre awards including the Olivier Award for Best Comedy and Playwright of the Year. When asked why he decided to adapt 'The Graduate' he talked animatedly about going back to Charles Webb's novel for his inspiration, locating taut rhythms of speech that prefigure David Mamet – "I watched the film once; I re-read the book six times. The book is essentially what's great about the film." Although most of those memorable lines are Charles Webb's, Terry Johnson has made some important and perceptive changes and additions. Among these he has given both Elaine and Mrs Robinson more depth, making Elaine more real in her rebellion and Mrs Robinson more sympathetic rather than just a predatory, degenerate villainess – and his ending changes everything.

The story centres on Benjamin Braddock, who has just returned home after graduating from college, and refuses to be shown off to his parents' friends at a party they are giving for him.

Angry, confused and not knowing what he wants to do with his life, he is seduced by one of these friends, the bored and beautiful Mrs Robinson who longs for something to brighten her life.

Their complex and often anguished affair becomes even more confused when Ben goes out on a date with Mrs Robinson's daughter Elaine and falls in love with her. Their story goes through many more twists and turns before their only solution is to run away together.

The story is set in southern California, in Pasadena, where Charles Webb grew up. After graduating from Williams College in Massachusetts he was awarded a writing fellowship and wrote the book when he was 23. He has said that he just had to write out his feelings and confusion. Together with his then girlfriend and future wife, like many others of their generation, he wanted life to be different from the materialism that he had grown up in. Over the years they have remained true to each other and to what they believed, avoiding convention and shunning celebrity. 'The Graduate' has also been influential because for the time in which it was written the book's structure was radical, being almost entirely in fast paced dialogue.

This is a very funny play, packed with hilarious moments that is both a delightful comedy and a razor sharp satire. By holding our attention so well it is able to open a deeply perceptive window on the agonies of youth and also – as modern audiences now realise – on the agonies of middle age.

HAMILTON WILSON

Assistant Festival Producer



Special thanks to
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The Hostry Festival at Norwich Cathedral is a not-for-profit, community interest project, produced by the PBSK Partnership.
Festival committee: Stash Kirkbride & Peter Barrow, Chairmen. Mike King, Treasurer. Richard Nobes, Secretary.
To contact regarding the festival's special 10th year anniversary 2020 e: info@hostryfestival.org

CHRIS NEAL

I'm pleased to say this will be my fourth time performing for the Hostry festival and was last here in 2017 with a small role alongside Tracey Catchpole in 'The Eagle with Two Heads'. Before that I took the lead role in 'Mahler's Conversion' in 2015. Norwich has a lot to offer for those interested in the arts, and this festival always brings together the best of that. As an actor it's a joy to be part of, and always memorable.

TRACEY CATCHPOLE

My previous Hostry Festival performances include the 'Queen' in 'The Eagle with Two Heads', the festival's central production in 2017 by Jean Cocteau, 'The Human Voice' in 2018, and 'The Telephone' performed also at the Holt Festival for their tenth anniversary. Other favourite parts include: Rachel in 'My Cousin Rachel', Victoria in 'Home and Beauty', Maggie in 'Hobsons Choice', the Queen in 'Richard of Bordeaux', Olwen in 'Dangerous Corner', Brooke in 'Noises Off', Adelaide in 'Guys and Dolls', Lois in 'Kiss Me Kate', and Mary in 'Memory of Water'. I have also won the best actress award at the Little Medway Theatre for the Rochester Festival.

NEIL AUKER

I have been acting for... many years! initially with the Theatre Royal Studio Theatre Company and more recently with the Sewell Barn, the Maddermarket and the Great Hall. I've acted in everything from Ayckbourn to Amadeus with a good portion of Miller and Shakespeare thrown in. This is my first play for The Hostry Festival and first time being directed by Stash Kirkbride, which has been fantastic. It's been great to be reunited with past colleagues and to get to act with new people.

OLIVIA BOURNE

I am currently working towards my BA Theatre and Performance Studies at the Guildford School of Acting. During my time on the course so far I have created, directed and performed in a range of projects, as well as forming emerging physical theatre company Buried Thunder, who toured our

debut show 'Our Shore' earlier this year. Presenting credits include Strictly Come Surrey and Live from Studio 1 with student television station Stag TV. I am looking forward to performing in the immersive Polar Express™ Train Ride at Mid-Norfolk Railway for Warner Bros and Rail Events Inc.

PETER BARROW

I'm Mr Robinson in 'The Graduate'. I'm also under a false beard and wig as Walt Whitman, renowned American poet. In earlier festivals I've been another poet, aged 97; a sheriff; a doomed Norwegian doctor; Elsinore's former court jester; an incompetent restoration fop; the priest who converted Gustav Mahler; a Star's brother; a high aristocratic Secret Policeman, and a fantasy Sea God. You could say I've been around without even leaving Norwich.

SUSIE RICHARDSON

I am returning to the stage after a 7-year hiatus and I'm delighted to be doing it at the Hostry Festival. It's my first time and I'm looking forward to the whole event. My last few parts have been more on the serious side so it's a delight to play Mom and have some fun!

ROB FRADLEY-WILDE

Although lately at Sheringham and Great Yarmouth [as Owen in 'The Vicar of Dibley and Wilf in Quartet] most of my stage work is local, mainly for the Sewell Barn, Great Hall, and Maddermarket theatres, where recent alter-egos have included a seedy London blackmailer, a gormless trouser-losing Yorkshireman, some Noël Coward creations, and the poet John Betjeman.

STEPHEN GOYMER

Having worked with Stash in productions at the Maddermarket Theatre and Hostry Festival, I was delighted to be asked to be involved in 'The Graduate'. My previous involvement in local theatre has also

included plays performed with the Sewell barn Company and Great Hall Players over the past 40 years, with some brief spells of television and film work.

CHELSEA LEA MACCOLL

I graduated from The University of Bedfordshire in 2012 with First Class BA Hons in Dance and Professional Practice. I have a diverse performance background in contemporary dance, musical theatre, cheerleading and though I have since changed careers to become a nutritionist, I still love to perform when the opportunity arises.

BARRY PARSONS

I have been in the Norfolk theatre scene for 27 years. I perform regularly with the Great Hall Theatre Company and the Maddermarket Theatre. I'm also a photographer for local theatre. My recent performances include 'Audacity' and 'Proscenophobia'. I also direct occasionally. On stage, I love doing the comedies and making the audiences laugh. There is no greater joy.

PETA MORRANT

My recent productions include 'Gaslight' as Police Detective Rough, Moss Banks productions. Two comedy musicals 'Twisted Fairy Tale' as Narrator and 'Twisted Candy' as Pervert, Twisted Productions. Over the past three years I have worked with Richard J Hand, Head of Media at the UEA, learning live radio play performance and production, including live Foley and performing new works to audiences at festivals in London, Edinburgh and Norwich, streamed live to a wide audience.

HAMILTON WILSON

I have been involved with different aspects of the Hostry Festival since its beginning, working on each of the central production plays and also writing two plays and a new English language version of Ibsen's 'A Doll's House'. It's been a fascinating and encouraging process with so many creative people involved and this year I'm also playing three walk-on parts.

Stash Kirkbride & Peter Barrow present a PBSK Partnership Central Production in association with The University of East Anglia and Dipple & Conway

HOSTRY
FESTIVAL
CENTRAL
PRODUCTION
2019

THE GRADUATE



Cover Image by
Simon Finlay

THE GRADUATE GLASSES SUPPLIED BY

DIPPLE & CONWAY OPTICIANS Est. 1916

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE HOSTRY FESTIVAL CENTRAL PRODUCTION 2019



Director's Note

In this 9th year of the Hostry Festival at Norwich Cathedral we are so pleased to deliver the first ever Norfolk production of this story. And what a story! The stage version is in fact even better than the hugely ever popular film that made the career of Dustin Hoffman and secured a place in film history for Anne Bancroft as Mrs Robinson. Two of the festival's favourite actors, Tracey Catchpole and Christopher Neal, who've worked with us on so many occasions head up the cast again this year, and with good reason. They're good. Really good at what they do. I love working with people who commit and live and breathe the project way ahead of rehearsals even. We also welcome Neil Auker, Susie Richardson and Olivia Bourne to the festival, three outstanding actors who I've wanted to work with for a number of years, plus such an excellent supporting cast.

Having trained at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School and been a professional actor for 20 years plus in London, I know full well that acting is 50% solo work, 30% percent rehearsals, 20% performance. Any presentation that you see will have been at least 4 to 6 months prep work for most fully committed actors. Our entire cast and crew is made up of these types of people. Casting in all aspects of production is always key to me, taking up to 4 months to find the right person to play one particular part this year for example.

As an actor, turned director one of my greatest joys is knowing that talent is found at all levels of theatre. Being paid or not has very little to do with it. The passion and "the gift" are given to all those who truly have it within them to take the journey, and that is why I love amateur theatre and professional theatre in equal measure, working with those with little and no experience, and those with decades of it... we all get to climb the ladder of creativity together.

It's all here for you tonight. Great story telling. Strong and simple production values throughout, and I know you will enjoy every moment of this beautifully crafted play.

On behalf of my creative partner Peter Barrow (playing Mr Robinson so wonderfully for us) The University of East Anglia, Dipple & Conway, and all our supporters in business, trusts and charities, production team and volunteers, I welcome you to what will be an outstanding evening's entertainment in this stunningly beautiful venue, the home of the HOSTRY FESTIVAL, The Autumn Festival of Norfolk.

Stash Kirkbride
Artistic Director



Dedication

This production is dedicated to Norfolk Actor TREVOR MARKWORTH who passed away this year. Our love and admiration go to him and his family. Generous, gentle, supportive, naturally gifted, a family man and a friend to so many in the region. He auditioned for this production and of course was cast straight away, only to have to tell us he couldn't take part due to illness that had begun to take over much earlier than he could have imagined. We do this for you Trevor, and for so many Norfolk actors and performers who have passed on beyond this mortal coil, hopefully finding a new and even better stage on which to excel and tell new stories on. Trevor, we salute you.

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HOSTRY FESTIVAL CENTRAL PRODUCTION 2019

A Norfolk Production Premiere of

THE GRADUATE

MONDAY 21ST TO SATURDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2019
NIGHTLY 7.30PM TO 10PM

A play adapted by TERRY JOHNSON
Based in the novel by CHARLES WEBB
And the Motion Picture Screenplay by CALDER WILLINGHAM & BUCK HENRY
By Special Arrangement with Studio Canal & Samuel French, Inc

Directed & Produced by STASH KIRKBRIDE

Executive producer: PETER BARROW

Cast:

CHRISTOPHER NEAL Benjamin
TRACEY CATCHPOLE Mrs Robinson
NEIL AUKER Mr Braddock
OLIVIA BOURNE Elaine
PETER BARROW Mr Robinson
SUSIE RICHARDSON Mrs Braddock
ROB FRADLEY-WILDE Concierge/Priest
STEPHEN GOYMER Psychiatrist/Wedding Guest
CHELSEA LEA MACCOLL Dancer/Wedding Guest
BARRY PARSONS Bar Owner/Wedding Guest
PETA MORRANT Patron/Wedding Guest
HAMILTON WILSON Bellboy/Patron/Wedding Guest

Set Design & Construction by PETER BECK
Lighting by MARK IVAN BENFIELD
Sound by ASHLEY CASHFIELD
Costume SUZANNE BELL & AMANDA HOWARD
Assistant Producer HAMILTON WILSON
Festival Productions Manager MARK BENFIELD
Productions Support & DSM LAURA DE OLIVEIRA

Front of House & Wet Stock Manager SCOTT MEACOCK
Heads of Volunteers 2019 RON & SHARON UPTON
Production Assistants SUZANNA REDFORD, LUCY JACKSON, ELISE WHITE
Head of Festival Graphic Design RICHARD NOBES

Programme & Rehearsal Pictures by MARK IVAN BENFIELD
Front of House Production Pictures by SIMON FINLAY
Production Images: Front of House, Alpha Romeo Red Car,
all printed in partnership with GGS Photography

ACT 1 / Interval / ACT 2 / Finish approx. 9.45pm

Set in late summer, California circa 1967, The Graduate is a coming-of-age play – painfully funny and deeply human. Our festival Central Production for 2019 pays homage to the original iconic film starring Dustin Hoffman and Anne Bancroft, complete with period costumes, set design and of course featuring the songs of Simon & Garfunkel.

"This classic remains a hugely pleasurable experience" The Guardian

"The Graduate has a very special appeal" The New Yorker

