

in my mind's eye how I wanted the costumes to look. Sometimes I want costumes to do something and can't work out how to achieve that, again, this is where the Team comes in and I enlist the help of a fantastic costume designer - she solves the problems and the set comes together.

J, Your greatest challenge?

Ti, "The 3 lives of Lucie Cabrol"! I had to create a set where the roof fell in and not kill the actors on stage. In the end I used joined rafters, there were lots of teething problems, but it worked and the show was a smash hit!

J, And your favourite?

Ti, Working with Theatre Complicite. It's interesting work, enjoyed by the young, very physical and thought provoking for the young of today.

J, So is it just Theatre Design?

Ti, Oh No! It can be film sets, dance sets - I won a Design Award for my Vivienne Westwood Exhibition Design.

J, So in films, you've worked with very famous people, who is your favourite?

Ti, Well, I don't really have a favourite (some thought here) - but I was so impressed by the beauty of Julia Roberts when I did the set design for the film "Closer"

J, I could sit here for hours so let's just ask some questions about you. What's your favourite destination?

Ti, Undoubtedly South Africa. I have a house there and go as often as I can. There is no place for me with the energy which abounds there, a place that wants to change and wants to create. There are wonderful artists there and each time I go I like to catch up on new art. Coupled with I love safaris too.

(So Western Branch, if you have any more fascinating gorgeous looking men out there who needs to be interviewed my email address is:

Jayne.kerr@thetraveladventure.co.uk !!) His web site: www.Timhatley.com



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WESTERN WAYS

Group Travel Organisers Association



August
2011

Western Branch

In this issue:

- News from our Chair
- Future Events
- GTOA Membership, Longleat
- Ghost
- Summer ramblings, Devon, Edinburgh
- Facebook opportunity!
- Jayne's Interview — Tim Hatley



Sylvia Saxon (Sssssaxon)
with new friend at Longleat

News from our Chair

The July Branch meeting was held at Longleat, and it was great to see so many members attending. The Deputy Marketing Manager, Florence Wallace, gave a presentation and then showed us some of the recent changes. We were given passport tickets to explore for the rest of the day (or return another day). Longleat will also be opening at Christmas so that will be interesting. Thank you to Florence and the catering team for looking after us. For those who didn't attend – the passport ticket is being phased out.

The papers for the AGM will accompany this newsletter. The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer have said that they are willing to stand for another year, but you are welcome to put yourself forward if you are interested in one of these positions. We also need another member for the committee, so please complete the nomination form if you would like to get involved. We would welcome some new ideas and input.

Places for the AGM weekend are now subject to availability in the hotel.

As you can see, we have organised all our meetings for 2012, so please make a note of these in your diaries – hopefully we will see you there.

Gill Brooker 1198

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FUTURE EVENTS 2011

30 September — 2 October: Western Branch AGM, Snowdonia

2012

22 January National AGM - York

9 March - Spring Meeting Worcester

16 June - Slimbridge

28-30 September Western Branch AGM - Falmouth

Welcome to GTOA Western Branch:

W2262: Mr Vic Shepherd, Chichester & District Gardens and Allotments Assn.

W2264: Mrs Elaine Middleton, Gad-A-Bouts Travel Club, Broadstone, Dorset

W2276: Mrs Kathy Smith, Southwell Womens Institute, Portland, Dorset

We look forward to seeing you soon. There are some excellent venues already planned and we do have a good reputation in GTOA. We are the 'fun branch'

CHRIS CROSSLAND

We were very sorry to hear about the death of Chris Crossland, just as we published the last Western Ways. Chris and Collete have been active members of our branch for many years, attending meetings and always coming up with challenging questions and ideas. Collette is still a member and we are pleased that she is joining us for our AGM in Llanberis.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP AND CONTRIBUTIONS THIS TIME.

The next Western Ways will be in November 2011

Please send word or picture contributions - by 31 October

to Margaret Brown at: gord_marg@btinternet.com

or Sylvia Saxon, E-mail: sylvia.saxon@btinternet.com

Design Week awards.....what was it like at the Tony Awards?

T, Well I received the awards for "Private Lives" and "Spamalot" - they're great evenings when you win something but very flat when you don't! These awards are THE "Theatre's Oscars" - to walk down the red carpet AND win is a tremendous feeling.

J, So a producer, say Cameron Mackintosh approaches you to design a set, where do you begin? (This is where Tim takes on an animation all of his own!)

T, Each production is a challenge and can only be achieved with my brilliant team on board. It's a bit like riding a horse, you have to sit on it, feel it, mould yourself into that being, relax and enjoy it! I imagine what I want to achieve, for example with Private Lives I saw white, white, white. The ideas just came including a dual set - a multi tiered wedding cake hotel that seems to topple! Once I have the ideas, I then set about making a scale model of the set and how I want it to work. At this point I turn to my trusted team to help me with the technology of working it all.

J, So we all love Betty - how hard was it to get that pig!

T, At first Cameron Mackintosh wanted a real pig! Well you wouldn't believe the problems and cost! We would have had to have 2 pigs - one on stage and one in the wings - as a pig will only move towards another pig. Did you know pigs won't climb stairs? (Not something I come across every day Tim, no) - so we would have had to install a special "pig lift"! In the end I had to make the best pig ever! I knew the guys who produced the animatronics for the BBC's "Walking with Dinosaurs", they were very busy but one of their team in Australia could help. I sent the sketches, what I wanted the pig to do etc. They created exactly what I wanted - even down to each hair is weaved individually just like a wig!



J, Let's talk about Shrek? London will be the 4th Shrek Set Design you've done?

T, Yes. Seattle was first, then on to Broadway, then when it was decided to go on Tour, I had to re design the whole thing to make it lighter in terms of transporting it, and now of course London. This for me, was the biggest challenge for Shrek as the Theatre Royal Drury Lane is such a beautiful Theatre - the pressure was on simply not to let the Theatre down! It needed a fresh look so I took the touring version of the set and just added magic! Again - I had to resort to some animatronics for the dragon and could see in my mind's eye how I wanted the costumes to look. Sometimes I want costumes to do something and can't work out how to achieve that, again, this is where the Team comes in and I enlist the help of a fantastic costume designer -

GTOA INTERVIEW

Jayne Kerr, *The Travel Adventure* writes:

I have the great fortune to have Tim Hatley as my next door neighbour. Who is Tim? Well, about the best Production Designer there is. Currently you can see his set designs on stage in "Shrek the Musical" and "Betty Blue Eyes".

Please note that it was a great pleasure to interview a 6 foot something, lean good looking guy brimming with energy and enthusiasm! I must stop enjoying myself. Hatley was educated at *Bearwood College*, Berkshire and trained in Theatre Design at *Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design* in London from 1986 to 1989. He has designed for Theatre de Complicite, the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Royal National Theatre, the West End, and Broadway. He has done the costumes and/or scenic design for seven Broadway productions, both musicals and dramas, starting with *Stanley* in 1997 through *Shrek the Musical* in 2008. For *Shrek* he also designed the puppets. The *Variety* Seattle review noted: "Set and costume designer Tim Hatley ("Monty Python's Spamalot") has created a wonderland of swamps, forests and castles populated by colorful fairy-tale creatures and puppets great and small."



Tim Hatley

Jayne, Tim, when did your interest in Production Design begin?

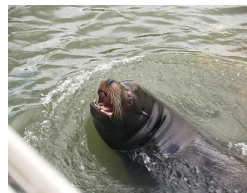
Tim, My father was in the RAF so I attended many schools ending in a boarding school where there was a fantastic Art teacher called Bill. Up until then I hadn't pursued any art lessons, let alone exams! Bill also had a passion for the theatre and set designs - he encouraged me to sit my GCSE O and A levels in Art - and then the harder job of persuading my parents to let me go to College and pursue Art and the Theatre. Not a mean feat but Bill won. The rest is history. I graduated with First Class Honours from Central St Martins School of Art & Design.

Jayne, So do you just follow that course and after it look to work for a company?

Tim. No, it doesn't work like that. Production Designers are individuals, whilst in College many would call and ask for students to help them with a big set. Of course, all hands went up and it gave us that practical experience. On leaving, a student aligns to an individual Production Designer. I was lucky enough to work with Jocelyn Herbert, although elderly, she has masses of energy which permeated everyone around her. She was so influential in set design, as prior to her the trend was for sumptuous sets that recreated a room/place rather than a mood or atmosphere. Her tryptic working methods brought the designer, directors and authors of plays and productions closer together.

Jayne, Your accolades are too many to mention, 2 Tony Awards, Oliver Award,

WHAT ELSE DID WE SEE AT LONGLEAT?



Friendly seals and a great little train ride are just 2 of many attractions. These photo's and on page 1 provided were provided by Phil Taylor Western Branch Hon. Sec. This year there are fantastic new attractions and amazing new animals. This means more to do in 2011—and enjoyment for all ages, families and groups. Get tickets and full details from: www.longleat.co.uk



THE END OF THE ROAD?

After our recent summer mail out we were sorry to hear that one of our more adventurous travellers had died and another had moved away. We also received this sad letter from another couple of regular travellers:

'Thank you for continuing to send Tamar Travel News. Recently my health has deteriorated and I now need an oxygen supply in the house to keep me topped up. Hence no more trips I'm afraid. Over many years we have really enjoyed the outings we have been on, thanks to both of your hard work, flair, imagination and good choice. Who could ever forget or try to adequately describe a visit to the Minack. The atmosphere, the sea, the sun (hopefully) and the good shows. Oh dear I'm getting carried away but you know what I mean.

Thank you for all the pleasure Tamar Travel has given to us over a long period of time'

Once again prices are slightly higher this year and although the hard core of our list turn out regularly numbers continue downward as we all get a bit older. We know that some of the group do not like to go out on their own and look forward to the theatre trips we arrange. More and more people are worried about their income and job security. Age and illness are good reasons to cut travel and theatre visits but we have noticed a lack of eager (and of course younger) folk waiting to take their place in our part of the world that seems to be the same in other areas. M. Brown 1691

GHOST THE MUSICAL

Review

Thankfully, 'Ghost The Musical' is a simpler but totally faithful staging of the well-known and much loved film. Matthew Warchus and his team have produced a theatrical classic.

The musical numbers by Glen Ballard and Dave Stewart guide the familiar story with powerful yet moving ballads and loud, animated rockier numbers. All characters deliver their songs with impact and emotion but are a little let down by the musical backing which needs more power.



Caissie Levy and Richard Fleeshman successfully portray the Demi Moore/Patrick Swayze roles of the lovers Sam, the murdered banker and Molly, an artist, making the parts their own. Andrew Langtree plays their 'friend' Carl as mean and corrupt from the start, wearing his ultimate betrayal like a badge. Sharon D Clarke is a welcome injection of comic charisma, schmoozing her way to triumph as the fake psychic who reluctantly helps Sam to reveal Carl's treachery and contact his beloved Molly one last time. It's all about belief.

The cinematic backdrop to the New York underworld adds a touch of menace and a hectic irony as the live background characters are choreographed into a wider scenario of life, death, grief and danger. Unfortunately there are times when they are just not necessary, apart from to cover for a scene change!

It is the special effects though that steal the show. They are amazing. Illusionist Paul Kieve makes spirits emerge effortlessly out of dead bodies and sends them gliding through walls. The train scene is a work of art that you would never have thought could be recreated on the stage.

'Ghost The Musical' is a wonderful mix of love story, thriller and the supernatural and will be haunting the West End for some time to come.
Karen Arthur

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Devon & Cornwall and Edinburgh are not for the faint hearted:

Signs down this way saying optimistically 'QUEUES LIKELY' actually mean HUGE QUEUES DEFINITELY, especially on the A30, (runs from Exeter to Panzance). We only have a tiny stretch of motorway near Exeter in the far East of Devon. We don't even have many miles of dualled highway either and no plans for any improvement in this situation - 'A large section of the A30 in Cornwall is to remain a single carriageway, the Highways Agency has confirmed. Plans to make it a dual carriageway between Carland Cross and Chiverton Cross, near Truro, have been proposed for several years. The agency said plans would have to be re-drawn because of the length of time since the original design was started. It added that government policy now discouraged any new building in open countryside.'

Can you believe it? This is the main highway from London to Penzance and the year is 2011.

BUT, Great news - we can cycle or walk in comfort from Plymouth to Tavistock!

The 17-mile (26km) route will follow an old Great Western Railway branch line through a tunnel at Grenofen built by Isambard Kingdom Brunel. It will also include a £2m, 1,000ft (305m) long viaduct across the Walkham valley, which is currently being built. The full route, which will form part of the Drake's Trail walking and cycling network, is expected to open in Spring 2012. We will be able to watch the cars queuing on the A386. Margaret Brown

Edinburgh Tattoo trials: I have just found myself in the very unenviable position of having to pay for eight tickets to the Edinburgh Tattoo at £35 each. I did everything I could to sell places for this trip, newsletter, website, flyers, emails...but with no luck.

One reason and absolutely my fault is the fact that the tour was booked from Wednesday to Friday, so all my regulars were unable to go and this meant it would attract mostly the retired members of my group and of course looking at the tour on paper 1200 miles in three days on a coach, definitely has to attract only the coach "junkies" of the group. The hotel was in central Edinburgh no complaints, not in Newcastle or Cumbria, or worse Manchester.

My point - well wouldn't it be nice for our branch or even National to have something in place that we organisers could use to advertise our trips if we are short of numbers, I am sure I am not the only person who feels this.

For a lowly NHS worker £280 is a lot of money to find, so any ideas from you will be very welcome. Happy travelling. Sylvia Saxon

SUGGESTIONS FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Maybe we should create network of Western Branch members so that anything like the Edinburgh Tattoo could put out on an email? Western Branch should have a facebook page, but it would need someone to run it. Are YOU willing to take this on?