

WW1: A VILLAGE AT WAR

Follies Theatre

November 10, 2018

Souvenir Programme



WW1: A VILLAGE AT WAR

The original production, *WW1: a Village Opera*, was set in motion by a small group of committee members of Llangwm Local History Society who wanted to commemorate the centenary of the start of World War 1.

The original idea was a music hall evening of the type used to persuade young men to volunteer. The committee approached Llangwm-based composer Sam Howley - who had other ideas: a full-scale opera. The committee agreed to his ambitious plan and Sam brought in the award-winning poet Peter George from Newport as librettist.

A grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund set the ball rolling and

History Society members began researching the historical background.

Carol Mackintosh came in as director and *WW1: a Village Opera* was performed five times in 2014 in Llangwm, Haverfordwest and Newport, to sell-out audiences. A DVD of the production was also produced. Two years later a concert version was performed as part of the St David's Cathedral Festival.

The production went on to win first prize in its category in the UK-wide *Remember WW1 2016* competition. The judges described it as one of the finest musical creations of the

centenary, which would still be remembered 100 years from now.

Funding for this new production marking the Armistice has come from the Armed Forces Covenant, which supports the armed forces community.

The production makes use of a video backdrop of WW1 footage, plus images of Llangwm locations with cast members and actors Chloe Wheeler and Geraint Sayers. The still photographs were taken by the celebrated local photographer David Wilson - whose work is featured in this souvenir programme.

Synopsis

ACT 1

Time: the present day. Josie is revising for her GCSEs when something quite extraordinary happens: a remarkable history lesson she will never forget. It begins with the events leading to the First World War.

ACT 2

She slowly begins to understand the effects the war had on her own village and her family.

INTERVAL

ACT 3

The Battle of the Somme and its devastating consequences are brought home to Josie when she hears a tragic love story involving her own great great grandparents.

Proceeds from ticket sales go to our chosen charity, SSAFA the Armed Forces Charity, which provides welfare & support for those serving in the forces, veterans and forces families.

LLANGWM 1914



Tom and Mary meet and fall in love.....

.....just as the declaration of war in July 1914 shatters this peaceful village.



Young men are urged to fight for King and country.

The young volunteers get their first taste of army life: the medical inspection.



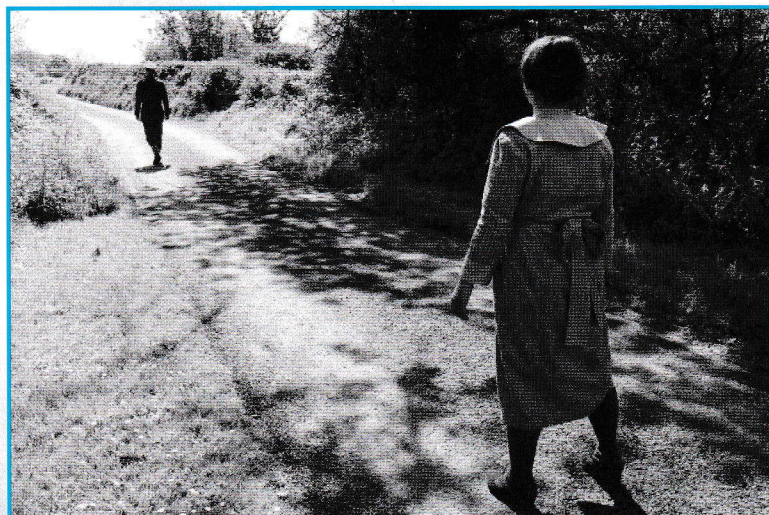
SAYING GOODBYE



Three quarters of a million men had volunteered in the UK by the end of September 1914. After two years of war that number had grown to three million.



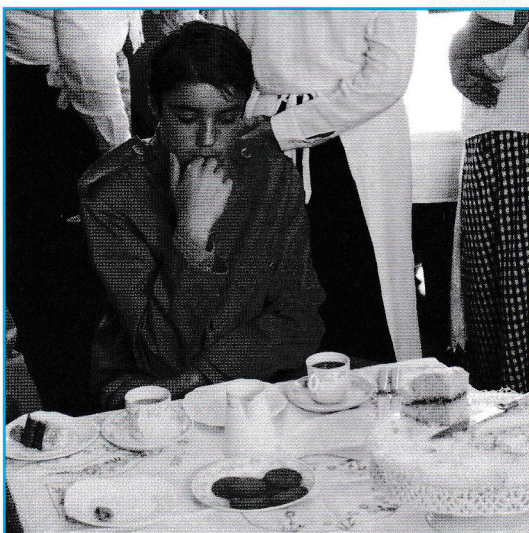
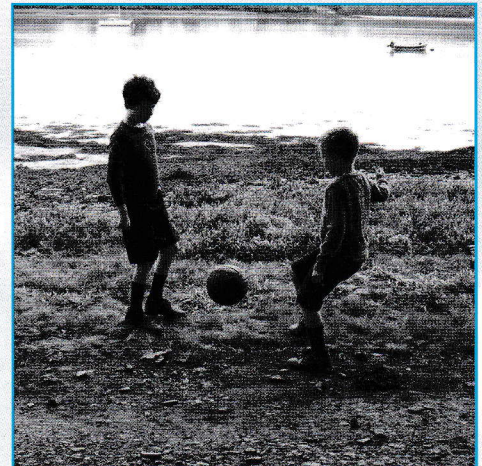
Pals Battalions were set up by the British Army so that men who'd enlisted together in local recruiting drives could also serve together. Britain was the only country to do this.



LIFE GOES ON



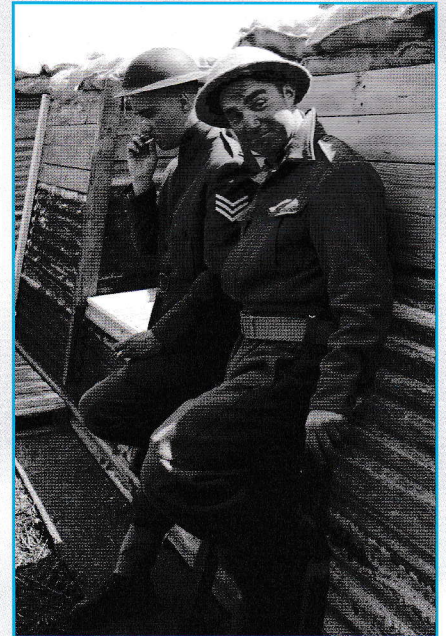
When conscription began in the UK in March 1916 it was limited to single men aged from 18 to 40. In May 1916 it was extended to married men and in the last months of the war in 1918 the age limit was raised to 51. Large numbers of women were recruited into 'men's' jobs, including the police force, and in villages it was left to women and older men to run the farms and the fishing boats.



Llangwm women held chapel teas for men home on leave. They also knitted socks and other items for the boys.



IN THE TRENCHES



Altogether in the UK six million men were signed up to fight in WW1.
Seven hundred thousand died or went missing - 11.5%.

No fewer than five sets of brothers from the Llangwm area served their country.

Two of three sons of a family who'd emigrated to Canada before the war enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Both died on the same day at Lens in Northern France.

Seventeen Llangwm men lost their lives in the war.



THE TEAM



SAMUEL HOWLEY, COMPOSER AND MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Sam was born in the Rhondda Valley and studied at the Royal College of Music and Drama. He's well known as a singer, pianist and composer. His works include *Three Shakespeare Sonnets*, *Four Byron Songs* for Sir Thomas Allen, and *Sonata for Recorder and Piano*. His latest project is a collaboration with the author Louis de Bernieres on an opera based on the life of Joan of Arc.



PETER GEORGE, LIBRETTIST

Peter is a poet, librettist and novelist based in Newport. He won the R.S.Thomas Festival Poetry Award in 2015 and was awarded a Hawthornden Fellowship in 2010. He's a member of the Society of Authors, the Performing Rights Society and an associate member of Literature Wales. He's currently working on a third poetry collection.



CAROL MACKINTOSH, DIRECTOR

Carol is a retired GP who worked in her home town of Milford Haven for over 30 years. She is passionate about theatre in all its forms and is a founder member of Touch and Go and Artistic Licence theatre companies.

THE CAST (in order of appearance)

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Josie Phillips | Josie |
| Geraint Sayers | The Sergeant |
| Bryony Dickens | Young Kaiser |
| Shaun Pollard | Kaiser, Recruiting Sergeant |
| Martin Warwick | Admiral, Bismark |
| Bob Phillips | British Politician |
| Louise Hales | Young Mary |
| Joshua Morris | Tom |
| Stephen Castle | Recruiting Officer, Officer |
| Emma Evans | Angel of Mons |
| Sarah Hirst | Molly |
| John Roach | Lieutenant, Oberleutnant |
| Bill Hirst | British General |
| Jen Scoble | Mary |

The chorus: Angela Davies, Anna Wilson, Annie Weaver, Bob Chesmer, Christine Jacob, Claire Phillips, Corinne Evans, Fiona Cutting, Fran Evans, Graham Brace, Graham Stephens, Greta Pearson-Hindley, Imogen Allsopp, Jane Mills, Jen Roach, Kim Sandford, Karen Davies, Kate Brittain, Katie Pounder, Liz Rawlings, Madeline Tasker, Margaret Van Dijk, Marilyn James, Mary Bownes, Mervyn Hopkins, Nigel Davies, Richard Kelly, Rosita Roles, Shirley Clancy, Sue Hopkins, Suzanne Hawkins, Tim Bownes, Lesley Todhunter, Katie Thomas, Katie Collymore, Liz Whitelaw, Jess Holmes, Thomasina Stevens, Janet Hursey.

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Pamela Hunt: Film Editor/Sound
 Mark Evans: Cameraman
 Neil Martin: Film Tech
 Fin Mackintosh: Stage Manager
 Ann Donovan, Dean Campbell: Costumes
 Jacqui Wordsworth: Props
 Heather Payton: Publicity

THE FILMING ACTORS

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Geraint Sayers | Bob Phillips |
| Chloe Wheeler | Johnny Lock |
| Bob Chesmer | Alex Jewkes |
| Martin Warwick | Shaun Pollard |

Members of the Torch Youth Theatre, Cantabile, Llangwm Village Voices, Artistic Licence Theatre Company, Pupils from Cleddau Reach School.

Featuring the British Sinfonietta orchestra

Thank you to our funders:

The Armed Forces Covenant



And continued thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund

