



The WOLVES of WILLOUGHBY CHASE



by **JOAN AIKEN**

adapted for the stage by Russ Tunney

www.banburycrossplayers.org.uk

Nov 2022

WELCOME



Good Evening, and welcome to this first production in the BCP 2022 / 2023 Season – *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase*, adapted for the stage by Russ Tunney, based on the book of the same name, written by Joan Aiken.

This fun, family story is set in an alternative history of England which blends melodrama, comedy, adventure and a little spookiness into an intriguing story. This challenging adaptation is an ensemble piece. The cast, in the role of both chorus and characters, invite you the audience, on a journey of the imagination. Words, sounds, movement, complex lighting and a simple set combine to take you on a theatrical journey. The cast and production team have been working incredibly hard in rehearsal and are excited to be able to share this unusual and funny story with you. Come along with them tonight and immerse yourselves in this eccentric, 'once upon a time' world where everyone is larger than life, and anything is believable.

Our next production in March 2023 is *Romeo and Juliet*, Shakespeare's well known love story. This exciting adaptation by the director has been stripped back to an emotionally raw and other-worldly performance. Whether you are a Shakespeare fan, or someone who usually keeps well away from the bard, this version, seen from a new and exciting angle, will keep you on the edge of your seats. Make sure that you book your tickets early.

If you are not already a member, perhaps you would like to consider joining our Gold Card Holder scheme which offers discounted tickets for our productions.



I will finish by wishing you all an enjoyable and fun evening at Willoughby Chase – just watch out for prowling wolves and gagging geese!

Clare Lester
Chairman

JOAN AIKEN

It's 1832 in a period of English History that never happened. Good King James III is on the throne and the country is ravaged by wolves which have migrated through the newly-opened Channel Tunnel. When Sylvia and Bonnie fall into the hands of evil Miss Slighcarp, they must use all their wits to escape - for the governess is more cruel and merciless than the wolves that surround the great house.

The Wolves of Willoughby Chase is the first in Joan Aiken's series of books set in her own historical world.

- The Wolves of Willoughby Chase
- Black Hearts in Battersea
- Nightbirds on Nantucket
- The Stolen Lake
- Limbo Lodge
- The Cuckoo Tree
- Dido and Pa
- Is (Is Underground)
- Cold Shoulder Road
- Midwinter Nightingale
- The Witch of Clatteringshaws
- The Whispering Mountain

For a fascinating array of information on Joan and her writing visit www.joanaiken.com

RUSS TUNNEY

Russ Tunney is a director and playwright who specialises in work for young people. He is the Director/CEO at The Pound Arts Trust - a registered charity that runs The Pound Arts Centre, based in Corsham, two annual festivals and the Rural Arts touring programme, which comprises the rural touring schemes for Wiltshire and South Gloucestershire.

EDWARD GOREY

Edward Gorey was an American writer and illustrator associated with Joan Aiken's *Wolves Chronicles* through two series of book covers. Find out more at www.edwardgoreyhouse.org

THE COMPANY

Director
Clare Lester

Stage Manager
Chrissie Garrett

Assistant Stage Manager
Andy Thomas

Lighting
John Hicks
Linda Shaw

Sound
Robin Williams

Props
Chrissie Garrett
Clare Lester

Costume
Jane Shanahan

Hair
Ann Morley

Make Up
Jenny Tustian

Set Design & Construction
Richard Ashby
Peter Bloor
Chris Garrett
Clare Lester
Nik Lester

Rehearsal Prompt
Janice Lake

Production Manager
Adrian McGlynn



Front of House Manager
Liz Riley

Foyer Display
Clare Lester

Members of the Society
staffed Front of House

The Mill Management & Staff
Banbury United Football Club
Great Bourton Community Centre
Wacky Wardrobe
Banbury Operatic Society
Banbury Guardian
Timpson

Jim Muller Photography
Mike Watling

This amateur production is
presented by arrangement
with Nick Hern Books

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The WOLVES of WILLOUGHBY CHASE

CAST

Bonnie Green
Sylvia Green
Sir Willoughby Green
Miss Letitia Slighcarp
Mr Josiah Grimshaw
Simon the Goose Boy
Mrs Gertrude Brisket
James
Mr Gripe
Train Guard
Doctors (Morne & Field)
Emma
School Inspector
Mr Wilderness
Goose Controller

Imogen Tredwell
Katy Roberts
Adrian McGlynn
Ian Nutt
Nik Lester
Martin Crook
Hilary Beaton
Chris Brant
Adrian McGlynn
Helen Williams
Jem Turner
Sian Gibson
Nik Lester
Chris Brant
Helen Williams

Patrons are requested to switch off mobile phones before the performance and are reminded that photography and video recording are strictly prohibited.

Emergency exits are to the left and right of the stage (visible pre-performance) and to the rear of the auditorium.

In case of emergency, please follow instruction from Front of House staff.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Do you have responsibility for supporting older relatives and don't know where to begin?

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SPECIAL THANKS TO

COMING UP!

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S

Romeo



*"THESE VIOLENT
DELIGHTS HAVE
VIOLENT ENDS"*

Juliet

15 - 18 March 2023

Script courtesy of The Folger Shakespeare; adapted by K Roberts

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