



Faringdon Dramatic Society

presents

HER ES

*Sometimes
it's hard to
forget...*

*... but
sometimes
it's hard to
remember!*

*A comic play
by Gérald Sibleyras
translated by Tom Stoppard*

**11th - 13th Nov
2010**

Faringdon Junior School

www.faringdondramatic.org.uk

Affiliated to NODA

HEROES

by **Gérald Sibleyras**

translated and adapted by Tom Stoppard

Heroes is a Parisian boulevard comedy about three men: an idealist, a pragmatist and a fence sitter - all veterans of the French army in the First World War. This delightful study of three war heroes spending their last years in a retirement home for ex-servicemen is a touching view on the combined effects of war, old age and personal characteristics developed over a lifetime. It's 1959 and Philippe, Gustave and Henri dream of making their escape, if not to Indochina then at least as far as the poplar trees on the hill.

The only problem is: Henri has a dodgy leg, Philippe keeps passing out because of the shrapnel stuck in his head, and Gustave hasn't left the home for years...

In their way stands the steadfast Sister Madeleine, their own thwarted ambitions, and each other - not to mention a 200lb stone statue!

The play is set on the terrace of a nursing home for old soldiers, somewhere in France.

Scene 1 - a warm day in August, 1959

Scene 2 - the following day

Scene 3 - a few days later

Scene 4 - a few more days later

Scene 5 - the next day

Scene 6 - a day in September

There will be an interval of fifteen minutes between Scene 3 and Scene 4 when the raffle will be drawn and refreshments will be served.

Cast:

Gustave	John Taylor
Henri	Dave Headey
Philippe	Daniel Lander

Directed by Sarah Varnom

Piano: **Debra Warner**

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank:

- **Faringdon Junior School** for their cooperation,
- **Faringdon United Church** for rehearsal facilities,
- **The Nut Tree** for ticket sales,
- And all FDS members who have helped with Front of House.

Production Team

Producer	Debbie Lock
Set Design/Construction Manager	Jo Webster
Construction Team	Peter Webster, Carole Tappenden, Alan Merrick, Adrian Wells, Harry Wells, Richard Lock, Jeff Barry
Special Effects	Alan Merrick
Lighting Design	Ian Chandler
Sound	Gary Bates
Stage Manager	Jeff Barry
Costume	Jeni Summerfield, Joan Lee
Props	Fiona Merrick
Continuity	Carolyn Taylor
Poster	Adrian Wells
Programmes	Dave Headey
Make-Up	Mary Mountford-Lister
Front of House Manager	Sandra Keen
Historical display & Photographs	Joan Lee

Profiles

John Taylor (Gustave)

John is celebrating sixty years of treading the boards. Unlike Gustave he never soldiered in French Indo-China, but during National Service in 1950s Malaya he directed a production of **Quiet Week-end** (shades of It Ain't Arf 'Ot, Mum). In 1964 he won the award for Best Supporting Actor for his role as Mick in Pinter's **The Caretaker**. Since moving to Faringdon in 1998, John has hugely enjoyed a decade of acting in, producing or directing nearly a score of FDS productions.



Dave Headey (Henri)

Dave's first stage role was as Old Gobbo in a school production of **The Merchant of Venice**. Now one of the FDS veterans, Dave has directed several productions, most recently **Noises Off** in 2006, and appeared in many more including **The Cherry Orchard** (as Firs), **Outside Edge** (Kevin) and **Cold Comfort Farm** (Adam Lamsbreath). Dave has also appeared with the ActIV Theatre Company at the Edinburgh Fringe.

Daniel Lander (Philippe)

Dan's previous credits include Algernon in **The Importance of being Earnest**, Lloyd Dallas in **Noises Off**, Mortimer Brewster in **Arsenic & Old Lace**, Nico in the award-winning **Albert**, and Lopakhin in **The Cherry Orchard**. His last appearance was as the outrageously-padded Abanazar in this year's panto, **Aladdin**. Dan has worked in the past with Gordon Kaye and Ricky Gervais.



Sarah Varnom (Director)

Since joining FDS Sarah has enjoyed all manner of roles from **Wicked Witch**, to leading parts in **Cabaret**, **Dancing at Lughnasa**, and **Noises Off**. She was recently seen wielding her handbag as Lady Bracknell in **The Importance of being Earnest** and hiding fellow actor Dave, under the folds of a voluminous fur coat in **Outside Edge**. She has thoroughly enjoyed her return to directing and getting better acquainted with this evocative play.

Faringdon Dramatic Society

Faringdon Dramatic Society was formed over fifty years ago in 1948.

Since then it has mounted over 130 productions, ranging 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