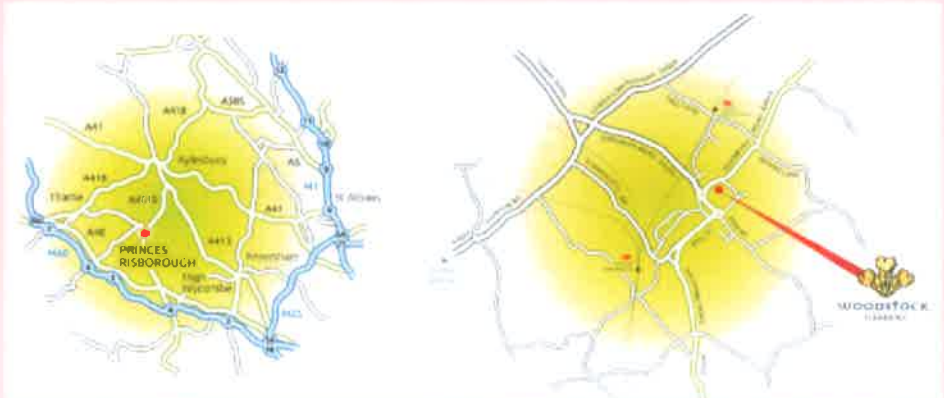




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TUESDAY MATINEE SOLD OUT

Frayed Knot Theatre Company in association with Samuel French Ltd Presents:

JOURNEY'S END

RC Sherriff's Classic First World War Drama

Tue 11 - Sat 15 November 2014

Curtain up: 7.30pm • Tuesday Matinee: 2.30pm • £10-12 (concessions available)

Get Tickets on line at:
www.courttheatre.co.uk

In person at **Beechwood Fine Foods**
42 Frogmore Street, Tring, HP23 5AU
Cash/cheque only - Open 7 days a week

By phone on 07543 560478 Please have your credit/debit card ready

The Grass Roots Court Theatre, Station Road, Tring, Hertfordshire HP23 5QY

Illustration by Mark Thomas and Shaun Webb

Background to the play

Set in the trenches near Saint-Quentin, Aisne, in 1918 towards the end of the First World War, *Journey's End* gives a glimpse into the experiences of the officers of a British Army infantry company in World War I. The entire story plays out in the officers' dugout over four days from 18 March 1918 to 21 March 1918, during the run-up to the real-life events of Operation Michael.

Sherriff himself served (1915 to 1918) as a captain in the 9th battalion of the East Surrey Regiment in World War I, serving at Vimy and Loos. He was severely wounded at Passchendaele near Ypres in 1917 and was awarded the Military Cross during the war.

He had tried on a number of occasions to write about his experiences in World War I, in particular in a novel based on his war letters home. But he found that the writing of plays came more easily to him: "I merely had to write down what people had said.....and the characters walked in without invitation. I had known them all so well in the trenches that the play was an open house for them."

When he had completed *Journey's End* he tried to secure a performance with the Incorporated Stage Society, which put on "plays of merit" on Sunday evenings, when other theatres were dark. They were not wholly convinced, but Sherriff had also sought the advice of George Bernard Shaw, who, in a generally lukewarm response, wrote: "As a 'slice of life'.....let it be performed by all means.....". It premiered on 9 December 1928, with Laurence Olivier in the role of the young officer, Stanhope. Despite a lukewarm response the play then opened in the West End in January 1929 at the Savoy Theatre (now without Olivier). It looked hopeless, with no advance ticket bookings and poor sales, but the portrayal of camaraderie and doomed youth won over the critics and fellow ex-combatants with its raw honesty and *Journey's End* became a triumphant success.

The play sold out within days and by the end of the year there were 14 productions in English and 17 in translation around Europe. It played to packed audiences for the next two years. Thirty-one separate productions ran concurrently around the world and it was translated into twenty-six languages. It now sits alongside the poems of Sassoon, Owen and others, as a key part of the literary legacy of the terrible conflict.

Cast (in order of appearance)

Captain Hardy	Stephen J Davies
Lieutenant Osborne	Dan Clucas
Private Mason	Derek Rookley
2nd Lieutenant Raleigh	Ben Churchill
Captain Stanhope	Matt Bowles
2nd Lieutenant Trotter	Malcolm Emms
2nd Lieutenant Hibbert	Mike Code
Soldier	Elliot Couling
Company Sergeant Major	Mike Roebuck
The Colonel	Bob Theaker
German Soldier	Tom Pecorini

Synopsis

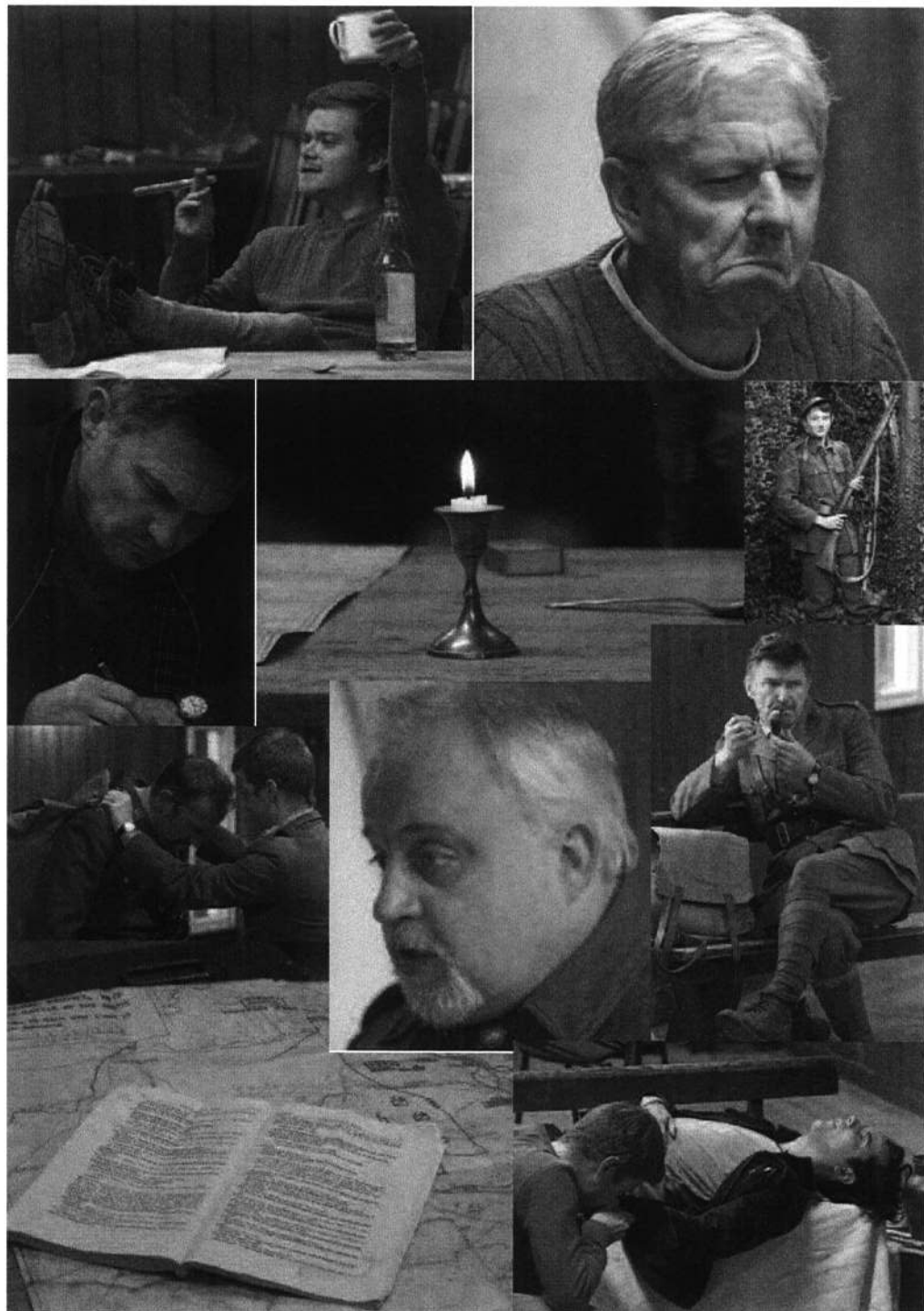
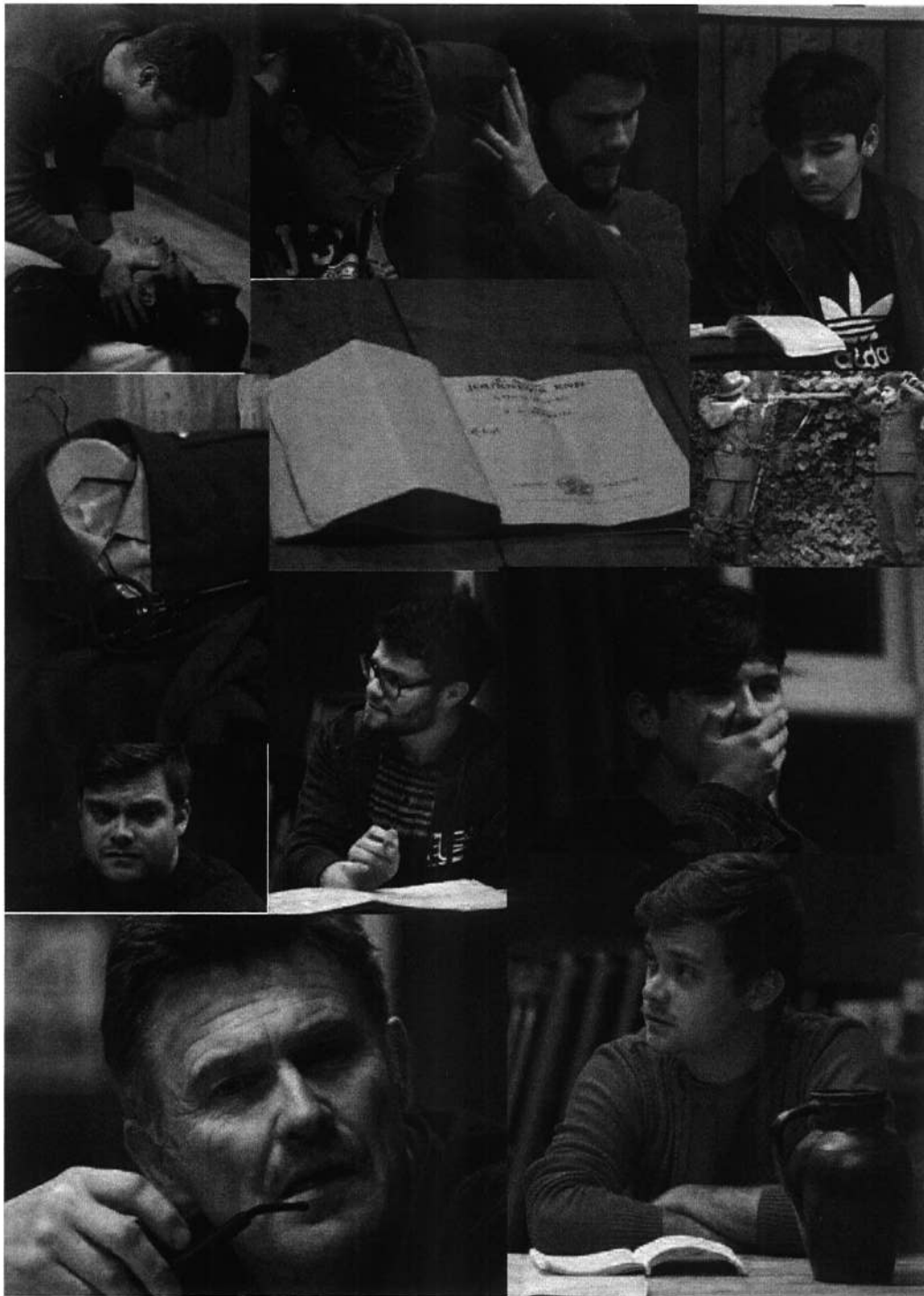
The scene is a dugout in the British trenches
before St Quentin, March 1918

Act 1	Evening on Monday 18th March, 1918
Act 2 Scene 1	Tuesday Morning
	INTERVAL
Act 2 Scene 2	Tuesday Afternoon
Act 3 Scene 1	Wednesday afternoon
Scene 2	Wednesday night
Scene 3	Thursday, towards dawn

The Last Post
A minute's silence
Reveille

The Last Post played by: Luke Tomkins
Tuesday matinee: Eric Wilson

Thanks to: Sharon Wilson & Court Theatre Ltd, Michael & Gill Glasser



Director's Notes

At any time it would be a privilege to produce RC Sherriff's play. To be able to present it with the opening performance on 11/11 on the 100th anniversary of the start of WW1 is especially poignant and I feel a great responsibility.

A responsibility because it essential to offer our audience a performance that is more than a simple commemorative exercise.

Journey's End was the first play that kept it's feet in the Flanders mud. First performed in 1929, the public had never before been shown, on stage, how men really lived in the trenches, how they talked, how they behaved. Old soldiers recognised themselves, women recognised their sons, their brothers or their husbands, many of whom never returned.

It would be a disservice to history and human character to caricature the ordinary plain men caught up in extraordinary events over which they had no control. The actors and I have strived to reconstruct real people, real lives, in the very real holocaust of WW1. To produce a play of this importance at The Court Theatre is a demonstration of commitment to the arts by so many from the community of Tring and the surrounding area. A huge amount of dedication and hard work has brought this project to fruition and I would like to thank all those involved within Frayed Knot and the theatre.

We know you will join us at the end of the show in honouring those from our community who so many years ago gave their lives so that we could live ours.

Crew

Director	Naomi Glasser	Costumes	Khaki Devils
Producers	Sarah Amsden, Kate Blanchard, Becky Wright	Props	Cast and crew
Sound	Nick Cooper	Make Up	Turning Heads
Lighting	Chris Cooper	Hairdresser	Wayne Maclaughlin
Pyrotechnics	Rob Farrow	Military Consultant	Kerr Hill
	John Francis	Educational Consultant	Becky Wright
Stage Management	Sally Cottle, Becky Wright, Lynda Randall	Photography	Malcolm Emms, George Riddell, Jo Wright
Set Design	Lee Marsh, Bob Randall	Poster design	Image House
Set Build	Bob Randall, Paul Stratford, Matthew Minors, John Francis, Stephen Brown, Rob Farrow, Naomi Glasser, Diana Evans, Sarah Amsden, Matilda Grimes, Evie Brown, Margaret and Roger Emery	Printing services	Rob Farrow
		Publicity	Eileen Reece
		Roll of Honour	Naomi Glasser, Charlotte Farrow
		Bar	Adam Stokes and team
		Front of House	Sarah King and team
		Box Office	David Wells



Albert and Percy Clucas



Relative of Sarah Amsden



Edgar Whitehead - Naomi Glasser



Sarah Amsden's Grandfather and his brother and their family



Commemoration in London to a soldier who died in the battle depicted in this play



Relatives of Sarah Amsden



Excerpt from Sarah Amsden's grandfather's WW1 paybook



Albert and Ada Clucas

The pictures on these pages are of family members of cast and crew who fought in The Great War. Also, at the Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red commemoration at the Tower of London, one of our cast members, Derek Rookley, has a great-great uncle remembered with a poppy, William Francis Rymell.