

From Brian (Ford):-

A Man's House

Play in 3 Acts by John Drinkwater. Performed at my school, in Marlow, many, many years ago.

Set in the House of a Merchant in Jerusalem during Holy Week.

The whole play takes place in a room with a Balcony, overlooking the main thoroughfare into Jerusalem. The main characters are the Man, his son Matthias, brusque, insensitive, and industrious, elder daughter Esther, blind and bitter, youngest daughter. Rachel, and her lover David, both young, passionate supporters of the Nazarene. A story of family differences and changing attitudes, as the play progresses from Palm Sunday through to the Crucifixion and beyond.

We performed many plays, during my time at school, but I believe this was the best.

Salad Days

At the Vaudeville Theatre, London c 1954

Summer and sunshine and falling in love, a tramp, a magic piano, a university and even a flying saucer. A delightful, light-hearted musical, it reflected the confidence and expectations of post war Britain.

The critics deplored it, but my generation loved it. It ran for over 2200 performances.

Die Zauberflöte

A Glyndebourne production of the Magic Flute at Theatre Royal , Plymouth, circa 2004

Some plays you remember for the wrong reasons! It was late November and the first of the late-night shopping evenings. All the City car parks were full so, parking on the Hoe, I arrived too late for the start. With a group of similar unfortunates, we listened to the first act in the short dark passageway leading to the auditorium but could see nothing for the performance on stage.

Joining my friends and family after the first act, I was surprised to find a play set under a flyover in modern New York. Although I was familiar with the music, I was not familiar with the complicated story, so this was not a good introduction! Still confused, I bought the DVD for a traditional performance at the Royal Opera House, which I still enjoy.

From Margaret (Clark):-

Films that have been memorable are **The Green Mile** with Tom Hanks, about a prisoner on death row with a special gift; **Shawshank Redemption** - again a prison story about a governor's greed. Sensing a trend here.

Seeing **Starlight Express** - London Theatre 1980s!! Can't remember much about the story, but the production ignited my love of the theatre 'cos the audience was seated amongst the train tracks and I was just so impressed by it.

Then, **the Adams Family** production - amateur stage production, which was just so good with the audience so near the stage, it impressed me more than the productions seen at the Theatre in Plymouth.

Lastly, **Pantomimes** cos, having lived in Ireland for 20 odd years where they tend to only do panto in schools, I missed them. Seeing **Alice in Wonderland** in Roche I was thrilled with every part of the professionalism of the production.

From Judy (Pilkington-Wood):-

I've just found the details of one of my favourite shows. It was in the Drum theatre in Plymouth quite a few years ago, but it was so original it has stuck in my mind.

It was called '**Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea**'. I'll just copy a bit from the leaflet.

"1927's multiple award winning show, cleverly combines live music, performance and storytelling with stunning films and animation. An ingeniously dark and strangely beautiful blend of fractured fairy tales and silent film homage unfolds as 1927 takes its audience on a surreal journey through enchanting, skewed and often sinister landscapes. Using the aesthetic of silent film, a series of comic vignettes unfold in which live performers interact seamlessly with animation and film. Hapless cats, marauding gingerbread men and cross dressing devils all make an appearance, not to mention the sinister twins and their misfortunate guests"

It was brilliant, I've never seen anything like it before, and would very much like to see it again, very clever.