

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Carousel Costumes – Leamington
Hospice Shop
The Vanity Box

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome friends old and new!

Thank you for supporting live amateur theatre in Henley.

In our constant quest for the original and 'different' we open our 51st season with George Eliot's classic tale 'Silas Marner' faithfully adapted from the novel by our own Ray Evans who has also directed this production.

It has been a challenge to which the cast and indeed the whole Society has risen, but particular mention must be made of Kevin Allen, who regularly travels up from Chepstow to not only design and build the set but also design and implement the wonderfully atmospheric lighting.

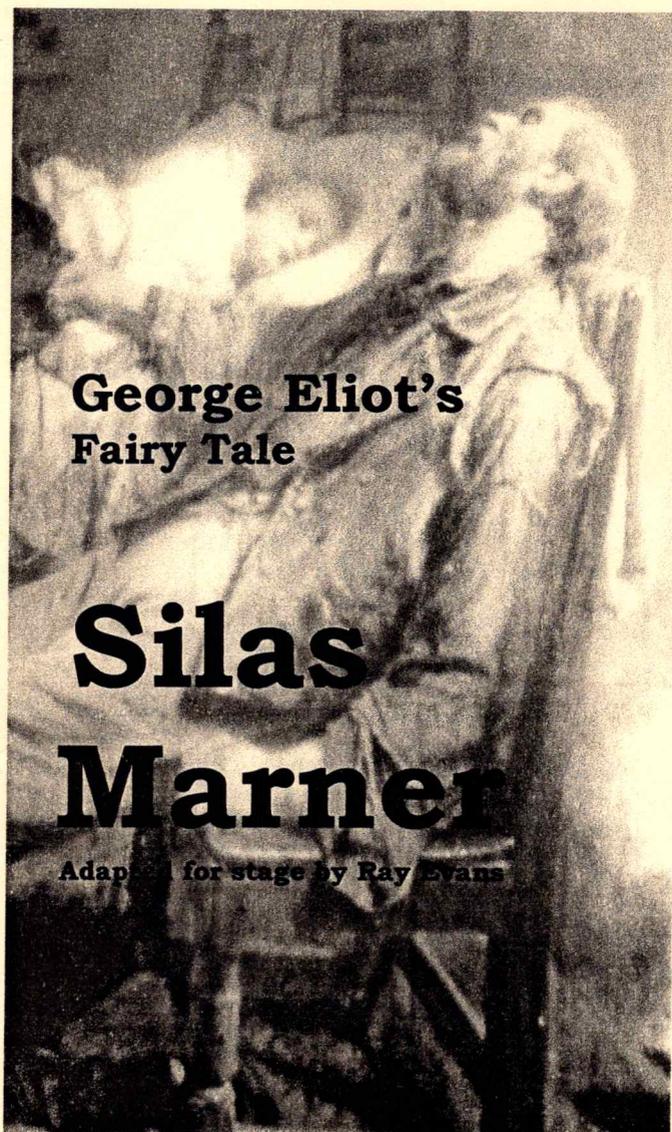
We are pleased to introduce two new young members who are making their debuts for HADS; Jack Sandall and Jamie Isaac, who are both playing Aaron (all will become clear!) We also welcome to the Society Tony and Lesley Capps who are keen to get involved in technical and backstage aspects.

Finally, sit back, relax and I hope you enjoy the show.

Best Regards,
Phil Walker
Chairman

Why not join the HADS?

All the information you need is on our site:-
www.hads.org.uk



**George Eliot's
Fairy Tale**

Silas Marner

Adapted for stage by Ray Evans

**A period costume dramatic
production by Henley in Arden
Drama Society**

**Memorial Hall
Station Road
Henley in Arden**

**Wednesday 26th to Saturday
29th of October 2005**

Curtain 7:30 pm

Programme - 50p
www.hads.org.uk

Silas Marner

Written by George Eliot in 1860, this wonderful fairy tale is an accurate observation of rural life over the period 1790 to 1820.

The narrative deals with the journey through the life of Silas Marner, a weaver, who is wrongly accused of theft, and finally expelled, from a strict religious group in Lantern Yard, near Manchester. He suffers from a trance-inducing illness and it is during one of these 'visitations' that he is framed by his friend William Dane, who later marries Silas's ex-fiancée Sarah.

We then join Silas some 15 years later after his expulsion. He moved from Lantern Yard to Raveloe, a small village in Staffordshire. He lives alone in a stone-pit cottage and spends his life weaving linen for the local gentry. He accrues a large amount of cash from his trade and, despite warnings from well meaning visitors, he finally falls victim to a robbery.

Silas however is rewarded for his loss by the timely arrival of a 3 year-old, flaxen haired girl, Eppie, who, he believes, was delivered by divine forces, to replace the gold he has lost.

The child, as it transpires, is in fact the natural daughter of Godfrey Cass, the squire's son, and his estranged wife Molly, who on reaching Silas's cottage with the child, dies from exposure exacerbated by opium abuse.

This secret is kept by Godfrey for 16 years until it is discovered that his elder brother, Dunstan, was in fact the thief that took Silas's gold all those years ago. Only to be thwarted in his wicked deed, by falling in to the local water-filled stone pit, where he perished and lay undiscovered until the pit was drained of water.

Godfrey then sees fit to tell his wife Nancy of Dunstan's foul deed and, more to the point, that he was Eppie's real father.

Overcoming her shock, Nancy, though having lost a child of their own, feels it only right to approach Silas, and take Eppie in to their home.

Only Eppie can decide, and the love for her 'Adopted Father' and her husband-to-be Aaron, finally helps her to make the final decision.....

Ray Evans

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CAST

Silas Marner/**Phil Walker**
Jem Rodney/**Fred Dowling**
Wise Woman/**Beryl Butler**
Minister/**Alec Winter**
William Dane/**Phil Bonson**
Mrs Osgood/**Carol Robson**
Dunstan Cass/**Rod Fox**
Godfrey Cass/**Phil Bonson**
Bryce/**Ray Evans**
Mrs Dolly Winthrop/**Rosie Hammond**
Mr Macey/**Colin Fisher**
Aaron Winthrop (Younger)/**Jack Sandall**
Aaron Winthrop (Elder)/**Jamie Isaac**
Eppie/**Jessica Bonson**
Squire Cass/**Rod Fox**
Nancy Lammeter (Cass)/**Catriona McDonald**
Dr Kimble/**Fred Dowling**

PRODUCTION

Direction & Production/**Ray Evans**

Artistic Director/**Sue Evans**
Lighting Design/**Kevin Allen**
Stage Manager/**Sue Tootill**
Lighting Operator/**Ian Smedley**
Sound Operator/**Kate Portman**
ASM/Properties/**Marjorie Earnshaw**
Set Design-Build/**Kevin Allen, Phil Walker**
Prompt/**Mandy Key**
Costumes/**Sue Evans**
Publicity/**Ray Evans**
FOH/**Marijana Bainbridge-Kate Castle**
Refreshments/**The 'A' Team**
Box Office/**Bryan Castle/Brian Hammond**

ACT I

Scene 1/**Lantern Yard**
Scene 2/**The Spider**
Scene 3/**Dunsey's Revenge**
Scene 4/**Horse Trading**
Scene 5/**The Gold Has Gone**
Scene 6/**Dunsey's Departure**
Scene 7/**Well Meaning Visitors**
Scene 8/**The Beggar**
Scene 9/**Time to Tell the Squire**
Scene 10/**Lost Treasure**
Scene 11/**Poor Molly**

INTERVAL

ACT II

Scene 1/**Sixteen Years On**
Scene 2/**The Grim Discovery**
Scene 3/**Eppie Must Choose**
Scene 4/**The Conclusion**