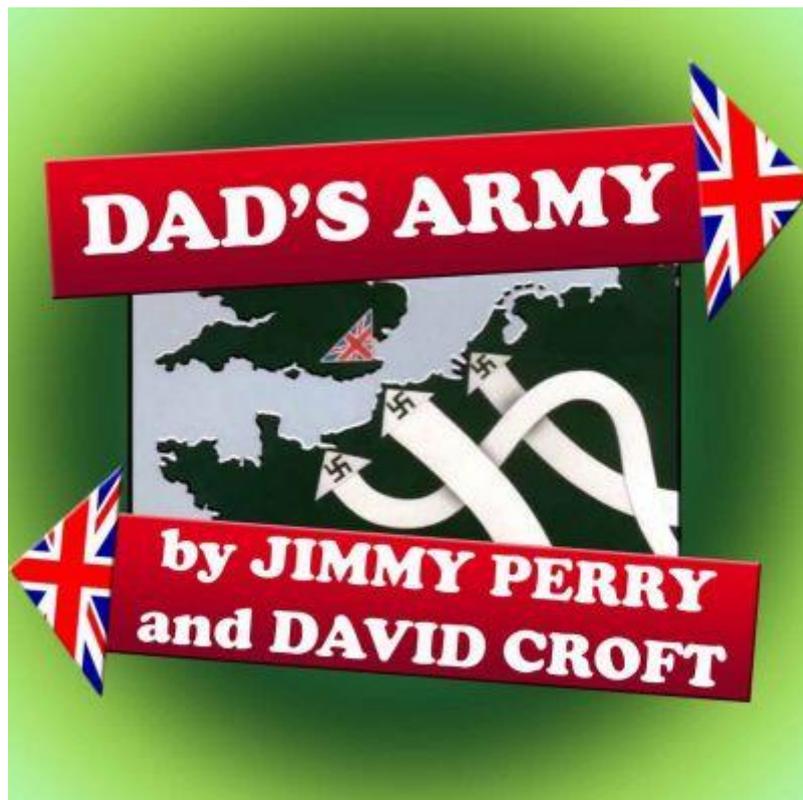




CARDIFF OPEN AIR THEATRE FESTIVAL 2018

Sophia Gardens
Cathedral Road
Cardiff CF11 9SQ

AUDITION NOTICE



Director

Peter (Don't Panic) Doran

The Play

Dad's Army was of course one of the most popular sit-com's every made and is still thought to be the Nations favourite TV Comedy. People tend to forget that it was also a very popular radio comedy. The original cast did take part in a stage show but it took the form of a review with songs and sketches. A full-scale stage comedy drama was a more recent addition. The version we are doing is a staging of three of the classic episodes:

Sgt. Wilson's Little Secret

During the typically absurdly improvised lecture on camouflage and tactics inventions contest, Sergeant Wilson is unusually absentminded. He admits to Captain Mainwaring to be gravely preoccupied by the assumption that Frank Pike's overprotective, domineering mother is expecting a child. In fact he only misunderstood a conversation he overheard Mrs. Pike was having with Frank about her taking on an evacuee, but Wilson fears it's his baby. Mainwaring pushes Wilson to 'do the right thing' and even trains the platoon as wedding guard of honour.

The Godiva Affair

Jones confides in Capt. Mainwaring regarding a serious problem concerning Mrs. Fox; he believes she's cheating on him with the town clerk and wants Mainwaring to try and find out if his suspicions are justified. Meanwhile the platoon is rehearsing a Morris Dance for a local carnival. At the same time, Hodges, the Verger and the Vicar are trying to audition young ladies for the part of Lady Godiva in the carnival but a late casting change puts Mainwaring in a state of shock.

The Deadly Attachment

After a surreal lecture on telling allied parachutists from German ones, the platoon is ordered to pick up a stranded U-boat's crew. Wilson feels that the live hand-grenades stored in the office are too dangerous for his hot-headed mates and acts accordingly. As HQ's armed escort is late, the German prisoners will have to stay overnight in the church hall. The U-boat captain plays mind-games by drafting a reckoning 'list', before obtaining one of the said grenades and putting it down Jones's trousers with a piece of string attached to the pin; he then leads the platoon through the town in order to escape.

The Main Characters

Captain Mainwaring

George Mainwaring was born in 1885. During the First War he was denied active service due to poor eyesight, but was accepted into the Pioneer Corps serving in France during 1918. Little was known of his private life. He is a pompous, blustering figure with overdeveloped sense of his importance, fueled by his social status in Walmington-on-Sea as the bank manager, and his status as Captain and commander of the local Home Guard volunteer unit. He believes in following rules and orders to sometimes ludicrous degrees. He is class conscious and a snob, considering himself upper-middle class and looking down on anyone he considers beneath him, which may be because he struggled to rise above his working-class background. His pretensions stand in contrast to Wilson who is genuinely Upper Middle Class, Mainwaring is often bitter about Wilson's having attended public school, believing it made him 'wet', while his own state-school background is an attribute. Pompous, short, rotund, bald, well spoken.

Sergeant Wilson

Arthur Wilson was born in 1887, two years after his senior in the bank and the Home Guard, George Mainwaring. He has an upper-middle-class background; his father had a career in the City of London, and Wilson often recalls fond memories of his nanny. He was educated at a public school named Meadow Bridge. He is chief cashier of Walmington-on-Sea bank, and captain of the cricket club. Captain Mainwaring, compared Wilson with Peter Pan, because he could never face responsibilities. These included Private Frank Pike who worships his "Uncle Arthur" but may be Wilson's son — Wilson has a relationship with Mavis Pike, Frank's mother. It is gossip in as both arrived in Walmington from Weston-super-Mare around the same time, and there are other 'coincidences' that show Wilson and Mrs Pike are more than "just close friends". It is assumed their affair began many years ago. Wilson is married but his wife left him. He has a daughter from his marriage. Tall, Slim, Grey Haired, Attractive, very well spoken.

Corporal Jones

Jones was born in 1870 in Walmington-on-Sea, and he joined the army as a drummer boy in 1884 at the age of fourteen. At the outbreak of the Second World War, Jones was retired from the army and working as a butcher, but he was so keen to join the Home Guard that, despite his age (70), Captain Mainwaring instantly appointed him as the platoon's Lance Corporal. However, it is suggested that Jones' ability to provide off-the-ration meat may have had rather more to do with this decision than Jones' abilities. Jones is known for a number of eccentric traits, such as using long, rambling explanations and anecdotes whenever he wants to make a point (which could usually be summed up in a sentence anyway). He is also invariably one step behind the rest of the platoon in any drill manoeuvre. Despite his advanced years and physical failings, Jones is extremely excitable and active. Apart from killing Nazis he has only one ambition in life - to marry Mrs Fox. On the frail side, thin, white haired, nimble.

Private Frazer

Every town has a purveyor of doom and gloom. Everything, according to him, will turn into a disaster. James Frazer could almost be right in thinking this way when he joined the Home Guard. As the local undertaker, it is inevitable that he would see the war through different eyes. A war would bring about an increase in business after all! It is a little-known fact that he also ran the local philatelist shop on the sea front, which he opened during the summer months. During the quieter months he indulged in his other hobby of hand making coffins. It was not always this way. He spent his youth on the wild and lonely Isle of Barra off the west coast of Scotland. It was a hard life. Being so close to the sea, he would eventually serve in the Royal Navy, reaching the position of Chief Petty Officer. Like Jack Jones, James Frazer also has a wealth of stories to tell, albeit of a different nature. His were of adventure in exotic lands, strange and supernatural happenings. Scottish, Tall, thin, white haired.

Private Walker

If you need anything from whiskey to knicker elastic, watches or even weapons, Joe Walker will get them for you. "Mind you, as its war-time it will cost you, 'cos you can't get 'em". Joe is a typical cockney spiv, making his way through life ducking and diving, trying to avoid the law. Moving down to the south coast from his native Plaistow in east London to avoid call up, he was registered as having a reserved occupation (a banana salesman, as he once said) until the authorities eventually caught up with him. Luckily for him, he was allergic to corned beef, which invalidated him out of the army, only to return to serve the needs of the local community. Walker very rarely dealt with money, relying on the bartering system to do business, and occasionally using his skills to do a little work for charity. One of the cleverest in the platoon, others turned to him for inspiration in a tricky situation. Cockney, early 40's, Tall, Handsome.

Private Godfrey

He was born in 1870 or 1871, and is not actually the oldest member of the platoon, with Corporal Jones being one year his senior. Godfrey is gentle, mild-mannered and kindly - though more complex than is evident - old man. He is the only member of the platoon that has retired. He was a conscientious objector in the Great War, a revelation that initially makes him an outsider. However, after saving

Mainwaring's life, his sister reveals that, far from avoiding service, he in fact served with distinction as a stretcher bearer with the Royal Army Medical Corps, and heroically saved several men's lives during the Battle of the Somme. He lives in the picturesque Cherry Tree Cottage with his hard-of-hearing sisters, Dolly and Cissy, whom he is clearly very fond of and often brings them up in conversation. When there is any need for provisions, his sister Dolly often provides upside-down cakes. They also have a pet parrot called Percy. He served for 35 years in the Army department of the Civil Service Stores as a tailor. A drawback of his old age is his weak bladder, which lets him down and postpones all platoon activity, hence his catchphrase, "Do you think I might be excused?", and his tendency to fall asleep can be similarly categorized; "I must have dozed off!" Old, White haired, slow, overweight, well spoken.

Private Pike

By far the youngest member of the newly formed platoon at 17, Frank was too young to enlist in the services, but jumped at the change of belonging to the Home Guard, much to his mother's displeasure. For some reason this displeasure spread to Arthur Wilson, or Uncle Arthur, as Frank would usually address him. Frank regarded the Home Guard as an extension of the scouting movement, of which he was a keen member, and at times acted as if war was a bit of a game. This outlook changed when he eventually received his call up papers, but after it was discovered that he had a rare blood group, he was unable to fulfil his ambition to be a Spitfire pilot and become one of the 'second of the few'. Frank Pike usually ended up wet, or covered in mud during the platoon's escapades, he was usually volunteered because he was the youngest, despite his protests about suffering from vertigo, croup or hay fever. Fresh faced, Thin, Tall.

Other Characters

Chief Warden Hodges

Hodges is Captain Mainwaring, signified by his white helmet, and that power has gone to his head. He can be as pompous and officious as Mainwaring, but is more uncouth and coarse, antagonizing the Home Guard Platoon, in particular Mainwaring, whom he calls "Napoleon". Working Class, 50ish, good health.

Verger

Mr Yeatman's relations with Walmington's Home Guard platoon, led by Captain Mainwaring were strained, almost hostile. He resented their use of the church hall for parades and in particular the inevitable damage caused by various militaristic activities ("the vicar must be informed"; "His Reverence is not going to like this"). Mr Yeatman referred to the platoon as "vandals". Responding in kind, Corporal Jones described him as a "troublemaker".

Mrs Pike

Mavis was overprotective of her son Frank, and treated him like a child. She often made him wear a scarf on parade in all weathers, and interrupted parades with complaints to Captain Mainwaring about Frank's health and welfare. It is often implied that Mavis is Sergeant Wilson's lover. He claims that "She's a widow and she has my ration book and I go round to her house sometimes for meals... and that sort of thing".

Mrs Fox

Often described as amorous and larger than life, Mrs Fox often freely gave her matronly attentions to the platoon's men, and eventually married the elderly but eligible Corporal Jones.

Vicar

Slightly ineffectual, but well-meaning vicar of St Aldhelm's Church. Neither on the side of the Home Guard, or the ARP Wardens, he attempted to care for "The spiritual needs of (his) parishioners", despite the many setbacks presented during the war, such as having to share his church hall and office with both the pompous Captain Mainwaring and the uncouth Chief Air Raid Warden Hodges. Camp, tall, Bald.

U-Boat Captain

40 – 50, imposing figure, good German accent.

Colonel

60's, Typical British Colonel, Upper Class, slightly pompous.

Mr Gordon

50 – 60. Town Clerk, job's-worth, know all

Miss Ironside

Miss Samways

Miss Grayling

Waitress

All local residents of Walmington on Sea. All enter the contest for Miss Godiva, so appear in bathing suits. They will have dialogue, I am taking a scene from another play to give them more to do.

Extra's

We will require other platoon members who will be required to learn the Army Drill and to Morris Dance. We also require a few non-speaking German Soldiers.

Performance Dates: Thursday 5th July to Saturday 14th July 2018

11 performances over 10 days at the Everyman Festival Theatre, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff.
Performances every evening at 8pm with matinees on Saturdays 7th & 14th July.
No performances on Sunday 8th July.
Technical & Dress Rehearsals: Sunday 1st July to Wednesday 4th July.

The first rehearsal will be on Sunday 29th April(tbc) at Chapter Arts Centre

Rehearsals will continue from 6th May onwards (tbc) onwards.
Rehearsal days are likely to be, Sundays all day and Monday and Tuesday evenings
Rehearsals will be carefully scheduled and not everyone will be called to every session.
Additional rehearsal days may be called nearer production period.

Please note that all performances take place in the open-air.

The Auditions

Auditions will take place at Chapter Arts Centre on the 24th and 25th of February – recalls will take place on the Sunday Afternoon.

If you would like to audition but cannot attend on any of these days, please let us know as soon as possible

Please arrive 15mins before your audition slot and bring with you your completed audition form.

NB. Please attach a photograph.

Spare audition forms will be available on the day. When booking an audition slot, please refer to the character breakdown

Prepare a speech from any play of your choice. You may be asked to repeat the speech in a variety of ways.

Please bring the text with you.

At the first audition, you will be seen individually but if recalled, you may be asked to read scenes from the piece in pairs or in groups.

Not being recalled does not necessarily mean you are not being considered for a role.

**To reserve your place at the audition,
please contact AMANDA SMITH on: 07540434046 or nearly50@outlook.com**

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU ARE IN A POSITION TO MAKE THE REQUIRED LEVEL OF COMMITMENT

Take careful note of the rehearsal period and be honest about your availability within it.

Although the rehearsal process takes place over a number of weeks, consistent and punctual attendance is essential, as we will be operating within a very tight schedule.

A high level of unavailability, persistent lateness and/or no-show will regrettably result in your being asked to leave the production.

You will also be required to attend the full company meeting on Sunday 6th May at 2.00pm.

Everyman Theatre Cardiff Ltd.

Audition Form for

Dad's Army [2018]

To book your audition time please contact AMANDA SMITH on:

07540434046 or nearly50@outlook.com

Please write clearly and don't forget to bring this form with a recent photograph to your audition!



Name.....

.....

Date of audition.....

Time.....

Address.....

.....

Postcode.....

e-mail address.....

Tel.no [home]..... [work/mobile]

.....

Date of birth if **under 16** on 21st July 2017

ANY SPECIAL SKILLS – eg, dancing, singing, juggling, combat,

etc.....

.....

.....

Please state **all commitments** [family/work/holidays/other shows *etc*] that **may** conflict with the rehearsal period!

.....

.....

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE [continue overleaf if necessary]

.....

.....

Is there a particular role in which you are interested?

.....

If not cast in a principal role, would you be prepared to join the cast in an ensemble / non-speaking role – yes / no

Are you already a member of Everyman Theatre? yes / no

PLEASE NOTE – everyone cast must become an Everyman member.

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

PETER DORAN



In 1977 Peter joined the Torch Theatre company as a founder member and initially stayed for three years appearing in over twenty five productions. Peter then went on to work in Rep all over the country as well as making appearances at London's Young Vic and Regents Park Open Air Theatre. In addition to his theatre work Peter made over fifty television appearances including spells in *Eastenders*, *Brookside*, *Casualty*, *Poirot*.

Peter eventually moved into directing and worked in several Rep theatres and Drama Schools.

In 1998 Peter returned to his home county to take over as Artistic Director of the Torch. Within a few years he set about a programme of development and expansion, resulting in a £5.4 million refurbishment of the building. He has directed fifty shows at the Torch including; *Neville's Island*, *The Woman in Black*, *Abigail's Party*, *Taking Steps*, *Blue Remembered Hills*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *Of Mice & Men*, *Educating Rita*, *Bedroom Farce*, *Dead Funny*, *The Norman Conquests*, *An Inspector Calls*, *Accidental Death Of An Anarchist*, *The Turn of the Screw* and *Brief Encounter*. Peter also directed *She Stoops to Conquer* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, two co-productions between the Torch, Mappa Mundi and Theatr Mwldan.

In 2002 he won Best Production in Wales for *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* and in 2003 for *Of Mice and Men*. In 2005 he won the Theatre Managers Association/UK Theatre, Theatre Director of the Year; in 2016, he won best production for *Grav*; and in 2017 Best Director for *Belonging* at the Wales Theatre Awards. In 2006 Peter was made a Fellow of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

This will be Peter's Fourth production for the Everyman Open Air Festival having directed A Midsummer Nights Dream, As You Like it and The Merchant of Venice in the late nineties.