



Underneath the Lintel

by Glen Berger

PROGRAMME


www.criteriontheatre.co.uk

YOU AND CRI



It was great to finally get the theatre back open for the what felt like too long for the performance of 3 Women. What really stood out was just being able to see so many friendly faces again back in the theatre; it really is the main reason why people enjoy being involved in shows at the Criterion. Hopefully, this time we will be able to move forward with increased certainty around the guidelines for venues like ours and continue our artistic output to as many audience members as possible.

We were also delighted to welcome some new acting talent to the stage in the shape of Chloe Hayward. Giving opportunities to new members is an important part of any organisation but particularly for voluntary organisations such as ours. Seeing so many people attend a recent new members event was really encouraging on this front.



Since then, we've also been able to reopen the bar to customers on Wednesday and Friday nights, bringing another sense of normality back to the place. The popular coffee morning is also set to return from September, operating on the first Saturday of every month, with the opportunity to catch up over a coffee and, of course, a delicious homemade cake (or two!)



I suppose I shouldn't finish without wishing the cast of Underneath the Lintel all the best for a great run! It's been an interesting return, having spent the initial part of the rehearsal period continuing the lockdown tradition of rehearsals via Zoom, to finally returning back into the theatre.

I hope to see you in and around the theatre in the coming weeks, in whatever capacity.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

At the heart of this play, Glen Berger poses an interesting conundrum.

Life is a product of the decisions we all make, sometimes in a split-second: and we all have to live with the consequences, whether we intended them or not.

Meanwhile, random events happen that we couldn't anticipate and certainly can't control: and we all have to live with those too. (In a horrible irony, the play's New York premiere in September 2001 was postponed by the events of 9/11.)

So, with "Fate", "Chance" and our own past choices dictating our lives, what can we do, of our own free will? The play's answer to that question is why we wanted to tackle it: and why we wanted to do it now.

Like everyone else in the last 18 months, we've had to find new ways to do things we all used to do without thinking.



As the Criterion Board worked out how to reopen the theatre safely, the Chair was also moonlighting in a spare room at home, rehearsing on zoom, with a sports bag full of pretend "evidences"; while the creative teams in all departments set about creating the real ones, again all at home.

After all that "working from home", it is very good to be back in the "office" with everyone again. Not least because, right now, Glen Berger's heartfelt thinking about humanity deserves an audience.

I hope we have done it justice.

Richard Warren

For all the latest updates from the theatre, check out the website

www.criteriontheatre.co.uk

CAST



The Librarian

Jon Elves

Time: 1986

Place: A theatre, "between shows"

The word "intel" ("a timber or stone over a doorway") is ultimately derived, via Old French, from the Latin word "limen" (threshold). Combine it with the word "sub" (under) and you have one possible root for both "sublime" and "subliminal".

CREW

Director Richard Warren

Stage Manager Helen Withers

Rehearsal Prompt Helen Williams

Artwork Designer David Butler

Lighting Design Karl Stafford
Lighting/Projection Karl Stafford
Paul Harrison

Sound Designer Dave Cornish
Sound Operation Dave Cornish
Ellen Sharkey

Set Build Team Frances Dixon
Terry Rahilly
Simon Sharpe
Paul Tate
Mike Waterson

Set Paint Team Paul Chokran
Judy Talbot

Props Team Sally Patalong
Bill Young
Erica Young

Wardrobe Team Pam Coleman
Anne-marie Greene

Special thanks to Andrew Brooks, Jane Flavelle and Jill Bennett for wise advice, at crucial times



1961—
2021

SHINE BRIGHT LIKE A DIAMOND

Celebrating 60 Years

Find out about upcoming events at www.criteriontheatre.co.uk

Ever wondered how people got involved with the Criterion?

As part of the 60th Anniversary Year, Jamie Firth has been busy interviewing people from the Criterion's past and present, finding out about their involvement with the theatre. The hope is to build a living memory of the Criterion, documenting the impact that it has had on people's lives.

One of the common themes is the concept of friendship that people have found by being involved in the Criterion, with more than a fair share of relationships starting out from a meeting at Berkeley Rd South. Whether they are long-lasting friendships, or have helped introduce the next generation into the theatre family, it's an interesting insight into the way this place has shaped those who've participated in its longevity.

And of course, there are great tales of where things have gone wrong, an embarrassing moment saved by some quick witted thinking. Or how about a Criterion buffet afternoon which was attended by armed guards?



You can view all the videos as they are uploaded on our [Youtube channel](#), or on the [Theatre website](#). And don't forget that you can also add your own memories about individual plays through the [Criterion Archive](#), which includes details of all productions since 1955.



SHAKESPEARE FRAMED!

In the early summer of 2019, two Coventry University photography students were asked to gather work experience in an area of interest to help enhance their CV and portfolio.

Friends Alice Colbert and Charlotte Davies were both very interested in theatre and thought it would be great to get involved with the Criterion Theatre. They proposed a collaborative project to document and showcase the production process of "Much Ado About Nothing" from start to finish.

Working together with director Pete Bagley and the rest of the production's crew and cast, they managed to capture a wide range of images, all the way from the first read through to the dress rehearsals.



Pete Bagley entertaining the troops during a rehearsal of "Much Ado"

The finished project helped Alice and Charlotte to successfully pass their degrees, but the result of their labour has not been able to be showcased at the theatre...until now! Throughout the run of "Underneath the Lintel" (and the coffee morning on 4th September), you will be able to view a selection of their images in the foyer/bar area.

Alice is currently working on a variety of graphic design projects around a touring theatrical version of Hairspray and is keen to continue to support the Criterion where she can with her graphics skills.

Pause awhile and let my counsel sway you.... (enjoythe exhibition!)



LOTTERY

Fancy a £365 Christmas bonus?

Your chance to win £1 for every day of our 60th year with the Criterion Lottery.

"The Criterion Lottery" replaced the old "100 Club" in 2007. With monthly prizes of £100, £50 and £25 for the winners, it has also generated a crucial net income for the theatre of over £35,000.

This year, to celebrate the Criterion's 60th birthday, we're introducing a special one-off prize to be drawn in December: £365 - that's £1 for every day of 2021. For the lucky winner, it's a nice Lottery bonus for Christmas; for the Criterion, it's a vital financial lifeline now as we begin to reopen.

Members and company members can take part in the Lottery for just £5 a month, paid by Standing Order. With less than 100 numbers in the draw, your chances of winning are much higher than with other lottery draws and you get to help out your favourite local theatre at the same time.

What could be better?

For details, please e-mail lottery@critteriontheatre.co.uk or call/text Mike Tooley on 07946 274846.



CRITERION FRIENDS

We are so grateful to our current Criterion Friends who continue to give us small, and larger, donations on a regular basis to help us keep going into our seventieth decade!

You can join this list - there is real power in lots of people giving us small amounts on a regular basis. And you can gift-aid your pledge too. Gifting the cost of a double gin and tonic every month will make all the difference to your local theatre!

So what are you waiting for? Contact Helen McGowan on friends@critteriontheatre.co.uk or visit www.critteriontheatre.co.uk/join/friend to find out more."

- Anonymous
- John and Wendy Baxter
- Mick Forey
- Pete Gillam and Anne-marie Greene
- The McGowan Family
- Ruth Miller and Bill Butler
- Chris Murly
- John and Kate Purcell
- Jane and Keith Railton
- Judy and Simon Sharpe
- Zoe and Rob Wartnaby

The Criterion Playreading Group

Each month the Criterion's Playreading Group come together to read a selected play. Everyone is welcome to join the reading, either to take a part, or just to listen. And you don't have to leave your home to do it either, as all readings are available viz Zoom.

Upcoming readings:

Weds 29th July (7.30pm) "Naughts and Crosses" by Malorie Blackman

Full details including how to join the fun are available on the website.

We Are
OPEN
10.30am-12pm

SATURDAY 4TH SEPT

COFFEE

MORNING

Criterion Theatre
Berkeley Rd South
CV5 6EF



Coffee
Cake
Community



In July, the Theatre was invited to reprise the Theatre's production of Mark Gatiss' "Queers" on the opening night of the week-long British All-Winners Festival at The Albany Theatre hosted by the National Drama Festivals Association.

The festival was staged in Coventry to coincide with the City of Culture 2021 and was a celebration of the very best of amateur drama from around the country.

It was not only a great experience for everyone involved, but the production was awarded the runners up prize in the "full-length play" category and, Georgia Kelly won the prestigious Adjudicator's Award for her performance of "Bobbie" in the show.

Huge congratulations to Georgia, and all those involved in the production.

The "All Winners Final" is scheduled to return to the Albany Theatre in 2022.



Need a
Pitstop?



You can now order your drink and/or ice cream before you even get to the theatre via the Criterion Bar online ordering system.

Collect it on your way into the theatre and enjoy some refreshment at your seat. You can also choose to order for after the performance too.

Please be aware that cash payments will not be available at the bar itself - CARD ONLY.

Go to <https://www.criteriontheatre.co.uk/bar> to start your order!

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FRANKENSTEIN

BY

VICTOR GIALANELLA

Saturday 30th October - 6th November 2021

It is Halloween season and here is a staging of one of the classic monster stories.

This production isn't a rehash of Boris Karloff's Universal Studios version, but a direct adaptation of Mary Shelley's Gothic novel for the stage. Victor Gialanella, the playwright, first brought this version to Broadway in 1981 and his adaptation of this classic tale of horror and suspense details the ill-fated experiments of Dr. Frankenstein as he attempts to fathom the secrets of life and death.

Purchasing cadavers from unsavoury grave robbers, he gives life to a creature which is both powerful and terrifying, yet touchingly innocent... but there is a high price to be paid for attempting to play God.

Open Reading and Audition Information

Open Reading on Sunday 5th September 19:30pm. Held in the theatre bar area. Anyone interested in auditioning or who just enjoys reading plays is very warmly welcomed.

Auditions will be held from Monday 6th September through to Friday 10th September from 19:30 to 21:30 in the auditorium.

For more information, please contact the director Steve Brown by emailing to: nowsteve.sb@gmail.com.



If you have any comments about your experience with The Criterion Theatre, please email us at: customerexperience@criteriontheatre.co.uk

Video and/or audio recording of performance by any means whatsoever are strictly prohibited

Registered Charity 11614

We believe that it is important as an organisation that serves the people of Coventry to speak out against racial injustice and prejudice.

We want to be clear – Black Lives Matter.

We are listening, and we are learning about how we can serve our communities better together.

WE'RE PART OF
COVENTRY'S
STORY



20
21

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OF CULTURE


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