

A northern comedy about love, honour, class... and football

Northern Broadsides



Northern Broadsides present

The Game

Northern Broadsides follow their highly-acclaimed co-productions of *The Canterbury Tales* and *Othello*, with ***The Game*** by Harold Brighouse, the creator of the much loved *Hobson's choice*.

A northern comedy about love, honour, class ... and football, the rare revival runs at the New Vic Theatre from Monday 11 until Saturday 16 October.

Lancashire. 1913. Match Day! Blackton Rovers is in need of money. Owner, Austin Whitworth, sells his star centre forward – local football hero Jack Metherell – to a rival club on the eve of a crucial match that could see Rovers relegated to the 2nd Division. Will honest Jack do Austin's bidding when asked to throw the match? Or will he put his professional honour above loyalty to his old club?

Austin's daughter Elsie, and Jack, are in love – or so they think. But Jack still lives at home, firmly tied to his mother's apron strings. Will Elsie's modern ways and feisty temperament win over his domineering mam? Or is this tryst between the classes doomed from the start?

From the halcyon days of professional football where players were working class heroes and people were supposed to 'know their place' comes a spirited comedy that combines broad northern humour with the passion, pride, prejudice and principles of two football families.

Playwright **Harold Brighouse** remains best known for his 1916 classic *Hobson's choice* - the story of how a tyrannical Lancashire boot maker is brought down to earth by his daughter and her simple husband. Brighouse brought a new and groundbreaking style to British theatre, portraying the bleak and harsh lives of the working classes, but combining it with a unique Northern flavour and wit. He was a leading member of the 'Manchester School' of playwrights, along with well known Northern writers such as Stanley Houghton and Allan Monkhouse, a group of writers all largely based at Annie Horniman's Gaiety Theatre, Manchester – where *The Game* was performed for the last time in 1915.

The Game's excellent cast includes Wendi Peters, who is best known as Cilla Battersby-Brown in *Coronation Street* and is directed by Northern Broadsides artistic director Barrie Rutter

Last at the theatre for hugely popular New Vic/Northern Broadsides co-production, *The Canterbury Tales*, the company is internationally celebrated for its performance style and charismatic cast of actors, winning Broadsides a loyal following of public and critics alike.

The Game runs from Mon 11 – Sat 16 October at the New Vic Theatre. Tickets, which cost £8.50– £17.50 (concessions available), can be booked by calling the New Vic's Box Office on 01782 717962 or online at www.newvictheatre.org.uk

-Ends-

For further information or to arrange interview please contact:
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Notes for Journalists:

Press Night

Mon 11 October, 7.30pm

Performance dates

Mon 11 – Sat 16 Oct: Monday to Saturday, 7.30pm

Matinee: Sat 16 Oct, 2.15pm

Talkback (meet the cast): Tues 12 Oct, 7.30pm

Cast & Creative Team

John Branwell – Edmund Whitworth; Liz Carney – Florence Whitworth; Jo Gerard – Mrs Wilmot; Catherine Kinsella – Elsie Whitworth; Roy North – Hugh Martin / Barnes; Wendi Peters – Mrs Metherell; Phil Rowson – Jack Metherell; Barrie Rutter – Austin Whitworth; Matt Sutton – Dr Wells; Jos Vantylor – Leo Whitworth
Director – Barrie Rutter; Designer – Laura Clarkson; Lighting Designer – Tim Skelly; Sound Design – James Earls Davis

Tour Dates

16 & 18 Sept at 7.30pm: Viaduct Theatre, Halifax

Box Office 01422 255 266 or www.deanclough.com

21-25 Sept at 7.30pm (Mat: 23 at 1.30pm & 25th at 2.30pm): Liverpool Playhouse

Box Office 0151 7094776 or www.everymanplayhouse.co.uk

28 Sept-2 Oct at 7.45pm (Mat: 30 Sep & 2 Oct at 2pm): Watford Palace Theatre

Box Office 01923 225671 or www.watfordtheatre.co.uk

5-9 Oct: (5, 6 Oct at 7.30pm; 7-9 Oct at 8pm- Mat: 7 & 9 at 2.30pm): Salisbury Playhouse

Box Office 01722 320322 or www.salisburyplayhouse.com

11-16 Oct at 7.30pm (Mat: 16th at 2.15pm): New Vic Theatre, Newcastle-Under-Lyme

Box Office 01782 717962 or www.newvictheatre.org.uk

20-23 Oct at 7.30pm (Mat: 23 Oct at 3pm): Viaduct Theatre, Halifax

Box Office 01422 255 266 or www.deanclough.com

4-6 Nov at 7.30pm (Mat: 6 Nov at 2pm): Lawrence Batley Theatre, Huddersfield

Box office 01484 425282 or www.theibt.org

16-20 Nov at 7.30pm: Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough

Box Office 01723 370541 or www.sjt.uk.com

23-27 Nov at 7.30pm (Mat: 25 at 2pm & 27 at 2.30pm): York Theatre Royal

Box Office 01904 623568 or www.yorktheatreroyal.co.uk

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