



Faringdon Dramatic Society

presents

Candleford

*Adapted by Keith Dewhurst,
from Flora Thompson's trilogy -*

Lark Rise to Candleford

6th-8th Nov.

*Faringdon
Junior School*

www.faringdondramatic.org.uk Affiliated to NODA

Candleford

By *Keith Dewhurst*

Candleford is being staged to celebrate Faringdon Dramatic Society's 60th birthday. This play is a sequel to **Lark Rise** that we performed in May 1998 for our 50th.

Both plays were created from the trilogy 'Lark Rise to Candleford' by Flora Thompson, which has also recently been adapted and serialised for television. The book *Candleford* describes life in a small Oxfordshire town in the late 19th century where Flora Thompson worked in the post office. The book has no narrative as such, so just as Lark Rise was set in the first day of harvest, this play depicts a day in mid winter giving a lively picture of typical country life with music and songs.

The original plays were written to be performed as “promenade theatre” in which the smithy, dining room and post office were set in different locations in a large auditorium and the audience moved from one scene to another, mingling with the cast: “sometimes the actors could not even see the colleagues to whom they were speaking because there were too many spectators in between” wrote Keith Dewhurst in his introduction.

The constraints of our school hall make this difficult to achieve so we have set our production “in the round” and hope that you the audience will still feel the intimacy intended by the author, particularly at the end.

Debbie Lock

The action takes place on a single day in winter in the late 1800s, in the village of Candleford Green.

There will be an interval of twenty minutes between Acts 1 and 2 when refreshments will be served and the raffle drawn

Cast in order of appearance:

Laura Timms	Clare Matthews
Cinderella Doe	Scharlie Meeuws
Loony Joe	Katie Dyet
Emma Timms	Fiona Merrick
Albert Timms, Mr Wilkins, Mr Cochrane	Gary Bates
Edmund Timms	Barnaby Vogt
Mrs Peverill, Mrs Gascoigne	Sue Waine
Mrs Andrews	Jill Headey
Landlord	Joan Lee
Solomon	Richard Lock
Bavour	Allan Dover
Bill	Gary Field
Matthew	Roger Leitch
Dorcas Lane	Amanda Linstead
Zillah	Carolyn Taylor
Mrs Gubbins	Karen Whiffen
Thomas Brown, Sir Austin	Adrian Wells
Mrs Macey	Mary Mountford-Lister
John Gaskin	Jack Porter
Robert Bowler, John (<i>Laura's husband</i>)	Austen Roberts
Mr Chitty, Rev Coulsdon, Tom Ashley	Dave Headey
Sir Timothy	Alan Taylor
Cowman Jolliffe, Ben Trollope	John Taylor
Minnie	Alex Aspel

Musicians:

Karen Vogt (Piano)	Pete Haskins, Tom Bower (Bass guitar)
Rebecca Whiffen (Flute)	Steven Tuohy (Concertina)
Carol Warren-Smith (Recorder)	Margaret Hauser (Concertina)
Ken Sheffield (Concertina)	Wanda Oberman (Melodeon)

Singer: Lauren Bates

Production Team

Producer	Sarah Varnom
Set design	Jo Webster
Set construction	Jeff Barry, Tim Evans, Nick Evans, Gary Field, Richard Lock, Alan Merrick, Peter Webster
Stage manager	Peter Webster
Props	Jo Webster, Carole Tappenden
Costumes	Jeni Summerfield, Joan Lee
Prompt	Jayne Isham
Lighting	Ian Chandler
Sound	Gary Bates
Publicity	Adrian Wells
Programmes	Dave Headey
Front of House coordinator	Denise Monk
Front of House staff	Ann Taylor, Sarah Varnom, Ann Plant, Joyce Harrison, Lynda Bates, Lynda Wisbey, Simon Wisbey

Directed by Debbie Lock

Assistant director: **Dave Headey**

Musical direction: **Carol Warren-Smith**

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank:

- **Faringdon United Church** for rehearsal facilities
- **Faringdon Junior School** for their co-operation
- **The Nut Tree** for box office facilities
- **G and G Butchers** of Cornmarket for their donation of meat
- **Aston Pine Antiques** of London Street for period props

Principal characters

Clare Matthews (Laura)

Clare has previously appeared in FDS pantos (**Dreamers**, **Pirates of the Faribbean** and **Peter Panto**) and school productions **Oliver** (Mrs Sowerberry), **Tess of the d'Urbervilles** (Tess) and currently **The Crucible** (Giles). Clare has also appeared with Oxford Youth Theatre (**Live Nation** at the New Theatre) and says she has really enjoyed the experience of **Candleford**.



Amanda Linstead (Dorcas Lane)

Amanda trained in dance and drama in London, and worked professionally until she got married. She is very happy to be performing again with the Faringdon Dramatic Society, after a five year break! Previous productions include **Daisy Pulls it Off**, **Brush Up Your Shakespeare**, and **Cabaret** (as Sally Bowles). She is looking forward to being part of further productions with FDS.

Roger Leitch (Matthew)

Roger is one of that rare breed who has featured as actor, director and writer with FDS. His director's credits include such diverse productions as **Separate Tables** and **Oh What a Lovely War!**, and his last stage appearance was as Selsdon Mowbray in **Noises Off**.



Carolyn Taylor (Zillah)

Carolyn has appeared in and directed many productions, recent highlights being directing **Outside Edge** which FDS took to Canada earlier this year. She has also played Ranevskaya in **The Cherry Orchard** and Kate in **Taming of the Shrew** (for Cotswold Arcadians). Carolyn has also appeared with the ActIV company in the Edinburgh Fringe.

Allan Dover (Bavour)

Allan trained as an actor alongside Matt Lucas (of Little Britain) whom he remembers as a practical joker! He has worked in TV and theatre, appearing with, among others, Paul McGann from Dr Who. His first appearance on stage with FDS was as a terrifying Captain Hook in this year's **Peter Panto**.



Richard Lock (Solomon)

Richard has been involved with FDS for many years and is most often found playing in the panto band, or working backstage. He has made occasional forays onto the stage, most recently in **Outside Edge**. His misspent youth included many stage appearances in pantomimes and musicals.

Gary Field (Bill)

Gary joined FDS in February 2005 and has worked backstage on several productions as well as being the current chairman of the society. His first role was the cynical manservant Yasha in **The Cherry Orchard** and he was most recently on stage as the matrimonially troubled Bob in **Outside Edge**.





Karen Whiffen (Mrs Gubbins)

Karen has been a member of FDS for over 12 years, and has been involved in many productions as actor, director and backstage, as well as secretary to the society. Prior to Candleford her most recent appearance on stage was as the servant Dunyasha in **The Cherry Orchard** “her first attempt at classic drama”.

Adrian Wells (Brown, Sir Austin)

Since coming along 'for a laugh' in 1994 and being cast as Smee in the first production of **Peter Panto**, Adrian has appeared in a variety of FDS productions including **The Crucible**, **Arsenic & Old Lace**, **Much Ado About Nothing**, **Albert**, and **The Importance Of Being Earnest**, and **Outside Edge**.



New Members

Faringdon Dramatic Society was formed sixty years ago in 1948.

Since then it has mounted over 130 productions, from pantomime to dramas, comedies and Shakespeare. Recently we have carried off a number of awards including the Ron Kench Shield for Drama for **Dancing at Lughnasa** in 2004.

Our current membership is 60, but new members are always welcome, and there are opportunities for backstage and front of house personnel as well as actors.

For up to date details of the Society or membership please visit our website:

www.faringdondramatic.org.uk

Or email us at webmaster@faringdondramatic.org.uk



Faringdon Dramatic Society Past Productions

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| <p>1949 The Ghost Train
Busman's Honeymoon</p> <p>1950 A Quiet Weekend
Distinguished Gathering</p> <p>1951 When We Are Married
The Chiltern Hundreds
Who Lies There</p> <p>1952 The Happiest Days of Your Life</p> <p>1953 A Wagonload of Monkeys
Beggar My Neighbour
The Late Christopher Bean</p> <p>1954 See How They Run
A Lady Mislaid</p> <p>1955 The Shop at Sly Corner
Night Was Our Friend</p> <p>1956 Mystery At Greenfingers
Miranda
And This Was Odd</p> <p>1957 Haul For The Shore
Blithe Spirit</p> <p>1958 Night Must Fall
Queen Elizabeth Slept Here
Love in a Mist</p> <p>1959 Madam Tic-Tac
Sailor Beware
Murder on the Nile</p> <p>1960 The Blue Goose
Beside the Seaside
Breath of Spring</p> <p>1961 A Play for Ronnie
The Paragon
Murder at the Vicarage</p> <p>1962 Look Out For The Catch
The Lovebirds</p> <p>1963 When We Are Married
Russian Salad/Family Album</p> <p>1964 An Inspector Calls
Brush With a Body
Running Riot</p> <p>1965 The Poltergeist
The Brides of March
The Geese Are Getting Fat</p> | <p>1966 Rock-a-Bye Sailor
Post Horn Gallop
The Importance of Being Earnest</p> <p>1967 The Winslow Boy
Rookery Nook</p> <p>1968 Someone Waiting
Thark</p> <p>1969 Pools Paradise
Dial 'M' For Murder
Blithe Spirit</p> <p>1970 The Touch of Fear
I'll Get My Man
Something to Hide</p> <p>1971 Tons of Money
The Bride and the Bachelor
Dead on Nine</p> <p>1972 A Basinful of the Briny</p> <p>1974 Beside the Seaside</p> <p>1975 The Brides of March</p> <p>1978 Post Horn Gallop</p> <p>1979 A Murder Has Been Arranged
Doctor In The House</p> <p>1980 Night Must Fall
The Brides of March</p> <p>1981 House by the Lake
Mother Figure
Clara's On The Curtain
Time Murderer Please</p> <p>1982 Rookery Nook
Busybody
The Laboratory
Green for Danger</p> <p>1983 Breath of Spring
Something to Hide
Fool's Paradise</p> <p>1984 Babes in the Wood
Cat on the Fiddle
Murder in Company</p> <p>1985 The Madam
None the Wiser
Portrait of a Murder</p> |
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- 1986 Tomb With a View
The Murder of Maria Marten
Gosforth's Fete
Funeral Tea
Albert
- 1987 Sleeping Beauty
Local Affairs
Brush With a Body
- 1988 Jack and the Beanstalk
After Magritte
Between Mouthfuls
Nasty Things, Murders
Outside Edge
- 1989 Cinderella
Murder for the Asking
Lord Arthur Saville's Crime
- 1990 Aladdin
Time and the Conways
Ten Times Table
- 1991 The Wind in the Willows
Move Over Mrs Markham
Stepping Out
- 1992 Babes In The Wood
Farndale Murder Mystery
Time To Kill
- 1993 Sinbad the Sailor
Black Comedy
Blithe Spirit
- 1994 The Wizard of Oz
Cold Comfort Farm
The Woman in White
- 1995 Peter Panto
The Good Old Days
Visiting Hour
- 1996 Dick Turpin
Time of My Life
Witness for the Prosecution
- 1997 Sleeping Beauty
Blood Brothers
Pygmalion
- 1998 The Pied Piper
Lark Rise
Habeas Corpus
- 1999 Alice in Wonderland
Confusions
Oh What A Lovely War
- 2000 Arthur's Adventure
Old Time Music Hall
Hell and High Water
- 2001 Cinderella
The Crucible
Daisy Pulls It Off
- 2002 Babes In The Wood
Brush Up Your Shakespeare
Cabaret
- 2003 The Wind in the Willows
Much Ado About Nothing
Separate Tables
- 2004 How Clarence Earned His Wings
Arsenic and Old Lace
Shakers
Dancing at Lughnasa
- 2005 Snow White
Idle Chatter
Educating Rita
- 2006 Dreamers
The Cherry Orchard
Noises Off
- 2007 Pirates of the Faribbean
The Importance of being Earnest
(with GLT) Lend me a Tenor
- 2008 Peter Panto
Outside Edge