

An  
Old Town Theatre  
Company Production

# OTTC

A Triple Bill  
directed by Lynne Scragg,  
Nancy A Heath & Michael Bull

# Talking HEADS

Three of  
Alan Bennett's  
most touching  
monologues



*A Woman of  
No Importance*

*Soldiering On*

Muriel's lost her husband, her daughter's mentally ill  
and her son; well, enough said  
The touching story of one woman's capacity  
to endure, forgive, and to rise above tragedy

*A Lady  
of Letters*

Image by Manor-Photography.com

7.30pm  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2008  
£7.50 / £5 concessions  
Buy 8 tickets at £7.50 and get 2 FREE

The Arts Centre  
Devizes Road  
Swindon  
Box Office: 01793 614837

[www.swindonweb.com/ottc](http://www.swindonweb.com/ottc)



**Got your mobile 'phone with you?**  
Please take the time now to check it's off, or silent!  
Thank you!



**Past Productions**

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Festival 2008  | On a Day in Summer in a Garden            |
| February 2008  | Breakfast with Jonny Wilkinson            |
| December 2007  | Hamlet                                    |
| September 2007 | Best of British                           |
| May 2007       | The Importance of Being Earnest           |
| March 2007     | Frankie & Johnny<br>in the Claire de Lune |
| Festival 2007  | Autumn Terror                             |
| December 2006  | Comfort & Joy                             |
| September 2006 | Art                                       |
| June 2006      | Julius Caesar                             |
| March 2006     | The Lion in Winter                        |
| Festival 2006  | Foxes in the Early Light                  |
| December 2005  | Stags & Hens                              |
| October 2005   | Wyrd Sisters                              |
| April 2005     | A Few Good Men                            |
| Festival 2005  | Orca the Goldfish                         |
| February 2005  | The Vagina Monologues                     |
| December 2004  | A Stoat called Nancy                      |
| October 2004   | 1984                                      |

**What the Papers Say about OTTC**

Best Play,  
Harold Jolliffe One Act Play Festival 2008  
“..well cast and extremely well played  
..another winner.”  
“There was no doubt in my mind that this company  
could pull it off; and they did.”  
“The audience loved it and so did I”  
”As always, OTTC managed to put on a  
performance that was entertaining”  
“Duo pick up the gauntlet of tough play in style...  
...cracking, the lines just flowed.”  
‘Playwrite’ winner and Festival 2007  
Christmas comedy 2006  
“An hour and half of dynamic acting. I enjoyed this  
more than the professional production”  
“Inspirational”  
“An enthralling flashback to the Christmas of 1183  
in Michael Bull’s excellent production”  
“A taut and thought-provoking piece”  
“OTTC have performed it with great gusto”  
“I am never disappointed by anything  
this company produces”  
“Excellent, enthralling, engrossing theatre”  
Festival winners.  
“OTTC....produced the performance of a lifetime”  
“Ba-da-da-duck-duck-banana...”  
“Quite simply the most gripping performance  
I’ve seen on an amateur stage”

For a full list of OTTC’s past production, please visit our extensive website at:

**[www.swindonweb.com/ottc](http://www.swindonweb.com/ottc)**

**To win a pair of Opening Night tickets to our next show – just tell us what you think of this one!**

Simply write your comments here, along with your name and address\*,  
and post this slip in the Prize Draw Box in the entrance foyer.

Name: .....

Address: .....

Comments: .....

.....

.....

\* OTTC will use this information to keep you updated of our forthcoming shows.

## Alan Bennett's 'Talking Heads'

There will be an interval between each performance

### *A Woman of No Importance*

*I have long been a fan of Alan Bennett's writing and thoroughly enjoyed OTTC's previous ventures; directing a Talking Heads monologue in 1998 and acting in The Madness of George III. So the opportunity to direct another Talking Heads piece, and also to have the very talented Wendy available as my cast member, was too good to miss. In rehearsal, our team of three has come to know and love Peggy Schofield. We even discovered something that Alan Bennett omitted to tell us; she's a closet Elvis Presley fan. Enjoy!*  
Lynne Scragg, Director



*Peggy  
is played by  
Wendy Vickery*

Peggy Schofield is the self-declared lynchpin of the office and staff canteen. Her world is well ordered and strictly under her control until, little by little, both her regime and her health diminish. Can she transfer her lynchpin role to the hospital setting? Is she really as important as she believes herself to be?

*Assistant Director & Stage Manager  
Jane Dale*

### *A Lady of Letters*

*Working with Jane on this has been a delight. Bennett is such a shrewd observer and writes with such warmth and humour, it's impossible not to be seduced by the piece. Irene is not a lovable woman - she is self-righteous, bigoted and interfering. Unwittingly she is very funny and seems doomed to a life of loneliness and isolation. However Bennett has a bag of tricks and in the most optimistic turn of events, Irene's life and personality are transformed in a surprising and unlikely way.*  
Director - Michael Bull



*Irene  
is played by  
Jayne Ackrill*

Some  
Strong Language

Irene Ruddock isn't afraid to speak, or rather write, her mind. She writes letters to her MP, the police, the chemist; everyone she can, to remedy the social ills she sees around her. After one too many accusations of misconduct from Irene's pen, she is sent to the one place - where, for the first time in her life, she truly feels free.

*Assistant Director & Stage Manager  
Janet Lovell*

### *Soldiering On*

*It's been a real privilege to direct this piece, with a wonderful actress at the helm and a great Assistant Director as well! Although you meet Muriel, there's a rich tapestry of equally interesting characters who come to life in this monologue. We enjoyed creating Giles, Margaret, Ralph and the "awful" Angela Gillespie. I was so pleased that Megan was available to portray the extraordinary Muriel and I know that this monologue will prompt you to have one of those great discussions in the car on the way home!*  
Nancy Heath, Director



*Muriel  
is played by  
Megan Mills*

Muriel is a strong woman and always has been a pillar of the community. Looking after her mentally ill daughter, Margaret, has fortified her resolve so, after the death of her husband, Muriel is well-prepared to cope with the crisis. However, given her son's ineptitude with money, and the vile secret behind Margaret's illness, Muriel finds that she needs to adapt in order to 'soldier on.'

*Assistant Director & Stage Manager  
Mike Carpenter*

**Lighting Design: Richard Abrams**  
**Sound: Julian Smith**  
**Front of House Stewards: OTTC Members**

**Lighting: Stuart Quinn**  
**Front of House Coordinator: Fenella Harrop**  
**Producer & Publicity: Ashley Heath**

## The Company

Since Old Town Theatre Company was set up in 1992 we've added another dimension to Swindon's drama scene. Particularly focused on the works of contemporary playwrights, we aim to offer entertainment appealing to the more adventurous theatre-goer. This has established OTTC as one of Swindon's most ambitious and innovative theatre companies. This reputation has been built from the desire of the members to challenge themselves as performers, and from a common shared philosophy within the company to break down the barriers of what an 'amateur' company 'can' or 'should' perform.

## How to Join OTTC

Our membership is open to all. If you are interested in acting, directing or backstage, you're very welcome!

As an OTTC member you will receive:

- Opportunities to audition for all OTTC productions
- OTTC newsletters
- Concessionary price tickets for OTTC productions

Yearly membership costs just £20 for adults and £10 for junior members under 18. However, you are welcome to make an additional donation! To help cover production costs, we ask cast members to pay an acting fee of £7.50 per play.

To find out more please write to us at:

Old Town Theatre Company, P O Box 594, Swindon SN1 3UQ.

Or visit our website and use the enquiry form there.

## Friends of OTTC

As well as helping to support your local theatre, becoming a Friend of OTTC will also entitle you to concessionary rates to all our shows. The minimum subscription to be a Friend is £5 per year.

We're grateful to the Friends of OTTC for their support:

Brian Carter & SwindonWeb  
Joan Cheshire

Laurence Chase  
Mollie Tanner

Tony & Margaret Hyder  
Janice Thompson

Jon Slade  
Ross Nolan

## The Website

Why not pay us a visit? Our extensive website is at [www.swindonweb.com/ottc](http://www.swindonweb.com/ottc)

## Join Our Mailing List!

If you'd like to receive details of other OTTC shows, why not fill out the form on page 2 of this programme? We'll make sure you get to hear of our future shows, and you might win free tickets too!

## 'Thank you' to our supporters, be they big or small!



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Clarry Bean  
and all the  
Arts Centre Staff

