

Evelina - 2-28 March 2004, Pentameters Theatre

The Cast



Sophie Trott (Evelina)

Sophie has just returned from a long stint working for Northern Stage Company. Productions there included Oscar Wilde's *The Happy Prince*, George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, and the bride in a new piece called *Black Eyed Roses*. Other recent theatre work include a UK tour of *Jane Eyre* (Helen and Adele), *Peter Rabbit and his Friends* (Peter) for the Unicorn Theatre, and *Hey There Boy with the Be-Bop* (Chantaye) for Polka and Soho Theatres. TV includes leading roles in *Peak Practice* (Carlton), *Hope and Glory* (BBC), and *Doctors* (BBC). Films include *Bollywood Queen*, *Salt Scrubbers*, and various short films and music videos.

Tom Sykes (Lord Orville)

This is Tom's third play at the Pentameters theatre. In the first, *Wit*, he appeared as an unsympathetic American doctor, and in the second, *Johnny Simple*, he was playing an amiable half-wit. Other theatre credits, since graduating from Mountview, include, *Twelfth Night*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *The Country Wife*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *Oedipus Rex*, *The Real Thing*, *The Ruffian on the Stair*, *A View from the Bridge*, and *Mary Rose*. Tom has also appeared in a range of weird and wonderful short films.

Lenny Peters (Sir Clement Willoughby)

Lenny trained at L.A.M.D.A.. His TV work includes *Life as we Know It*, *Fifteen Stories High*, *Off Your Box and Talk to Me*, all for the BBC. His classical theatre work includes Algernon in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Macduff in *Macbeth*, Malvolio and Sebastian in *Twelfth Night*, Camilo in *The Winter's Tale* and Bottom and Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Other more diverse theatre includes the King Ape in the physical theatre show *Apes Society*, at the Edinburgh festival, a dinner lady, an eleven year old boy and a teenage girl in *Alien Invasion* for the Belgrade theatre Coventry, and the Father in *Persephone* for Empty Space Theatre Company.

Brenda Dowsett (Mme Duval and Mrs Selwyn)

Brenda trained at Webber Douglas Academy. She then played leading and character roles in regional companies. At the National Theatre Company she appeared in *The Lady from Maxims*, *Brand*, *Macbeth*, *The Woman*, and *'Tis a Pity She's a Whore*. Other parts include the Mother in *Women Beware Women* and Yvonne in a *Small Family Business* at Birmingham Repertory Theatre. She appeared in *The Winslow Boy* at Windsor and played Mrs Higgins in *Pygmalion* in Wales. Tours include *Steaming* and *A Murder is Announced*. Credits at the Bridewell Theatre include *Lunch Girls* and *After Magritte*. On TV, she has appeared in *Young Shoulders*, *Eastenders*, and *Bramwell*, while her most recent filming was *The Penalty King* for Twin Track Films.

William Maxwell (Sir John Belmont, Mr. Branghton)

William began his theatre work at the Oldham Coliseum and followed that with work in theatres, including Manchester, Liverpool and Nottingham. He played Northumberland in *Richard II* and Hastings in *Richard III* with Sir Derek Jacobi and had three years with the RSC, including *Nicholas Nickleby*, which played in the West End and Broadway and was filmed for Channel 4. He is still recognized as Jack Sullivan from *Brookside*, and he has done masses of other TV work, including Duke Wilhelm, the brother of Anne of Cleves in the classic *Six Wives of Henry VIII*. Films include the cult classic *Witchfinder General* with Vincent Price. Recently he played Willy Loman in *Death of a Salesman* at the English Theatre, Frankfurt, Scrooge in Phil Willmott's musical at Battersea Arts Theatre and a retired East End gangster in *Knock Down Ginger*, a premiere at Croydon Warehouse.

Mark Holman (Mr. Lovel, Tom)

Mark trained at Guildford School of Acting for three years and graduated five years ago. Since then, he has been fortunate enough to have quite a varied career. His first engagement was a real baptism of fire with a season of weekly rep' in Frinton-on-Sea, where one of the parts was Norman in *The Norman Conquest Trilogy*. Other roles played since have included; Gary in Poliakoffs' *American Days* at The Mill Studio, Guildford, Sammy Sax in *Saucy Jack and the Space Vixens* in the London cast and Willy Weasel in an actor-musician production of *Little Red Riding Hood* at Winchester Theatre Royal. Mark most recently appeared in Roy Hudd's pantomime at the Millfield Theatre, Edmonton where he played Aladdin alongside Chris Emmett. He is really happy to be involved with this project and looks forward to a successful run!

Naomi Sachs (Biddy, Mrs. Mirvan, Mrs. Beaumont)

Trained: National Youth Theatre, and Webber Douglas. Theatre includes: Myra in *Deathtrap* (Palace, Westcliff); Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth* (Traffic of the Stage); Vivie in *Mrs Warren's Profession*; Angèle in Feydeau's *French Leave* (Michael Friend Productions); Wagtail in *A Woman is a Weathercock* (Trampoline); Maureen in *Time of my Life*; Jane in *Out of Order*; Helga in *Bedfull of Foreigners*; Jackie in *Hay Fever* (Civic, Chelmsford); Phoebe in *Communicating Doors*; Stacey in *Gentle Hook*; Henrietta in *The Hollow* (Marlow, Canterbury); The President's Wife in *Butcher of Baghdad* (Cherub). On TV, she has appeared in *KavanaghQC*, and her voiceovers include *Virgin Trains*, animated films, *Newsnight* (BBC). Naomi is a member of the Hammersmith Actors and Writers Group. She is delighted to be working again at Pentameters.

Hester Rugg (Maria Mirvan, Polly Brangton, Lady Louisa Larpent, Miss Belmont)

Hester trained at Webster Douglas Academy. Her Theatre Work includes *A Dog's Life* at The Vienna's English Theatre, *The Busqueda* at the Royal Festival Hall, and a season of new writing at the Hen and Chickens Theatre. Short films and TV include *Frank*, *Clear Blue*, *Phone Box*, and a documentary of *Great Historical Blunders* for Channel 4.

Gregory McFarnon (Mr McCartney and Mr Smith)

Originally from Glasgow, Gregory trained at the London Drama Centre. On stage he has played roles in *The Back Room* (Soho Theatre), *Gamblers* (BAC), *The Jingo Drill* (Drayton Court), *Kissing Bingo* (The Friborough) and *Talking about Men* (Manchester Green Room). Television work includes roles in *Life Support*, *Drime Day*, and *Medical Rebels* (all for BBC), *The Young Person's Guide to Becoming a Rock Star* (Channel 4), and *Painted Lady* (Granada). He has also completed one feature film, the Chris Menges Drama, *The Lost Son* (Scala Films) and several short films.

Kate Glover (Writer and Director)

This is Kate Glover's fifth play and her second with Historia Theatre Company. Other plays include *A Passionate Englishman* (a play about William Penn), directed by Amanda Hill, *Hen and Chickens* 1997 and *City of London Festival* 2000, *Gerard M Hopkins S.J* directed by Clive Swift in 1989, also at Pentameters, and *Dear Chocolate Soldier* co-written with Beverley Rayson and directed by Richard Jacques. This went on tour. Kate has also written *Tales from Trieste*, a collection of short stories. She founded Historia Theatre Company in 1997 for the purpose of putting on plays that have their source in or inspiration from history. Historia has recently become a Registered Charity 1099807. Kate's most recent acting work was the part of a Cabinet Minister in the film *Love Actually* (writer and director Richard Curtis).

John Risebero (Designer)

John trained in theatre design at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, graduating in 2000. Recent designs include: *Johnny Simple* (Pentameters) *Closer* (ADC, Cambridge), *Golden Boy* (Yvonne Arnaud / UK tour), *The Barber of Seville* (Linbury Studio, Royal Opera House), *Richard III*, *Macbeth*, *Hamlet* (touring southwest France), *The Lover* (White Bear), and *Heroes* (Blue Elephant). John is currently exhibiting in 2D>3D, a national exhibition of theatre design touring the UK, soon to be shown at the Theatre Museum, Covent Garden. His design for *Closer* was part of the British exhibit which won the top prize, the Golden Triga, at the Prague Quadrennial International Exhibition of Stage Design 2003.

Barbara Segal (Choreographer)

Barbara Segal is based in London where she works in the field of Early Dance as a performer, teacher, and choreographer. She is director of *Contretemps*, a company she founded in 1985 dedicated to the reconstruction of 18th century dance theatre; also, together with Sara Stowe of *Sirinu*, she is a director of *Chalemie*, a group which recreates 18th century pantomime and music theatre. She has performed and taught (both dance and baroque gesture) throughout Europe, the Baltic States and Australia, as well as at many festivals, stately homes and theatres in the UK. She has collaborated with and toured for the Early Music Network and the British Council. She organizes and teaches at the Chalemie Summer School (specialising in early dance, commedia and singing) held annually at Oxford.

Léonie Scott Matthews

Léonie Scott Matthews founded Pentameters in 1968, moving to the Three Horseshoes in 1971. During the last 35 years, she has put on hundreds of professional shows from Shakespeare, classical revivals and new plays to alternative comedy and music and poetry events. In 1998, she was given a Camden Good Citizen award in recognition of "outstanding work for the community." To celebrate her commitment to the creative arts, she was recently honoured as an associate of the Royal Academy of Music. Leonie is now making substantial improvements to the building and fully intends to continue running Pentameters for the next 35 years.