

Faringdon Dramatic Society  
presents



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NODA

# Cider with Rosie

by Laurie Lee  
Adapted for the stage by  
James Roose-Evans

Th. 9<sup>th</sup> Nov  
Fri. 10<sup>th</sup> Nov  
Sat. 11<sup>th</sup> Nov

Faringdon Junior School

[www.faringdondramatic.org.uk](http://www.faringdondramatic.org.uk)

# Cider with Rosie

by Laurie Lee

Adapted for the stage by James Roose-Evans

**Cider with Rosie** is a book published in 1959 by Laurie Lee. It is the first of a trilogy that continues with **As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning** (1969) and **A Moment of War** (1991). It has sold over six million copies worldwide.

The novel is an account of Lee's childhood in the village of Slad, Gloucestershire, in the period soon after the First World War. It chronicles the traditional village life which disappeared with the advent of new developments, such as the coming of the motor car, and relates the experiences of childhood seen from many years later. The identity of Rosie was revealed years later to be Lee's distant cousin Rosalind Buckland.

Laurie Lee's mother inherited four children by her husband's first marriage (Marge, Doth, Phyll and Harold, who is not depicted in the stage play) and her children by him were Jack, Loll (Laurie) and Tony. There was also a daughter who died at the age of four.

**Cider with Rosie** has been dramatised for television three times, by the BBC and once by Carlton Television for ITV. It was adapted for BBC Radio 4 in 2010.

This stage adaptation by James Roose-Evans for the Theatre Royal Bury St. Edmunds was originally performed at the Kings Lynn Festival in 1963, in the presence of HRH Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

The action of the play follows Laurie Lee's childhood, roughly between 1917 and 1930.

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

## Cast:

Laurie Lee (narrator)	Dave Headey
Loll (Laurie, teenager)	Leo Thrower
Loll (Laurie, child)	Laurie Lane
Mother	Sarah Varnom
Marge )	Alison Morris
Doth ) Laurie's sisters	Heather Stone
Phyll )	Millie Long
Jack ) Laurie's brothers	Josh Thrower
Tony )	Finlay Brand
Miss B	Sandra Keen
Miss Wardley	Fiona Merrick
Spadge Hopkins	Jacob Bayliss
Walt Kerry	Finlay Rundall Farquhar
Granny Wallon	Carole Tappenden
Granny Trill	Joan Lee
Mrs Davies	Carolyn Taylor
Mr Davies	Peter Webster
Vincent	Jacob Bayliss
Vicar	Gary Field
Uncle Sid	Peter Webster
Squire	Alan Taylor
Mrs Pimbury	Jo Webster
Baroness Von Hodenburg	Jeni Summerfield
Rosie	Kia Howard
Children	Lauren Elvidge, Skye Rundall Farquhar, Cecily Roberts, Samantha Viner
Musician	Jon Lane

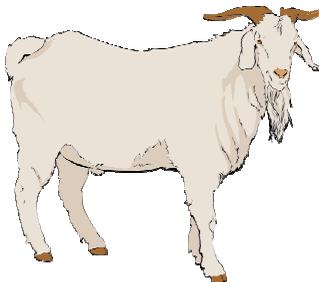
## Production Team

Producer	Helen Thrower
Stage manager	Jeff Barry
Set design and construction	Jeff Barry, Peter Webster, Alan Merrick, Jo Webster
Lighting and sound	Ian Chandler, Gary Bates, Steve Greening
Wardrobe	Jeni Summerfield, Joan Lee, Lynda Bates
Continuity	Amanda Linstead
Publicity	Paul Mountford-Lister, Adrian Wells, Ian Lee
Programmes	Dave Headey
Front of house	Katie Dyet, Denise Monk, aided by the cast

## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank:

- **Faringdon Junior School** for their cooperation,
- **Faringdon United Church** for rehearsal facilities,
- **The Gifted Magpie** for ticket sales.





Thanks to **Paul  
Mounford-Lister** and  
**Anna Marlow** for photos

## Principal characters

### Dave Headey (Laurie)

Dave has directed several plays for FDS and has lost count of the number he has performed in. He has also appeared with Amegos Theatre, the Act IV Theatre Group and occasionally with Lechlade Players. It has been quite a challenge narrating **Cider with Rosie** – though a most enjoyable one – this being his first ever play where he has not exchanged a single line with any other cast member.



### Sarah Varnom (Mother)

It's good to see Sarah back on stage. She has enjoyed all manner of roles from Wicked Witch to Lady Bracknell and she was "Mrs Snout" in **A Midsummer Night's Dream** in 2013. In 2010 Sarah directed **Heroes** which was performed as part of a dinner/theatre experience and was a huge success, winning the NODA Flame Award that year.

### Leo Thrower (Loll)

Leo started with FDS at the age of nine with his first Panto **Cinderella** in 2012, and has been involved in many more over the years as well as other productions such as **Reflections**. Leo has attended Stagecoach Performing Arts for the last six years, studying music, dance and drama as well as attending ballet classes. He has also been involved in school productions like **Beauty and the Beast** and **Joseph**.



### Josh Dunn (Jack)

Josh's first time on stage was here at the Junior School, in their production of **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat** (he was Pharaoh's assistant). Since then he has been more of a musician than an actor, playing guitar and bass, but he has really enjoyed being in two FDS productions this year (he was Sir Loin in this year's panto **Arthur's Adventure**).

### Alison Morris (Marge)

Alison lives in Witney and this is her first performance with FDS. For ten years she has been a member of two choirs, taking roles in sketches and musicals performed in the Summer with Witney Inter Church Singers. She previously played Ratty in the St Mary's Church production of **Wind in the Willows**. "It's been great to try my hand at something a bit different with **Cider with Rosie**. I'm really looking forward to it" she says.





## Heather Stone (Doth)

Heather is studying psychology, sociology and drama in Fairford. Her last performance was an A-level piece **The Dressmaker** based on the novel but performed in the style of KneeHigh, and is currently exploring the play **Yerma**. This is her first appearance with FDS: "I have enjoyed performing outside of my A-levels, it has reminded me why I love acting so much!"

## Millie Long (Phyll)

Millie is studying GCSE drama at school. She has been taking part in FDS pantomimes for the last three years, but this her first time in a play. She's also involved in the Shakespeare Schools Festival with a performance of **Macbeth** in the Wyvern Theatre. "I've enjoyed rehearsals for **Cider With Rosie** and I'm really looking forward to the performances" she says.



## Finlay Brand (Tony)

Finlay has been a member of Faringdon Dramatic Society for four years. He has loved performing in the pantomime, and this will be his first play. He has also been a member of Stagecoach, performing in the musical **Cats**. "I have really enjoyed being part of the cast of **Cider with Rosie**" he says.

## Kia Howard (Rosie)

Three years ago, aged ten, Kia joined FDS for her first pantomime, as a Rose in **The Snow Queen**. In 2016 and 2017 she was in **Happily Ever After** (as Red Riding Hood) and **Arthur's Adventure**. Last year Kia took part in the FCC musical **Back to the 80s** and is currently rehearsing for **Macbeth** in the Shakespeare schools festival taking place at the Wyvern theatre.



## Laurie Lane (Loll – child)

Laurie writes: "My name is Laurie Lane and I play Laurie Lee! I go to Faringdon junior school, I'm nine and this is my first play. I also like rugby and karate. I wanted to be in the play because I thought it would be fun and it is. My best bit is the school scene where I'm carried off by a bunch of teenage girls!" Couldn't you have tried your karate on those girls, Laurie?

## Debbie Lock (Director)

Debbie has directed several plays and pantomimes for FDS including, most recently, **Side Effects** which was performed at Buscot Park and then in Fort Erie, Canada. She has wanted to direct **Cider with Rosie** for a long time and is thrilled to be able to do it this year with an amazing cast.



## Faringdon Dramatic Society

Faringdon Dramatic Society was formed nearly seventy years ago, in 1948. Since then it has mounted over 150 productions, ranging from pantomime to dramas, comedies and Shakespeare. We have carried off a number of awards including the NODA Flame Award for **Heroes** in 2010: 'for inspirational contribution to the pursuit of excellence in Theatre' and we have won four of the last five pantomime competitions run by the Oxfordshire Drama network. The most recent was for **Arthur's Adventure** earlier this year.

Our current membership is around sixty, 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, or to write us a review of this production, please visit our website:

[www.faringdondramatic.org.uk](http://www.faringdondramatic.org.uk)

Our next production will be the new panto **Dick Whittington**, written by our own member Peter Webster, on **January 27th and 28th**, and **February 2nd and 3rd**. Book the date!



*The Cotswold Cider Company wishes the cast all the best in breaking a leg, and urges the audience to mind how they go after their evening's tipple!*

[www.cotswoldciderco.com](http://www.cotswoldciderco.com) The Mill House, Coleshill, Oxon