

OAST NOTES

April 2026

The Good Life



Adapted by Jeremy
Sams

Based on the TV series
by John Esmonde and
Bob Larbey

18th - 25th April 2026 8pm Sunday performance 3pm

Performances 18th - 25th April



Tom turns forty, and realises something is missing from his life, so he and his wife, Barbara, decide to exchange the rat-race for an alternative, more sustainable way of living. They transform their garden into an allotment. They grow food and rear animals, much to the horror of their snobby but loveable neighbours, Margo and Jerry Leadbetter. Tapping into issues that resonate now more than ever, *The Good Life* is a warm and witty adaptation of the BBC comedy classic of the 1970s. It re-unites the four

well-loved characters (not forgetting Geraldine the goat) as they negotiate various chaotic and calamitous situations.

Tickets prices: Members £10 & non-members £14

The Writers' Life



John Esmonde & Bob Larbey

Bob Larbey (1934 - 2014) and John Esmonde (1937 - 2008) wrote *The Good Life*. Their first success was with the very popular 1960s ITV sitcom, *Please Sir!* starring John Alderton. Larbey and Esmonde met while attending Clapham Grammar School. They became friends, loved listening to radio comedy and thought they would try their hand at it. Three years of writing together finally yielded success in sketches for Dick Emery. In the same year *The Good Life* was initially televised, they also had another television sitcom, *Get Some In* (1975-78), aired. Further success was found with *Ever Decreasing Circles* (1984-89), in which Richard Briers played an interfering suburban fusspot. In 1995, Larbey and Esmonde wrote their final sitcom together, *Down to Earth*, also starring Richard Briers, which brought their successful career to its conclusion.

Double Bill. Performances by Oast Youth Theatre & Trinity Youth Theatre



3rd & 4th 7.30 pm

5th April 3 pm

The Wardrobe, written by Sam Holcroft, and directed by Luke Morrison. It tells the story of a gripping journey through British history that shows how our country was shaped and how we are connected to our past. Across seven centuries, small groups of children seek sanctuary in the same solid old wardrobe. It's the safest place they know – but is it safe enough?

Ride or Die by Florence Espeut-Nickless, directed by Lydia Scott Johnson. The Kids are arguing about which is better, Alton Towers or Thorpe Park. The vote goes to the youngest, Angel, to decide. He hasn't been to either, or the Theme Park Extravaganza, because he's too young. So what could go wrong?.... Angel gets suspended, Nan goes on holiday, Dad tries to look after the kids, who are borrowing Nan's car, and they crash into a Waitrose delivery van.

Ticket prices: Members £10

Students £10 non members £14



**Performances: 27th & 28th March 8pm
29th 2pm**

THE
JY
AT THE
STUDIO
OAST

Just Let Me Go.

A play about loss. A play about friendship. A play about who we are. Death is inevitable; it is the only absolute. So how do we make the most of the time we have? What's the point? What's this all for? Seb, Freddie & Tom were friends at school. Seb moved away in search of bigger things. When Freddie dies, the others are thrown back together into a whirlwind of emotions.

Freddie's death is a great loss to everyone, but it is Seb who has to put that into words. How do you get over someone so important? What do you say in his eulogy? Every attempt seems like you're reducing him to words. Our story is set ten years on, almost to the day. Tom reaches out, but Seb won't let go. Directed by Louis Robinson.

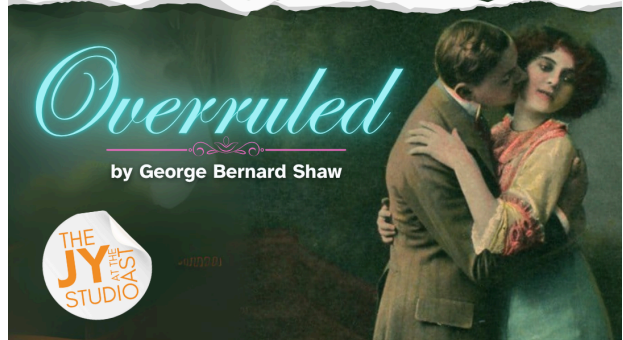


Overruled.

In Shaw's own words, this play is about "...how polygamy occurs among quite ordinary people innocent of all unconventional views concerning it."

Gregory Lunn and Mrs Juno are in love, having met during a sea voyage. They are both already married, and parting is such sweet sorrow. Then their respective partners arrive, this could be awkward! Set in a seaside hotel, this is a comedy of errors about two couples who desire to continue their extramarital affairs, but are prevented from doing so by various considerations, and end up negotiating an ambiguous set of relationships.

Directed by Marc Evans



Tickets £8

AUDITION

Dates : Sunday, 5th April 2026 2.00pm

Monday, 6th April 2026 8.00pm

Location : Janet Young Studio

Performances 18th - 25th July Main Stage

Characters:

Anne Lister- Androgynous. Daring, passionate and defiant. 30 years +

Ann Walker - married to Anne. Sensitive and fragile. Independent. 23 years +

Christopher Rawson- A bullying business rival to Anne. 40 years +

Isabella "Tib" Norcliffe -Friend and lover of Anne. Possibly alcoholic. 30years+

Marianna Balcombe - Had a passionate affair with Anne. 30 years +

Arthur Burrell - Historian. Deciphered the code in Anne Lister's diaries. 40 years

John Lister - a philanthropist and politician. 40 years +

Interested? Contact director: Fiona Dunn

email: fionadunn2004@hotmail.com

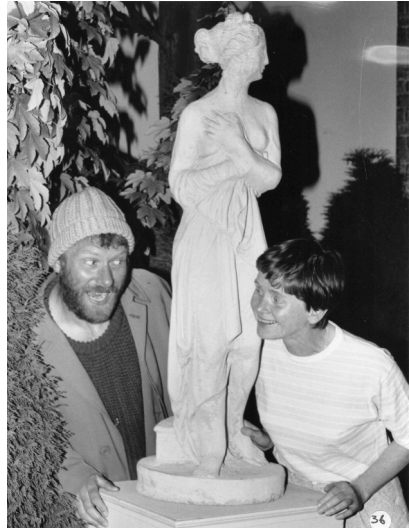


DECADES OF PLAYS



How the Other Half Loves 1975

Rita Carpenter, George Kirk,
John Lees & Drummond Abrams



Round and Round the Garden 1988

Neil Thorne & Annie Young



Communicating Doors 1999

Elizabeth Taylor-Moon & Ken Jones



Snake in the Grass 2007

Lizzie Goodall & Karen Dix



Absurd Person Singular 2016

Gary Warner, Karen Gorbett, Hania Simons & Dan Palmer



Bedroom Farce 2022

Val Armstrong & Neil Harris

Artist of the Month

John Hall gained a place at the London Slade School of Art and has taught on painting holidays in France and the Canary Islands. He works in watercolour, but can teach in all other mediums. A past chairman of the Oast Art Group, he regularly exhibits and sells his paintings in society and open exhibitions. He is a member of SAA (Supporting All Artists) and has reached the final of their Artist of the Year competition. Before moving to Kent, he was a finalist in the Essex Landscape Artist of the Year competition. He ran art workshops on several Cruise Lines for eight years on ships with worldwide itineraries. Workshops are held in the morning and afternoon, when the ship is at sea, for a maximum of twenty-five passengers in each class. On a cruise to the Caribbean, the ship is at sea for eight days each way. This requires sixteen different topics designed to make the session both instructive and enjoyable.



The Artist for Next Month

Annette Tranter

A Mirror Review



Ben Dangerfield, Gillian Tunna, Seb Junemann & Louis Robinson

I think the Oast productions go from strength to strength. I know the subject matter of this play would not be liked by everyone, but I could not find one single fault in direction or acting.

Sam Holcroft's play is about how oppressive regimes can impact creativity. She also brings the audience in as co-conspirators in defiance against such a regime. A fearless truth teller who holds up "A Mirror" to society. We watch as we crumble under such scrutiny.

All of the cast were superb. They worked well with one another and kept the pace on what (and here is my only criticism) could have been a slightly shorter play. But that is Ms Holcroft's fault and nothing whatsoever to do with the cast and director.

I so enjoyed a brilliant night out at the theatre with a cast that was second-to-none. At the Oast, we "ring the changes" in the plays we perform and have such wonderful teams, both technical and backstage.

A big thank-you to director Ian Tucker-Bell and his amazing cast, Ben Dangerfield, Louis Robinson, Gillian Tunna, Seb Junemann, Andy Taylor and the supporting cast of Nic Hoskins, Laurence Plumb and Caroline Candler.

Sandra Barfield

Front of House Opportunity

Main duties: These are to meet and greet the audience, communicate with the backstage team, and consideration for audience safety. If you could spare an evening now and then, please get in touch with me.

lyn.porter@oasttheatre.com

TICKET ANALYSIS

A Mirror

Total tickets sold	693
Members	256
Non members	437
% of seats sold	76.12

Volunteering Opportunity

The Oast Marketing Team needs volunteers to help to distribute printed posters and flyers for each of our monthly shows.

It needs to be done once a month, and within a day or so following the closing of the previous show. The old posters and flyers need to be replaced with those for the new show. We distribute and display to regular retail and hospitality outlets in Tonbridge and Hildenborough. We are looking to expand the distribution to Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks.

You will only distribute to a handful of locations in your area. It should take no more than an hour a month of your time. If you can spare the time, once a month, to be part of the team carrying out this important role, please contact, Andy Leggatt:

email: andy.leggatt@oasttheatre.com mobile: 07976216434

100 CLUB WINNERS

- £50 Mr S Walters
- £10 Mr & Mrs R Whitmarsh
- £10 Mrs C Philpott
- £10 Mr H Dawson
- £10 Mrs Hilary Ward

QUIZ

1. Longest running British 60s sitcom H _ _ _ _ W _ _ _ _
2. Larbey sitcom A _ T _ _ _ G _ _ _ B _
3. 00s sitcom in Slough T _ _ O _ _ _ _
4. 80s sitcom E _ _ _ D _ _ _ _ _ _ C _ _ _ _ _
5. Sitcom starring Penelope Keith T _ T _ _ M _ _ _ B _ _ _
6. 70s sitcom F _ _ _ _ T _ _ _ _
7. Sitcom starring Judi Dench _ F _ _ _ R _ _ _ _
8. Time travelling comedy G _ _ _ _ _ S _ _ _ _ _
9. Felicity Kendall sitcom T _ _ M _ _ _ _ _
10. Political sitcom Y _ _ M _ _ _ _ _

Answers next month

Answers for last month's quiz

1. Kiss me Kate
2. Throne of Blood
3. Romeo and Juliet
4. A Thousand Acres
5. The Forbidden Planet
6. Hamnet
7. Upstart Crow
8. B.A. Robertson
9. Ten things I Hate About You
10. West Side Story

THE OAST THEATRE

Committee Members



Chairman:	Phil Porter - chair@oasttheatre.com 01732 835460
Vice-Chair:	Kate Robbins - kate.robbsins@oasttheatre.com
Secretary:	Sara Lacey - secretary@oasttheatre.com:
Treasurer:	Nick Blessley - treasurer@oasttheatre.com
Head of Drama:	Sandra Barfield - sandra.barfield@oasttheatre.com 07973 657311
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Wardrobe:	Jo Pierce - wardrobe@oasttheatre.com 01892 528166
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Security manager:	DerekRose - security@oasttheatre.com 07860304765
Room & Rehearsal Bookings:	Kate Robbins - hire@oasttheatre.com
Box Office:	Ian Burns - ian.burns@oasttheatre.com
Member:	Ian Tucker-Bell - ian.tucker-bell@oasttheatre.com

Deadline

Please send in any copy you wish to be included in the Oast Notes by the 6th of the month.

Copy sent to Andy Taylor - editor@oasttheatre.com