

Talisman

Kenilworth

Monday 18th to Saturday 23rd October at 7.30 p.m.

a north-country comedy with a twist

Stanley Houghton's

Hindle Wakes

Directed by
Rex Satchwell

Box Office: (01926) 856548

Founded October, 1942

605th Production

Monday 18th to Saturday 23rd October, 2004, at 7.30 p.m.

Talisman Theatre Company

presents

Hindle Wakes

by Stanley Houghton

Cast:

Christopher Hawthorne	John Spenser
Mrs Hawthorne	Lorna Spenser
Fanny Hawthorne	Donna Griffin
Nathaniel Jeffcote	Ron Austin
Mrs Jeffcote	Ann Brooks
Alan Jeffcote	Ian Moseley
Sir Timothy Farrar	John Fenner
Beatrice Farrar	Chris Ives
Ada	Sophie Brown

The action of the play takes place in the early 1900s, in Hindle, a Lancashire mill town.

There will be *one fifteen minute* interval.

Production Team

Director	Rex Satchwell
Set Designer	Mark Plastow
Lighting Designer	Emily Woodward
Assistant Lighting Designer	Brian Tuck
Sound Designer	Dik Thacker
Wardrobe	June Sanday, Jackie Jacob
Properties	Rosemary Gowers, Maureen Jones
Furniture	Margaret Preston
Stage Manager	Bob Caren
Assistant Stage Manager	Laura Power

Set constructed by Bob Caren, John Ellam, Corrina Jacob, Mark Plastow, Steve Roberts, Bob Teers and Brian Tuck.

The Talisman Theatre also thanks the following for their help with this production:-

Philip Highley, for arranging and playing the music.

Antiques in a Barn, Balsall Common, for the loan of table, chairs and gas lamp.

Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth, for the loan of armchairs.

Kenilworth Lions for the loan of sideboard and dresser.

Hindle Wakes was first produced in 1911 at the Gaiety Theatre, Manchester, before transferring to London.

Production photographs by Zoë Jelley



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.

Entertaining yarn - without a twist

HINDLE WAKES - Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth, until Saturday. Running time: 3 hr.

Stanley Houghton's *Hindle Wakes* is a tale straight from Lancashire and the early 1900s.

The death of a young girl in Blackpool leads to the discovery of grave affairs for the small town of Hindle during Wakes week, the old northern equivalent of the Coventry fortnight.

The wonderful cast brings a story of straight-living and sexual equality to life at the Talisman and gives the audience plenty of laughs.

Just one set change at the beginning makes for a slow pace at times although the talented actors make sure the speed soon picks up and never leaves you bored.

That's one small criticism and one caused by a writer who died 91 years ago rather than the able cast.

My only other criticism is the

lack of the billed twist.

One hundred years ago, when *Hindle Wakes* was written, the twist would have been shocking and surprising, but in these days of sexual equality, promiscuity and "sin," the twist was predictable from the start.

Maybe that's a shame but it takes nothing away from an otherwise entertaining yarn. - Jeanette Scott



PERIOD PIECE: Ian Moseley and Chris Walden in a scene from *Hindle Wakes* at the Talisman

Mill tale production was a lovely surprise

Hindle Wakes - Talisman Theatre, Kenilworth

WHAT A lovely surprise this little production turned out to be.

Set in a Lancashire mill town circa 1910 when cotton was still king and full employment filled pockets with lots of brass, on the face of it, *Hindle Wakes* is a warm-hearted amusement as typically north country as Gracie Fields.

The story concerns two young people, Fanny Hawthorne and Alan Jeffcote being persuaded to do the right thing by their two sets of parents after spending a dirty weekend together in Llandudno.

Trouble is, he's the factory

boss's lad and expected to make a match with the daughter of a titled rival. She's just a weaver's daughter and might well be just a minx on the make.

Delightfully, a whole series of preconceptions get overturned during the course of the play which is snappily performed by an excellent cast.

But Donna Griffin stole the show as sparky factory lass, Fanny. The character is a revelation, a modern heroine who knows her own mind and is determined to pay her own way through life. A Lancashire lass who could have been a character from Ibsen.

Pauline Wallin

