

Necropolis Now



New writing by
Rosie de Vekey

Death's not a rehearsal

A brand new audio play

29 October 2011

Doors open at 7pm

Network Theatre, 246A Lower Road, London, SE1 8SF

Free Social Event

www.networktheatre.org

Network
Theatre
Company

Message from the Chairman

Good evening, everyone, and welcome to Network Theatre. We are very pleased to be entertaining you with Necropolis Now, Rosie de Vekey's excellent first radio play for the Company, and her second production with us. You will hear some voices you recognise, and others that are new to the Company, and we welcome them all.

This evening also provides an ideal occasion to present the David Murray Award. This award was set up in memory of David, our previous Chairman and long-standing member of Network, and is presented to the person whom the committee feels has given dedicated time, service and commitment to the Company. I'm sure you will agree it's going to such a person tonight.

We are still in the very preliminary stages of the proposed move of the theatre to new premises, and I'll keep you informed of developments as and when they happen. Network Theatre Company will continue to flourish before, during and after the move, and the intention is to keep to our 2012 programme of productions.

So, tonight, enjoy the radio play, which is set in the Network Theatre, where ghostly things are happening! If you feel in need of alcoholic (or non-alcoholic) comfort, please enjoy the Green Room bar facilities available during the evening, and talk to any member of the committee if you would like to become more involved with Network Theatre Company.

Kay Murray,
Chairman

Running Times

7pm	Doors Open
7.45pm	Playback of Necropolis Now
8.15pm	Kay Murray presents the Annual David Murray Award
8.30pm	Raffle Prize Draw
8.30pm - 11pm	Drinks & Nibbles in the Bar

Message from the Writer

When I started working on Necropolis Now, I wanted to write a piece for Network Theatre. I started looking into ghosts of Waterloo and happened on the incredible history of the London Necropolis Company. I won't go too far into the details as that will be explored both in the audioplay and via our resident Historians in the Green Room, however I would like to confirm that it is genuinely part of the history of Waterloo Station and by extension, Network Theatre. The London Necropolis Company began operating in 1854; it was a funeral train, taking coffins from London (which was at crisis point in terms of cemetery overcrowding) to Brookwood cemetery in Woking. Waterloo Station became the **station of the dead!**

The thought that Network could be haunted is not too much of a stretch for anyone who has opened up the theatre on a dark evening and we hope you will enjoy the launch of this brand new audioplay. I would like to say a huge thanks to all the cast and crew who made the production happen. Special thanks to Emma Byrne for the lights, Cathy Neeson for producing, Dan Carey for the loan of the microphones, Lizzie Ayers for her script feedback and Dan Smith for his endless patience. Finally, this production would not have been possible without the incredible effort of David Harvey, who has spent hours and hours of his time recording, editing and generally being brilliant!

Rosie De Vekey - Writer and Director

Production credits

Writer & Director
Sound Engineer & Editor
Producer
Lighting Design
Lighting Operator
Sound Operator & Programmes
Sound Equipment

Rosie De Vekey
David Harvey
Cathy Neeson
Emma Byrne
David Harvey
Cathy Neeson
Dan Carey

Company biographies

Tour Guide - Keith Wait

Keith has directed over thirty plays, included the award-winning Ostrovsky's *The Forest*, his own *Facades* at the Riverside Studios and his commissioned play *For Ever in Trust*. As an actor, credits include English National Opera's *Messiah* (London Coliseum), Castellucci's *Inferno* and Deborah Warner's *Julius Caesar* (Barbican). Cherished roles were in *Inherit the Wind* (Tricycle Theatre), *Women of Troy* (Yvonne Arnold) and *Lysistrata* (Prague Festival).

Tourist 1 - Sheila Murphy

Sheila has been in many productions with Network Theatre Company since 1995, the most recent being *Romeo & Juliet*. However, this has been her first experience of performing in a radio show, which she found extremely interesting; as was discovering the history relating to the theatre whose boards she has trodden many times.

Tourist 2 - Juliet Ingram

Hailing from a far-off land known as Australia, Juliet has honed her love of theatre by studying improvisation for the past six years with Impro Melbourne. With a strong passion for comedy and character acting, she has also been involved in The Melbourne International Comedy Festival and voice acting.

Mark - Matthew Gill

Assuming that one night as the voice of the time machine in *Time for Love* doesn't count, Matthew's last Network performance was as Frank in Steven Berkoff's *Kvetch* (2004). *Kvetch* previewed at the Southwark Playhouse before a run in Edinburgh the following year, and Matthew has also performed at the Bridewell Theatre, the Wolverhampton Grand and the Edison Theatre, Saint Louis. Having been Rosie's assistant director in real life, he does not feel at all typecast as Mark.

John - Sean McMullan

Appearing in his second Network audio production, having played Watson in last year's *Blue Carbuncle*, Sean has been making more visible appearances here and on other stages for a number of years. He also plays the trumpet (with the Morley Big Band) and sings (usually in the middle of the office), occasionally bringing these skills to bear on stage too. He is, as ever, available for bookings.

Company biographies

Claire - Suzy De Lezameta

This is Suzy's first radio play. Her most recent role at Network was Puck in *Revenge of the Amazons*. Suzy has appeared on the Network stage in a number of plays, including *Time for Love* (Alison), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Hermia), and *Facades* (Lida). In 2008 *Facades* was also taken to the Colourhouse, Merton Abbey and Riverside Studios, Hammersmith. She has also appeared in music videos, most recently as 'Girl in Wheelchair' in the video for *Amma's Mountain* by Norsu and as Jessica in the feature film *Rock and Roll Stole My Soul*.

Emily - Christina Houghton

This is Christina's first scary step into the world of radio recording and trainspotting! Previously you might have seen her in *Outward Bound*, *Fred and Madge*, *An Ideal Husband* and as Miss Cassini in *Happy Chuffing Christmas*. Christina has studied various acting and voice courses at the City Lit and played a bunny girl in the short film *The Lonely Gladiator*.

Beth - Mel Maguire

Imelda has performed in previous Network Theatre shows including *The Kitchen*, *Suburban Spaceman*, *Opposites Attract*, *The Three Musketeers*, and most recently, *Romeo and Juliet*. Outside of Network, Imelda has appeared in shows such as *Dick Whittington* and *Hair* and is currently rehearsing *Zanna Don't*, to be performed at the Bridewell Theatre next month.

Ben - Paul Hoskins

Paul returned to the stage this year for the first time since 1996, playing gauche suitor Mr Miles, septuagenarian French president Emile Loubet and a dazed hippy in Network Theatre's production of *Family Ties*. Previous roles have included John of Gaunt in *Richard II*, Guildenstern in *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead*, Marco in *A View from the Bridge* and Aunt Martha in a cross-dressing production of *Arsenic & Old Lace*. This is his first radio play.

Sarah - Sacha Walker

Sacha's recent credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Puck), *Blithe Spirit* (Madame Arcati), *Dinner* (Sian), *Road* (Marion and Brenda), *Romeo & Juliet* (Chorus/Apothecary), *The Actor's Nightmare* (Sarah Siddons) and *One For The Road* (Gila). She is currently rehearsing for *5/11*, which is on at the Bridewell Theatre 1st to 5th November.

Company biographies

Martin - Nigel Williams

This is Nigel's second audio play with Network having played Sherlock Holmes in The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle. He has appeared in many Network stage productions, most recently A Midsummer Night's Dream (Theseus), Fred and Madge (Dr Petrie), Romeo and Juliet (Capulet). For Network he has directed Sailor Beware, The Deep Blue Sea, Two Planks and a Passion, Female Transport, A Family Affair, Revenge of the Amazons, the first staging of Russell Razzaque's Psychological Barrier and the premier of Andrew N. Hill's iff.

Dan - Andy Barrett

Andy has been in numerous plays around London over the years but this is his first ever audio play. It's a great way to get involved in some drama in a short amount of time and is hoping that his attempt at an RP accent will get him involved in some more!

Historian 1 - Steve Simler

Steve has been with Network for about 4 years and has performed in several productions since then namely A Midsummer Night's Dream, Time for Love and more recently, Road. This is his second venture into the world of radio and has really enjoyed it. He is currently rehearsing for Network's production of Happy As A Sandbag.

Historian 2 - Paul D'Orly

Paul has been active in Network since 1996. His first role was as a Nazi Officer and 20+ plays later he appears as an Historian in this production. When not treading the boards, he makes a mean cup of tea and has been known to make 'noises off' in the sound box.

Writer & Director - Rosie De Vekey

Rosie de Vekey wrote Necropolis Now for the Network Theatre. This is her second piece to be performed here, following 2010's Time for Love, which she also directed. She treads the boards too and previous roles include Mrs Chevely in An Ideal Husband, Bertha in The Kitchen and Catherine the Great in Facades. This year she played Sophia in Carelessly Discarded Yesterdays at the Orange Tree One-Act Play Festival.

Coming up

Here We Go Round the Roundabout



*New Writing
by Jane Lockyer Willis*

*A Social Reading
Friday 25th November 2011*

Here We Go Round the Roundabout - Reading

Here We Go Round the Roundabout is a new writing by Jane Lockyer Willis.

Harry, an aspiring out of work young actor, is very behind with the rent for his bed-sitting room. Desperate for money, he hatches a plot to persuade his stepfather Alban, a retired bank manager, to come to his rescue. Alban arrives only to discover that Harry's attractive landlady, Heather, is an old flame of his, a woman who still arouses past passions. When they all meet in her sitting room, together with Harry's pregnant girl-friend, hilarious complications ensue. A Sat-Nav, which refuses to switch off and insists on giving advice, adds to the fun.

**Reading - Just for Fun;
7pm Friday 25th November 2011**

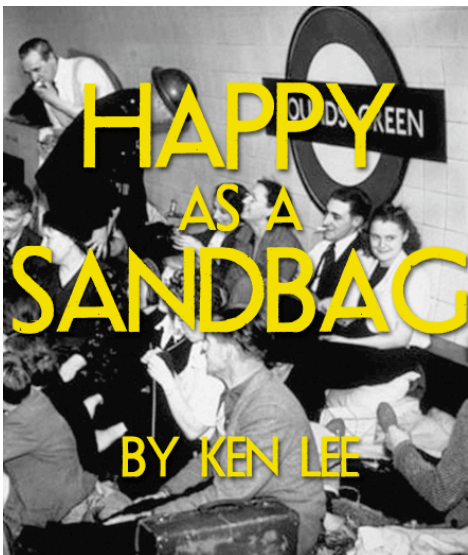
Happy as a Sandbag

Happy as a Sandbag is a musical revue recalling the happier and more memorable moments of wartime Britain between 1939 and 1945.

Within this funny and uplifting show, wartime years are carefully explored through a series of hilarious sketches, speeches, demonstrations and musical medleys. Happy as a Sandbag is patriotic, funny, nostalgic, joyous and above all, a fantastic evening's entertainment.

Written by Ken Lee
Directed by Michael Mayne

Performances 30th November to 3rd December 2011



The logo for Network Theatre Company is a vertical rectangle with rounded corners. The background is a gradient of red, transitioning from a dark red at the top to a bright red at the bottom. The text "Network Theatre Company" is written in a white, serif font, centered within the rectangle.

Network
Theatre
Company

More than 70 years of drama

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