

Talisman Theatre & Arts Centre

Barrow Road, Kenilworth
Monday 24th – Saturday 29th June
at 7.30 p.m.

An amateur production of



... *bilarious shenanigans* ...

Directed by Wendy Anderson

Box Office Telephone: (01926) 856548

Resistance is useless – have a laugh

'ALLO 'ALLO – Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth, until Saturday. Running time: 2 hr.

IT CAN'T be easy taking a hit TV show to the stage, because the audience is going to have its own preconceptions.

We were waiting for Rene to chase the women, to see Helga's suspenders and hear saucy talk about sausages and boobies, plus the threat of Edith's singing. And we were not disappointed. The Talisman crew turned in a

★REVIEWS★

fine show, with John Fenner, as Rene, leading with a polished performance.

They took us back to wartime France, with the British and Germans as the butt of the jokes.

There was a great atmosphere on opening night, when a capacity audience laughed all the way through.

The scenery could have been better – we were given just one all-purpose set – but this is a tiny gripe about a show that sent everyone away with a smile on their faces.

Listen very carefully, I shall say this only once: head to the Talisman this week!

Arryn Buggins

FRENCH CONNECTION: John Fenner and Kate Washer at the Talisman



Founded October, 1942

583rd Production

Monday 24th to Saturday 29th June, 2002, at 7.30 p.m.

Talisman Theatre Company

presents

'All About'

by Jeremy Lloyd & David Croft

Cast:

René	John Fenner
Edith	Anne Bennett
Yvette	Vicki Hollings
Mimi	Laura Collier
Michelle	Kate Washer
Colonel	Bob Caren
Helga	Chris Ives
Captain Alberto Bertorelli	Mike Santos
Herr Flick	Mike Skinner
Pianist	Rosemary Gowers
Crabtree	Rob Smith
Leclerc	David Draper
Gruber	Rob Wootton
General von Schmelling	Ron Austin
Airmen/Peasants	Gareth Bailey, Martin Smith & Margaret Crook

The action of the play takes place in and around the café of René Artois in Nouvion, France, in 1942.

Act One:	Act Two:
Scene 1 The café	Scene 1 The café
Scene 2 The lander	Scene 2 The General's office
Scene 3 The Colonel's office	Scene 3 Flick's headquarters
Scene 4 Flick's headquarters	Scene 4 Alberto's room
Scene 5 The café	Scene 5 René and Edith's bedroom
Scene 6 The lander	Scene 6 A cinema
Scene 7 The café	Scene 7 The café
Scene 8 The café	Scene 8 The lander
Scene 9 The café	Scene 9 The café

There will be one fifteen minute interval.

Production Team

Directed by	Wendy Anderson
Set designed by	Tim Eden
Lighting designed by	Brian Tuck assisted by Steve Atherton
Choreography by	Rosemary Gowers
Sound by	Dik Thacker
Wardrobe by	Vicki Hollings, Anne Bennett, Wendy Anderson & Janet Baldwin
Properties by	Brenda Bingham & Margaret Crook
Stage Manager	Philip Roe
Assistant Stage Manager	Maureen Jones

Set constructed and painted by Ian Roberts, Mark Robottom, Steve Roberts, Tim Eden, Jo Elsy, Scott Jones, Colin Mountjoy, Laura Elliott & Brian Tuck.

The Talisman Theatre thanks the following for assistance with this production:

Bausors the Butchers, Kenilworth
for the forged knockwurst sausage.

Philip Milner
for the painting of the Fallen Madonna.

Production photographs by Zoë Jelly



Patrons are reminded that the hard-of-hearing are invited to switch their hearing aids to "T" in order to benefit from the theatre's induction loop.



Reluctant reviewer raises a laugh

'Allo, 'Allo at the Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth until tomorrow (Saturday)
 'ALLO 'ALLO had all the attributes you would associate with a Second World War farce. There were French Resistance members, Nazis, and a corrupt restaurateur. I went with much apprehension. I

never liked the TV version of 'Allo 'Allo and have never found it funny, but the Talisman's production of this screen to stage play was very, very good.
 Set in Cafe Rene in northern France, it follows the characters exploits in trying to locate a famous painting by Van Clump. The lead role played by John

Fenner is very much like the original Rene played by Gordon Kay in the BBC production.
 In fact not only does he look like him but he sounds and acts like him. The play offered the usual seaside postcard humour, men chasing women, women chasing men, men chasing men and so on.
 Anne Bennett's recreation of Rene's wife Edith is exceptionally good.
 In the original, Edith was an atrocious singer and Mrs Bennett mirrored this to perfection.
 I'm not sure the performance with the two waitresses shaking tambourines and dancing was that effective. I thought this was a bit of a low point in the play.
 I was worried about how the French, German, Italian accents would have come across, but the Talisman crew did not seem to have a problem with that.
 Herr Flick (Mike Skinner) and Colonel (Bob Carey) had pretty impressive German accents.
 It's unfortunate that people came to this play having seen the original on TV which was going to make this difficult for the performers, but they certainly made it their own.
 The setting of the cafe was very good but I think the design of the bedroom and the office above could have been better.
 'Allo, 'Allo was pleasantly surprising, it was tight and well rehearsed and the packed audience thoroughly enjoyed it and I reluctantly enjoyed it. - Lorraine O'Hare
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'Allo 'Allo what's going on here?

THE Germans are invading Warwickshire and their target is an art masterpiece. TV comedy 'Allo 'Allo is being brought to the Kenilworth stage by members of the Talisman Theatre. John Spenser, of the Talisman, says: "The play is written around the episodes of the television series concerning the coveted painting of the renowned Van Clump stolen by the Nazis.
 "This work of art has been hidden inside a sausage kept in the cellar of cafe owner Rene Artois. To complicate matters, Rene is also sheltering two British airmen whom the Resistance workers are endeavouring to return to England - with the aid of a radio disguised as a cocktail."
 John Fenner plays Rene with Anne Bennett is his wife Edith. Wendy Anderson directs and more than 50 per cent of tickets were snapped up within the first weeks of going on sale.
 'Allo 'Allo opens on Monday for a week-long run. Tickets from 01926 856548.

Saucy comedy and cheeky innuendo

'Allo 'Allo, Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth
 SAUCY comedy and cheeky innuendo are among the highlights on the menu at Le Cafe Rene.
 Based on the popular TV series starring Gordon Kay and Carmen Silvers as Rene and Edith Artois, this unique British comedy is just as funny on stage.
 Set in war-torn France, two-timing cafe owner Rene is hiding two British airmen for the French Resistance and a famous painting by artist Van Clump for the Germans. The problems start when the German soldiers and Gestapo officer Herr Flick both want the painting which is hidden in a Knackwurst sausage, as

well as Adolf Hitler who is coming to the cafe and wants the painting for himself.
 The stage version has all the favourites characters and all are played well in particular John Fenner as the cowardly Rene and Chris Ives as the feisty Helga. Rob Smith manages bravely to speak terrible French as British policeman Crabtree and Anne Bennett enjoys her renditions of Madame Edith's terrible songs.
 With use of the now classic phrases including Good Morning and You Stupid Woman, fans of the original will not be disappointed.
 'Allo 'Allo runs until Saturday (June 29). For tickets call the box office on 01926 856548.

