

FARINGDON DRAMATIC SOCIETY



'The old lie, Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori'

Wilfred Owen 1893 – 1918

(‘It is sweet and right to die for one’s country’)

Reflections

1914-18

a COLLECTION OF MEMORIES, LETTERS, SONGS, SKETCHES AND
SHORT PLAYS REMEMBERING “THE WAR TO END ALL WARS”

6TH, 7TH, AND 8TH

NOVEMBER 2014

FARINGDON JUNIOR SCHOOL

affiliated to NODA

Reflections 1914 – 18

Written and compiled by Carolyn Taylor

with suggestions from the cast

Since Faringdon Dramatic Society's November production falls so near to Remembrance Sunday, we had talked for some time about putting on a performance relating to World War One in this 100th Anniversary year. After a brainstorming meeting of some FDS members, **Reflections** grew from the idea to tell the story of the war, from 1914 to 1918, through the voices and experiences of people from the time, plus the one act play *Lions and Donkeys* by Steve Harper.

There is a wealth of material and the decision on what to leave out was almost as difficult as what to include, but I have compiled 'Reflections' using letters, the many songs, poems and first hand accounts that capture events so vividly and following the story of particular individuals, both real and fictitious.

It became clear that there was a need for some original material too, particularly regarding the changing role of women through the war. We also needed the voice of narrators, together with the use of the screen to show photos and news headlines to set things in context. The decision to perform in the round was a natural one, following on from this. We hope you enjoy our tribute to the bravery, humour and stoicism of the people who lived through those times and, of course, to the many who died.

Carolyn Taylor

A note on the wardrobe:

Gathering a collection of WW1 military costumes was always going to be a challenge, especially at this time and in this particular year. We have not therefore tried to be authentic... we are merely 'representing' the uniforms. We are especially grateful for the generous assistance of Shane Keenan who has kindly loaned us pieces of his WW1 re-enactment uniforms.

Jeni Summerfield

Synopsis of Scenes

Prologue

On the Banks of Green Willow - George Butterworth
(12th July 1885 - 5th August 1916)

MCMXIV - Philip Larkin

1914

The Outbreak of the War

Joining Up

Marching Away

The Christmas Truce

1915

On the Home Front

Letters home

1916

Two Proposals

On the Home Front

The Battle of The Somme

The Lads in Their Hundreds - A E Housman / Steve Knightley

Interval

1917

At the Front

A Soldiers Declaration

1918

On the Home Front

Letters from The Front Line

Lions and Donkeys by Steve Harper

November 1918

Finale

There will be an interval of 20 minutes between Acts 1 and 2 during which refreshments from the bar will be served and the raffle drawn.

Songs 1914 – 1918

Pack Up Your Troubles

Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag
And smile, smile, smile.
While you've a Lucifer to light your fag
Smile boy's that's the style.
What's the use of worrying?
It never was worthwhile, so
Pack up your troubles in your old kit bag
And smile, smile, smile.

It's a Long Way to Tipperary

It's a long way to Tipperary,
It's a long way to go.
It's a long way to Tipperary,
To the sweetest girl I know.
Goodbye Piccadilly,
Farewell Leicester Square,
It's a long, long way to Tipperary
But my heart's right there.

We Don't Want to Lose You

Oh we don't want to lose you
But we think you ought to go,
For your king and your country
Both need you so. We will want you and miss you,
But with all our might and main,
We will cheer you, thanks you, kiss you
When you come back again.

Goodbye

Goodbye, Goodbye!
Wipe the tear, baby dear, from your eye.
Though it's hard to part I know,
I'll be tickled to death to go.
Don't sighee! Don't cryee!
There's a silver lining in the skye.
Bonsoir old thing! Cheerio, chin chin.
Na-Poo, Toodle-oo! Goodbye!

Keep the Home Fires Burning

Keep the home fires burning
While your hearts are yearning,
Though your lads are far away
They dream of Home.
There's a silver lining,
Through the dark clouds shining.
Turn the dark clouds inside out
'Til the boys come home.

Roses of Picardy

Roses are shining in Picardy
In the hush of the silver dew.
Roses are flowering in Picardy
But there's never a rose like you.
And the roses will die with the summer time
And our roads may be far apart
But there's one rose that dies not in Picardy,
'Tis the rose that I keep in my heart

Cast

Narrators

Joan Lee
Carolyn Taylor
Jeni Summerfield

Mr McGregor
Mr Guinness

Peter Webster
Alan Taylor

Newspaper Boy
Recruiting Officer
Wilfred Owen
Siegfried Sassoon
Mrs. Susan Owen
Dora Willatt
2nd Lt. Cecil Slack
Pianist
Waitress

Leo Thrower
Sean Hodgson
Adrian Wells
Andy Pritchard
Jo Webster
Ellie Hickman
Seb Allum
Debra Warner
Carole Tappenden

Emma
Janet
Madge

Sandra Keen
Debbie Lock
Helen Thrower

Soldiers

Gary Bates
Gary Field
Matthew Warner

Lions and Donkeys:

Sgt. Tommy Atkins
Cpl. Dave Rawlings
Lt. Hargreaves
Willie Schmidt

Jeff Barry
Seb Allum
Austen Roberts
Richard Lock

Production Team

Director - Reflections	Carolyn Taylor
Directors - Lions and Donkeys	Peter Webster, Gary Field
Musical Director	Debra Warner
Producer	Katie Dyet
Sound, Technical and Screen design	Gary Bates
Lighting design	Ian Chandler
Sound/Screen and Lighting operator	Paul Mountford-Lister
Wardrobe	Jeni Summerfield, Joan Lee, Lynda Bates
Set design and building	Peter Webster
Publicity	Fiona Merrick, Adrian Wells, Ian Lee
Props	Ceri Baker
Programmes	Dave Headey
Front of House Co-ordinator	Jayne Hoyland
Front of House	Ceri Baker, Sarah Couzens, Yvonne Kelly, Ian Lee, Amanda Linstead, Denise Monk, Fiona Merrick, Shela Rowan, Helen Tate

Acknowledgements

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- **Faringdon Junior School** for their cooperation,
- **Faringdon United Church** for rehearsal facilities,
- **The Nut Tree** for ticket sales,
- **Shane Keenan** and **Edward Seymour** for loan of WW1 memorabilia and costumes.

Faringdon Dramatic Society

Faringdon Dramatic Society has been around for over sixty-five years, having been formed in 1948.

Since then it has mounted around 150 productions, ranging from pantomime to dramas, comedies and Shakespeare. Recently 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'.

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

Our next production is **The Snow Queen**, a winter's tale by our own Peter Webster.

It will be on **30-31 Jan** and **6-7 Feb** next year. Book the date and watch out for announcements in the local press.

