

Sudbury Dramatic Society presents...



The Pitmen Painters

by Lee Hall

4th – 8th July

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd., on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. www.concordtheatricals.co.uk.

The QUAY
Quay Lane, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2AN

Box Office
01787 374 745
www.quaysudbury.com

Sudbury Dramatic Society presents...

The Pitmen Painters

by Lee Hall

An inspiring play based on a true story about
ordinary people doing extraordinary things.



The Pitmen Painters (The Ashington Group)

The Pitmen Painters – A True Story

One day in the 1930s a group of ordinary coal miners walked into an Art Appreciation evening class organised by the WEA.

The evening classes captured the coal miners' imagination and curiosity about art. When they began painting for themselves, they unknowingly began an incredible journey that took the British art world by storm. Mining by day and painting at night, the miners formed The Ashington Group and became some of the most important and extraordinary artists of the 1930s.

Lee Hall is probably best known for writing 'Billy Elliot', featuring music by Elton John. His work includes the stage version of 'Shakespeare in Love', the screenplays for 'Warhorse' and 'Rocketman' and, most recently, 'Get Up, Stand Up! The Bob Marley Musical', which played in the West End.

The 'Pitmen Painters' play premiered in 2007 in Newcastle. It transferred to The National Theatre, winning the Evening Standard Award for Best Play in 2008. Two years later, the play crossed the Atlantic to open on Broadway.

The Ashington Group, also known as the Pitmen Painters, produced numerous paintings reflecting life in a mining village. The Woodhorn Museum in Ashington contains a permanent exhibition of this work in a dedicated gallery.

The Workers' Educational Association (WEA) is a charity, founded in 1903, and the largest voluntary sector provider of adult education. Its provision is mostly local, with the majority of the participants travelling under two miles. The pitmen painters' evening classes were organised under the auspices of this initiative in the 1930s.

The Pitmen Painters



Cast

George Brown

Dave Hossack

Oliver Kilbourn

Gray Searle

Jimmy Floyd

Luke Eversley

Young Lad

Matt Byham

Harry Wilson

Stuart Williams

Robert Lyon

Joseph James

Susan Parks

Zoe Bell

Helen Sutherland

Fiona Haskell

Ben Nicholson

Malcolm Hollister

Cornet played by Matt Byham

The 'Gresford Hymn', sung at the end of the play, was written by Robert Saint, a miner. He wrote the hymn to commemorate the Gresford Pit disaster (1934) in Wales, caused by a gas explosion, in which over 250 men and boys lost their lives. It has been played at every Durham Miners' Gala since 1936.

The Pitmen Painters



Back Stage

Stage Manager

Chris Wade

Light & Sound Operation

Kerys Stephens

Lighting Design

Joe Fawcett

Sound Effects

Peter Morris

Technical Support

Adam Webster

Props

Linda Reynolds

Costumes

Sara Knight

Photography

Natalie Pimm

Rehearsal Prompt

Richard Fawcett

Art Work & Advice

Dick Taylor

Poster Design

Gem Cooper

Producer

Helen Arbon

Director

Neil Arbon

Thanks to Sally at Masquerade Costumes. Cover photo credit Andrea Vojna.

The Pitmen Painters





Sudbury Dramatic Society is the main provider of live drama to **The Quay Theatre**, in most years supporting the work of the theatre through its programme of productions annually, including the annual pantomime. Your support enables our drama season to happen and in turn is vital to the wellbeing of this local theatre. Thank you.

Why not get involved in one of our upcoming productions yourself? We always cast by open auditions and welcome people with skills or an interest in carpentry, lighting or costume as well as acting. Contact us at sds@sudburydramatic.com to find out more.

You may have noticed that in 2021 we celebrated our 100th birthday and the publication of a book, available to buy or order tonight, about our long history and close links to Sudbury and The Quay Theatre: **SDS – The First 100 Years**.

www.sudburydramatic.com

Sudbury Dramatic Society presents...

Jumpers for Goalposts

by Tom Wells

sudbury
dramatic
society

A comedy about
friendship and
finding your way.

7.45pm
5th - 9th
September

This amateur production is presented by special arrangement with Nick Hern.

The QUAY
Quay Lane, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2AN

Box Office
01787 374 745
www.quaysudbury.com