



Amadeus

by Peter Shaffer

Nov 2010



I am delighted to welcome you to tonight's performance of AMADEUS, the opening show of our 2010/11 season. Peter Shaffer's outstanding play has long been a project Director Anne Bloor wanted to bring to life and after 6 months of rehearsal and preparation here it is. We hope you have an enjoyable evening.



Already in rehearsal is our March 2011 Production BRASSED OFF (Paul Allen's adaptation of Mark Herman's screenplay). We are delighted to have Hook Norton Brass Band joining us for this production, providing the all important music as well as coaching our actors on how to handle the various brass instruments required by the script.

Behind the scenes, BCP continues to thrive. Tonight's cast welcomes four new actors and two existing members taking on backstage responsibilities for the first time. Our Play Selection team are hard at work discussing options for our 2011/12 Season. The Marketing Team continue to be in just about everyone's face in an effort to promote our activities and the Social Committee work miracles with five loaves and two fishes ensuring our After Show Parties are of a very high standard (reason enough to be a member, in my view, if you need any encouragement).

You may have been approached tonight about becoming a GOLD CARD HOLDER – BCP's version of a 'Season Ticket' - a cost effective way of seeing our productions. See the back page of this programme for details. Application forms can be found in our brochure – available in the foyer.



Thank you for your continuing support of BCP. We look forward to seeing you again this Season.

John Hicks
Chairman



IN REHEARSAL



Photography - Marc Rogers

Director
Anne Bloor

Stage Manager
John Bennett

ASM
Trish Thompson

Lighting
John Hicks
Linda Shaw

Sound
Mark Neale

Props
Christine Bonson
Rebecca Calverley
Sue May
Dee Robinson

Costume
Jane Shanahan

Hair/Wigs
Anne Twigg

Make Up
Jenny Tustian

Set Design
Peter Bloor

Set Build
Richard Ashby
Peter Bloor
Nik Lester

Rehearsal Prompt
Gill Huband

Amadeus

Antonio Salieri
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Constanze Weber
Emperor Josef II
Count Von Strack
Count Orsini-Rosenberg
Baron Van Swieten
Venticelli 1
Venticelli 2
Major Domo
Salieri's Valet
Salieri's Cook
Teresa Salieri
Katherina Cavalieri
Kapellmeister Bonno
Servant 1
Servant 2
Servant 3
Servant 4
Citizens

Peter Bloor
Richard Oliver
Rebecca Warrington
Paul Mead
John McCormick
Roger Riley
Dave Robinson
Helena Boughton
Ann Westcott
Richard Brooks
Richard Brooks
Mike Jack
Jenny Tustian
Sue Martin
Bob Clement
Rebecca Calverley
Dee Robinson
Christine Bonson
Sue May
Members of the Cast

The action of the play takes place in Vienna, November 1823
and, in recall, the decade 1781-1791



Front of House Manager
Dave Ellis

Foyer Display
Clare Lester

Members of the Society
built the Set and
staffed Front of House

The Mill Management & Staff
Banbury Guardian
Castle Quay, Banbury
Fairprint UK, Dundee
Alan Davies Photography
Pan Designs, Woodford Halse
Mr Fenimore, Middleton Cheney
St Mary's Church, Banbury
Great Bourton Village Hall
Banbury Postiche
KallKwik, Banbury

Peter Shaffer was born in Liverpool in 1926 along with his twin brother, Anthony. He studied history at Cambridge and worked as a coal miner, bookstore clerk and New York Library assistant before discovering his literary talents.

Encouraged by his first play *The Salt Land* (1954) being presented by the BBC, he continued to write. He established his reputation in 1958 with *Five Finger Exercise* directed by Sir John Gielgud, which won the Evening Standard Drama Award. Equally well received when moving to New York in 1959, it won the Drama Critics Award

Shaffer's work is a mix of satirical comedy and philosophical drama. *Black Comedy* (1965) is a hilarious look at the antics of a group feeling their way around a pitch black room

- although the stage is flooded with light. *The Royal Hunt of the Sun* (1964) presents the tragic conquest of Peru by the Spanish.



Equus (1973) won the New York Drama Critics Circle Award and the 1975 Tony Award for Best Play, running for 1000+ performances on Broadway. *Amadeus* followed in 1979, starring Paul Scofield and Simon Callow, and won the Evening Standard Drama and the Theatre Critics Awards. On Broadway, it won the 1981 Tony Award for Best Play and also ran for more than 1000 performances.

The 1984 film *Amadeus* won eight Academy Awards including Best Picture.

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SALIERI

Antonio Salieri (18 August 1750 - 7 May 1825) was a classical composer, conductor and teacher born in Venice who spent his adult life as a faithful subject of the Austrian Habsburg Monarchy. A student of Gassmann and protégé of Gluck, he was a pivotal figure in the development of late 18th century opera, writing operas in three languages and helping to shape operatic vocabulary.

He dominated as Director of the Italian opera at the Habsburg court (1774 – 1792) and spent time writing works for opera houses in Venice, Rome and Paris. As the Austrian Kapellmeister (1788 – 1824) he was responsible for music at the court chapel and school. He wrote no new works after 1804 but remained one of the most important and sought after teachers of his generation with Schubert, Beethoven and Liszt among his most famous pupils.



His music disappeared from the repertoire after 1800 and was rarely heard until a revival in the late 20th century, due to his dramatic and highly fictionalized depiction in Shaffer's play and film *Amadeus*. Since then he has gained some modest popularity and is the subject of academic study, with a number of his operas returning to the stage. There is now a Salieri Opera Festival dedicated to rediscovering his work and that of his contemporaries.

MOZART

Mozart was described as "a remarkably small man, very thin and pale, with a profusion of fine, fair hair". His pitted complexion was a reminder of his childhood smallpox and except for his large intense eyes, he gave no outward signs of his genius. He loved elegant clothing and is remembered as "on stage with his crimson pelisse and gold-laced cocked hat". Of his voice, Constanze wrote that it "was tenor, soft in speaking and delicate in singing, but when anything excited him, was both powerful and energetic"



Living at the centre of the Viennese musical world he knew a variety of musicians, theatrical performers and aristocrats, including Emperor Joseph II. His three closest friends are considered to have been Gottfried von Jacquin, Count Hatzfeld and Sigmund Barisan. Others included Joseph Haydn, singers Franz Gerl and Benedikt Schack and horn player Joseph Leutgeb. He and Leutgeb had a curious kind of friendly mockery with Leutgeb as the butt of Mozart's practical jokes.

He enjoyed billiards and dancing and kept pets - a canary, a starling, a dog and a horse for recreational riding. He had a fondness for scatological humour which is preserved in his surviving letters, notably those written to his cousin, but also in his correspondence with his sister and parents.

GOLD CARD HOLDER



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from Mark Herman's film

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