

ADVERTISEMENTS

C A F É V I C T O I R E

PRESENTS

OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR

BY ARRANGEMENT WITH SAMUEL FRENCH LTD



31 MARCH - 3 APRIL 2004 THE VICTORY HALL BALCOMBE

## OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR

was first devised by Theatre Workshop, directed by Joan Littlewood, in 1963. It chronicles the horrors of the First World War through a series of short scenes based around the songs, pictures and documents of that period. As Victor Spinetti, one of the original cast, writes in the current script of the piece:

“We all knew something of the background to that war but I never knew that all the fuses for the shells were made in Britain and that the Germans bought their share from us during the war. I didn't know that the women who worked in the munitions factories had their hands dyed yellow, permanently, from the saltpetre. Nor did I have any idea of the losses in that war. Ten million dead. Twenty one million wounded. Seven million missing. At Passchendaele alone, thirteen thousand men were lost in three hours. Haig's comment was, 'Mostly gamekeepers and servants'.”

Our presentation of the piece comes about following the persistent vision of our producer, Rodney Saunders, who has for many years wanted to see this particular show put on in the awesome setting provided by the frescos of Balcombe's Victory Hall.

We hope you enjoy it, but we hope too that it makes us all reflect again on the sheer scale of the wilful destructiveness which allowed it to happen as it did.



## OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR

Please join us, if you wish, in singing the reprise of this chorus at the very end of the show.

*Oh, oh, oh it's a lovely war  
Who wouldn't be a soldier, eh?  
Oh, it's a shame to take the pay;  
As soon as reveille is gone,  
We feel just as heavy as lead,  
But we never get up till the sergeant  
Brings our breakfast up to bed.  
Oh, oh, oh it's a lovely war,  
What do we want with eggs and ham,  
When we've got plum and apple jam?  
Form fours, right turn,  
How shall we spend the money we earn?  
Oh, oh, oh it's a lovely,  
Oh, oh, oh it's a lovely,  
Oh, oh, oh it's a lovely war.*



## ADVERTISEMENTS

## THE FIRST WORLD WAR

*The War To End All Wars*

“If I should die, think only this of me;  
That there’s some corner of a foreign field  
That is for ever England...”

*Rupert Brooke*  
*The War Sonnets: V. The Soldier*

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“...the least rewarded of all wars  
that men have fought.”

*Winston Churchill*  
*A valedictory to Rupert Brook*  
*The Times, April 26, 1915*



## ADVERTISEMENTS

## THE PLAYERS

Mike Anderson	Isabel Gordon	John Randall
Botts Bottomley	Eddie Hammond	Mike Rayner
John Bunn	Jim Knight	Barbara Saunders
Caroline Carpenter	Margaret Laker	Rodney Saunders
Chris Carr	Chris Mitchell	Glynis Sayer
Mike Chatt	Neil Mitchell	Nancy Towers
Maria Daultrey	David Moore	Chris Walker
Sue Etheridge	Colette Randall	Manuela Warburton
Dorothy France		Douglas Wragg

## THE CREW

Martin Allitt ..... <i>Stage Manager</i>	John Moore..... <i>Slide Operator</i>
Anthea Bell..... <i>FOH</i>	John Randall..... <i>Set Building</i>
Roger Bell..... <i>FOH</i>	Robert Saunders..... <i>Graphic Design</i>
Denise & Martin Bugler... <i>Props</i>	Rodney Saunders..... <i>Producer</i>
Steven Daultrey..... <i>FOH</i>	Pam Taylor..... <i>Prompt</i>
Norman Howard..... <i>FOH</i>	Julie Walker..... <i>FOH</i>
Eileen Knight ..... <i>Set Design</i>	Priscilla Williamson..... <i>FOH</i>
Jim Knight..... <i>Director</i>	Robin Williamson..... <i>FOH Manager</i>
Margaret Laker..... <i>Make-up</i>	Nigel Willson..... <i>Technical Manager</i>
Keith Major..... <i>Lighting</i>	Eileen Winn..... <i>Costumes</i>
Diane Mitchell..... <i>Costumes</i>	Douglas Wragg..... <i>Musical Director</i>

*FOH = Front of House*



## FUTILITY

Move him into the sun –  
Gently its touch awoke him once,  
At home, whispering of fields unsown.  
Always it woke him, even in France,  
Until this morning and this snow.  
If anything might rouse him now  
The kind old sun will know.

Think how it wakes the seeds –  
Woke, once, the clays of a cold star.  
Are limbs, so dear-achieved, are sides,  
Full-nerved – still warm – too hard to stir?  
Was it for this the clay grew tall?  
- O what made fatuous sunbeams toil  
To break earth's sleep at all?

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*The author of this poem, Wilfred Owen, was badly injured in 1917  
but returned to the front in August 1918.  
He was killed on November 4<sup>th</sup> - seven days before the armistice.*



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The players and crew would like to thank:

Paul Scofield  
*for agreeing to be patron of the production and for recording the poems  
with which the show opens and closes.*

The Balcombe Estate  
*for sponsoring the production*

The Victory Hall Management Committee  
*for the use of the Victory Hall for rehearsals and performances*

Balcombe W I  
*for use of the W I Room*

Balcombe Parochial Church Council  
*for use of the Parish Room*

Balcombe Social Club  
*for its cooperation and assistance*

Mark Fairweather  
*for donating meals at his restaurant, Evolution in Haywards Heath, as  
lucky programme prizes*

Nigel Willson  
*for donating the wine from his vineyard at Lower Ricks, Balcombe*

Isabel Gordon  
*for providing the box office in Threads*

and the numerous other people of Balcombe  
without whose support and assistance  
this production could not have been  
achieved.

*All profits from our production are being  
donated to The Victory Hall*



# CAFÉ VICTOIRE

*Menu/Table des Scènes*

## LES AMUSE-GUEULES

Overture  
*The beginning of things*

## LES HORS D'OEUVRES

The War Game  
*The posturing powers of Europe*

An Afternoon in Sarajevo  
*The excuse for war*

The War Begins  
*Belgium falls: the French go hunting*

Enlistment  
*The euphoria of the volunteers*

The Allies Confer and Consult Each Other  
*An Anglo-French duologue with Belgian commentary*

From Mons (Belgium) to Waterloo (Station)  
*The first injured reach home*

All Quiet on the Western Front  
*It was not all over by Christmas*

## ENTRACTE

*20 minutes to enjoy your  
pre-ordered drinks from the bar*

## LES VIANDES

Oh What a Lovely War  
*Britain introduces conscription*

The Shooting Party  
*Business as usual*

Back at the Front  
*A pep talk in the trenches*

Waltzing in Picardy  
*Sir Douglas Haig joins the dance*

Haig's Offensive  
*The first attack on the Somme, July 1916*

The Peace Platform  
*Mrs Pankhurst pleads for peace*

Passchendaele  
*The third battle of Ypres, 1917*

## LES DESSERTS

Hymns Ancient and Modern  
*Asking the Almighty for help*

A Burial Party  
*...but Haig still believes*

Sister Susie's Sewing Shirts for Soldiers  
*Life on the home front*

Finale  
*The war to end all wars*

