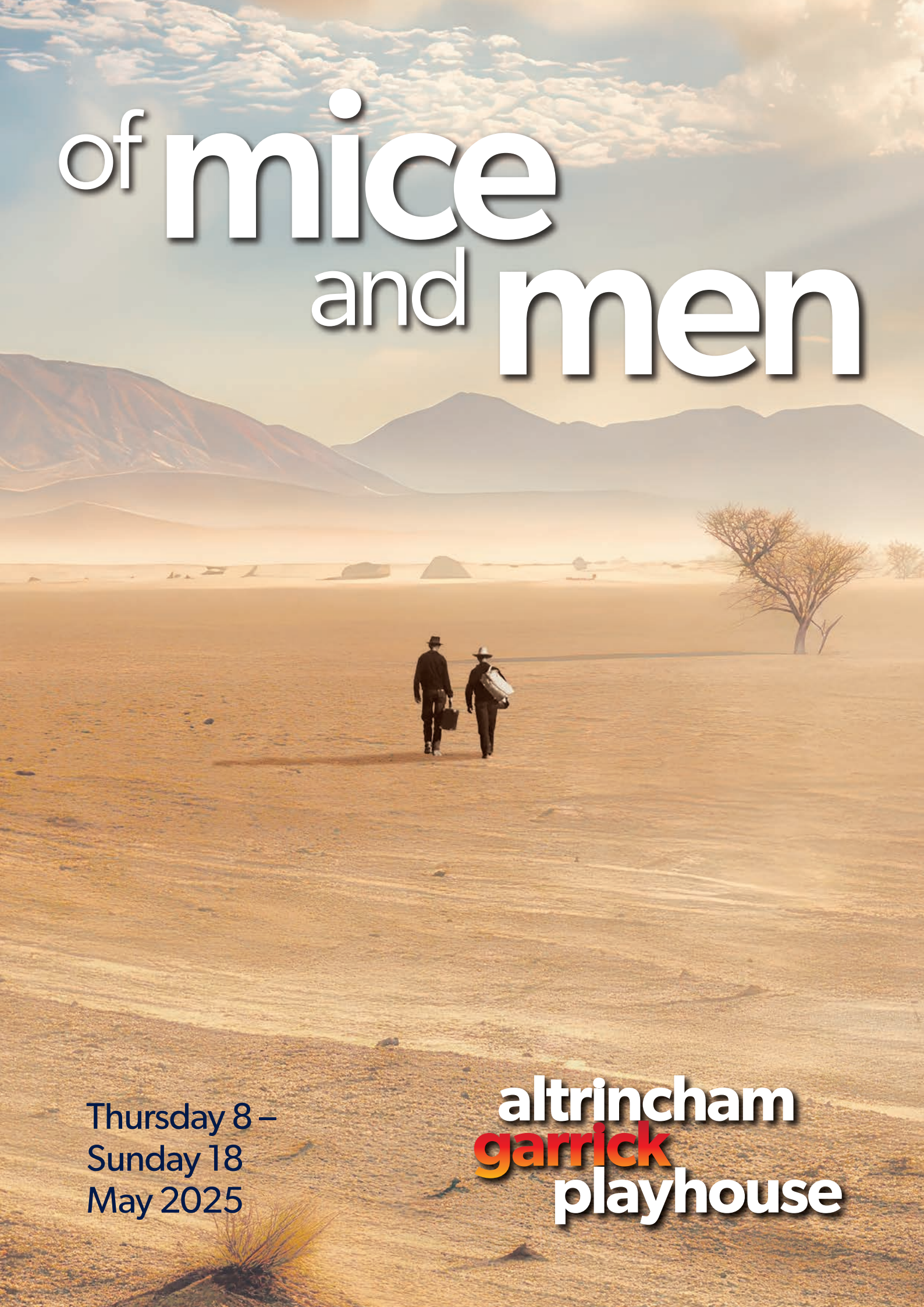


The background of the poster is a vast, arid desert landscape. In the foreground, two men are walking away from the viewer towards the horizon. The man on the left is wearing a dark jacket and a hat, carrying a bag. The man on the right is wearing a light-colored shirt, dark pants, and a hat, also carrying a bag. The ground is dry and sandy with some sparse vegetation. In the distance, there are low, rolling hills or mountains under a sky filled with soft, white clouds. The overall color palette is warm, with shades of orange, yellow, and brown.

of mice and men

Thursday 8 –
Sunday 18
May 2025

altrincham
garrick
playhouse

SCOUSETRAP! IT'S THE
Mon 2 – Sat 7 June
 Evenings at 7:30pm

VARDY V ROONEY

SPAT OF THE DECADE...
 A biting funny play based on the court transcript of the WAGS at war trial.
 Adap. by Liv Hennessy

THE WAGATHA CHRISTIE TRIAL

altrincham garrick playhouse

Thurs 11 – Sat 20 Sept

a chorus line The legendary musical

Conceived and originally Directed & Choreographed by Michael Bennett
 Book by James Kirkwood & Nicholas Dante
 Lyrics by Edward Kleban
 Music by Marvin Hamlisch
 Choreographed by Bob Avian

altrincham garrick playhouse

Seventeen stories. Eight chances. One Singular Sensation.

Thurs 23 – Sun 26 October & Weds 29 October – Sun 2 November

ROALD DAHL'S CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

Escape to a world of Pure Imagination!

Music by Marc Shaiman
 Lyrics by Scott Whitman & Marc Shaiman
 (Multi-Award-Winning Songswriters of HAIRSPRAY)
 Book by David Greig
 Based on the novel by Roald Dahl and the Warner Bros. film

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Friday 5 December 2025 – Sunday 4 January 2026

Arip-ROARING panto FUR all the family!

GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS

Laughs, music, dance, special effects, dazzling costumes, stunning sets, circus tricks and bundles of audience participation... the excitement is in TENTS!

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Monday 22 – Sunday 28 June

My Fair Lady An abso-bloomin'-lutely lovely musical

Book and Lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner
 Music by Frederick Loewe
 Original production directed and staged by Moss Hart
 Adapted from George Bernard Shaw's play and Gabriel Pascal's motion picture "Pygmalion"

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Just Great Entertainment!

Mon 23 – Sun 29 June

ONE FINE DAY IT'S TOO LATE. ON BROADWAY UP ON THE ROOF THE LOCOMOTION YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND I FEEL THE EARTH MOVE SOME KIND OF WONDERFUL TAKE GOOD CARE OF MY BABY WILL YOU LOVE ME TOMORROW? YOU'VE LOST THAT LOVIN' FEELIN' CHAINS UPTOWN (YOU MAKE ME FEEL LIKE) A NATURAL WOMAN IT MIGHT AS WELL RAIN UNTIL SEPTEMBER AND MANY, MANY MORE...

Beautiful

The Carole King Musical

Book by Douglas McGrath
 Words & Music by Gerry Goffin & Carole King
 Barry Mann & Cynthia Weil

The story that inspired the soundtrack of a generation!

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Monday 29 September – Sat 4 October

Bleak Expectations by Mark Evans

A gloriously funny spoof on the works of Charles Dickens
 Based upon the award-winning BBC Radio 4 Comedy Series

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Monday 17 – Sunday 23 November

It's A Wonderful Life

A heart-warming story of love, hope and community.

Written for the stage by Mary Elliott Nelson
 Based upon the classic Christmas movie by Frank Capra

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Mon 2 – Sat 7 February 2026

QUIZ

by James Graham
 Based on the book "Bad Show: The Quiz, the Cough, the Mistletoe Mop" by Bob Woffinden and James Plaskett.

A: COUGH B: HACK
 C: BARK D: RASP

"A thrilling blend of entertainment, politics and justice today"

The Sunday Times

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Tickets on sale **NOW!**

altrincham garrick playhouse

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to **Altrincham Garrick Playhouse**, and our new staging of what has been hailed as one of the most important plays of 20th Century American Theatre.

John Steinbeck's ***Of Mice and Men*** is a timeless classic that has captivated audiences for decades, and bringing this powerful story to the stage is an exhilarating challenge. Written in 1937, the novella was adapted into a play that same year, earning the 1938 New York Drama Critics' Circle Best Play award. This accolade is a testament to the enduring relevance and emotional depth of Steinbeck's work. As a theatre director, I am drawn to the raw humanity and poignant themes that make ***Of Mice and Men*** a staple in the literary canon.

The play follows the journey of George Milton and Lennie Small, two migrant ranch workers during the Great Depression, as they navigate the harsh realities of life in California. Their dream of owning a small piece of land, a place to call their own, is a beacon of hope amidst the despair and hardship they encounter. This dream, however, is fraught with obstacles, both internal and external, making their quest a deeply relatable and tragic tale.

One of the most compelling aspects of ***Of Mice and Men*** is its exploration of the American Dream. Steinbeck masterfully illustrates how the promise of prosperity and freedom can be both a source of inspiration and a cruel illusion. For George and Lennie, the dream of owning land represents more than just financial security; it symbolises a sense of belonging and dignity that is often denied to them.

The characters in ***Of Mice and Men*** are richly drawn and multi-faceted, each bringing their own unique struggles and aspirations to the stage. George, the more astute and cautious of the two, serves as a protective figure for Lennie, who is physically strong but mentally challenged. Their dynamic is a poignant exploration of friendship, loyalty, and the complexities of human relationships. The supporting cast, including characters like Curley, his wife, and

Candy, add layers of conflict and depth, making the narrative all the more engaging.

As a director, my goal has been to bring these characters to life in a way that is both authentic and emotionally resonant. The combination of set and lighting has been designed to reflect the harsh, stark and unyielding conditions of the time. And I was delighted when Mark Goggin's agreed to compose a soundtrack for this production, which adds another important layer to the drama.

Of Mice and Men is more than just a story; it is a reflection of the human condition. Steinbeck's ability to capture the essence of hope and despair in such a concise and impactful manner is a testament to his genius. As we bring this play to life on stage, we are not just retelling a story; we are inviting you, the audience, to reflect on your own dreams and the obstacles you face in pursuing them.

In preparing for this production, I have been struck by the timelessness of Steinbeck's themes, and the parallels to what is happening around the world today. Despite being set during the Great Depression, the play's exploration of the human spirit and the struggle for dignity is as relevant today as it was nearly a century ago. This universality is what makes ***Of Mice and Men*** an enduring classic, and it is my hope that our production will honour that legacy.

Thank you for your continued support, and I hope to see you all again for our next Main Stage production, which is something completely different – turn to the back cover for details!



Joseph Meighan

Artistic Director, Altrincham Garrick Playhouse.

altrincham garrick playhouse

Barrington Rd, Altrincham WA14 1HZ
www.altrinchamgarrick.co.uk
Box Office Phone: 0161-928 1677



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Assistant Tutor Olivia Walsh
Assistant Tutor Lottie Warburton

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

John Steinbeck's novel "Of Mice and Men" is a powerful portrayal of the struggles of migrant workers during the Great Depression. The novel reflects Steinbeck's observations of the hardships faced by migrant workers and his belief in the importance of friendship, dignity, and the pursuit of the American Dream.

The American Great Depression of the 1920s and 1930s was a period of unprecedented economic hardship that reshaped the social, cultural, and political landscape of the United States.

Causes of the Great Depression

The Great Depression began with the stock market crash of October 29, 1929, known as Black Tuesday. The crash was the culmination of a decade of economic prosperity and speculation, during which investors poured money into the stock market, driving prices to unsustainable levels. When the market finally collapsed, it triggered a wave of bank failures as depositors rushed to withdraw their savings, leading to a liquidity crisis. The combination of the stock market crash and bank failures led to a sharp decline in consumer spending and investment, which in turn led to a decrease in industrial output and employment.

Several underlying factors contributed to the severity of the Great Depression. The agricultural sector had been in a state of crisis since the end of World War I, with over-production and falling prices leading to widespread farm foreclosures. The U.S. Federal Reserve's tight monetary policy, aimed at curbing speculation, further exacerbated the economic downturn by reducing the money supply and increasing interest rates. Additionally, the Smoot-Hawley Tariff of 1930, which raised import tariffs to protect American industries, led to

a retaliatory trade war that further damaged the global economy.

The Dust Bowl, and its' impact on Migration.

The Great Depression had a profound impact on migration patterns across the United States. As unemployment soared and businesses failed, many Americans were forced to leave their homes and seek work elsewhere. This led

to a wave of internal migration, as people moved from rural areas to cities in search of jobs. The migration to urban areas was particularly pronounced in the North East and Midwest, where industrial jobs were more abundant. However, the influx of migrants also led to overcrowding and social unrest in many cities.

One of the most dramatic examples of internal migration during the Great Depression was the movement of farm workers from the Dust Bowl states to California. The Dust Bowl, a series of severe dust storms that struck the Midwest in the 1930s, was a result of a combination of factors, including over-ploughing, over-grazing, and drought. The lack of vegetation and the dry soil made the region vulnerable to wind erosion, which led to massive dust storms that destroyed crops and farms,





leading to wide-spread poverty and hardship. The environmental degradation also led to a loss of livelihood for many farmers, who were forced to abandon their lands and seek work elsewhere. The Dust Bowl affected an estimated 100 million acres of land, primarily in the states of Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, and New Mexico.

The most famous of these migrant workers who migrated to California in search of work in the agricultural industry were the "Okies". The term was originally used to refer to migrants from Oklahoma, but it eventually came to refer to migrants from all of the Dust Bowl states. The Okies faced numerous challenges and hardships during their migration, including discrimination and exploitation by employers. Despite these challenges, the Okies played a significant role in the development of the agricultural industry in California and other western states.

The Dust Bowl migrants were often portrayed negatively in the media and by the local population in California. They were stereotyped as dirty, uneducated, and lazy, and were often subjected to discrimination and violence. Despite these challenges, the Dust Bowl migrants played a significant role in the development of the agricultural industry in California and other western states. Their labour was essential to the production of crops such as cotton, fruits, and vegetables, which were in high demand during the war years.

The Dust Bowl also had a profound impact on the cultural and literary landscape of the United States. The environmental catastrophe provided a rich source of material for writers and artists, who explored the themes of poverty, hardship, and resilience in their work. Some of the most famous works of the Great Depression include John Steinbeck's *"The Grapes of Wrath,"* which tells the story of a family of Okies who migrate to California in search of work, and Dorothea Lange's photographs of migrant workers and Dust Bowl victims, which captured the human face of the economic crisis.

John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men"

Published in 1937, John Steinbeck's novel *"Of Mice and Men"* is a powerful portrayal of the struggles of migrant workers during the Great Depression. The novel tells the story of George Milton and Lennie Small, two displaced farm workers who travel together in search of work and a better life. Steinbeck was

deeply influenced by the events of his time, and *"Of Mice and Men"* reflects his observations of the hardships faced by migrant workers.

The novel is set in the Salinas Valley of California, a region that was a popular destination for migrant workers during the Great Depression. Steinbeck's portrayal of the characters is rooted in the realities of the time. George and Lennie represent the countless men who were forced to leave their homes and families in search of work, often facing exploitation and discrimination. Their dream of owning a small piece of land and living off the "fatta the lan" is a testament to the aspirations of many migrant workers who sought a better life.

Steinbeck's depiction of the ranch where George and Lennie find work is also a reflection of the conditions faced by migrant workers. The ranch is a place of hardship and exploitation, where workers are treated as disposable labour. The



characters in the novel, such as Candy, the old swamper, and Curley, the boss's son, represent the various types of workers who were affected by the economic crisis. Candy's fear of being fired and his desire to join George and Lennie in their dream of owning land highlight the precariousness of the workers' lives.

The novel's exploration of themes such as friendship, loneliness, and the struggle for dignity in the face of adversity resonates deeply with the experiences of migrant workers during the Great Depression. Steinbeck's portrayal of the tragic end of George and Lennie's dream underscores the harsh realities of the time, where the pursuit of the American Dream often ended in disappointment and despair.

The New Deal and Government Intervention

The Great Depression led to a demand for greater government intervention in the economy, which culminated in the New Deal programs of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The New Deal was a series of economic and social programs designed to provide relief, recovery, and reform to the American economy. The New Deal included programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Works Progress Administration, and the Social

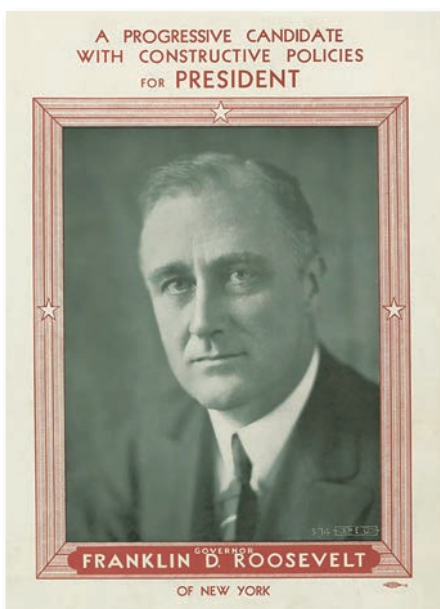
Images of the Great Depression, and the Dust Bowl affected farms of the Mid-West. With thanks to The Library of Congress, Washington D.C.

Security Act, which provided jobs, infrastructure, and social welfare to millions of Americans.

The New Deal programs had a significant impact on the lives of migrant workers and Dust Bowl victims. *The Civilian Conservation Corps*, for example, provided jobs to young men, many of whom were migrant workers, in conservation and infrastructure projects. *The Works Progress Administration* provided jobs in construction, road building, and other public works projects, which helped to stimulate the economy and provide relief to the unemployed.

The New Deal also included programs aimed at providing relief to farmers and rural communities. *The Agricultural Adjustment Act*, for example, provided subsidies to farmers to reduce crop production and raise prices. *The Rural Electrification Administration* provided funding for the electrification of rural areas, which improved the quality of life for many farmers and their families.

The Great Depression was a defining moment in American history, shaping the country's economic, social, and cultural



Above: A 1932 election leaflet for Franklin D. Roosevelt, and (right) a contemporary cartoon showing the divide in America between the rich and poor during the years of the Great Depression.



landscape for generations to come. The environmental catastrophe of the Dust Bowl, the struggles of migrant workers, and the demand for greater government intervention in the economy all had a profound impact on the United States. John Steinbeck's *"Of Mice and Men"* is a testament to the resilience and dignity of the American people in the face of adversity, and a reminder of the importance of friendship, community, and the pursuit of the American Dream.

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Friday 9th May 2025

Carol Lee

"Heaton Park, my Grandad and the RAF"

Monday 16th June 2025

Dr Katy Kidd

"Settling the Pirates"

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JOHN STEINBECK 1902-1968

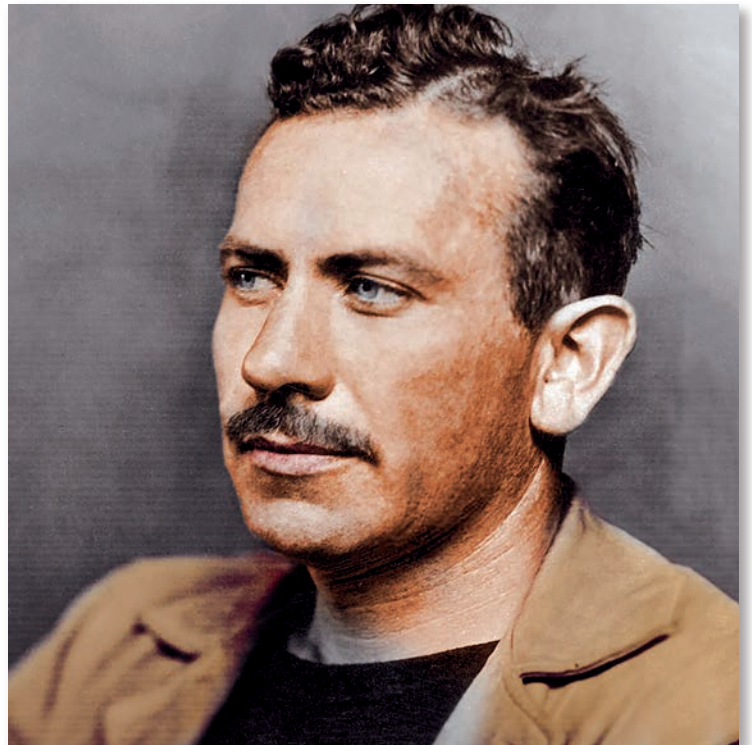
John Steinbeck's writing, deeply rooted in the Salinas Valley of his youth, earned him worldwide recognition. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1962 for "his realistic as well as imaginative writings, distinguished by a sympathetic humour and a keen social perception."

John Ernst Steinbeck Jr. was born on February 27, 1902, in the farming town of Salinas, California. His father, John Ernst Steinbeck, was not a terribly successful man; at one time or another he was the manager of a Sperry flour plant, the owner of a feed and grain store, the treasurer of Monterey County. His mother, the strong-willed Olive Hamilton Steinbeck, was a former teacher. As a child growing up in the fertile Salinas Valley – called the "Salad Bowl of the Nation" – Steinbeck formed a deep appreciation of his environment, not only the rich fields and hills surrounding Salinas, but also the nearby Pacific coast where his family spent summer weekends. "I remember my childhood names for grasses and secret flowers," he wrote in the opening chapter of *East of Eden*. "I remember where a toad may live and what time the birds awaken in the summer, and what trees and seasons smelled like."

For the most part, Steinbeck – who grew up with three sisters – had a happy childhood. He was shy but smart. According to accounts, Steinbeck decided to become a writer at the age of 14, often locking himself in his bedroom to write poems and stories.

In 1919, Steinbeck enrolled at Stanford University – a decision that had more to do with pleasing his parents than anything else – but the budding writer would prove to have little use for college. From 1919 to 1925, when he finally left Stanford without taking a degree, Steinbeck dropped in and out of the University, sometimes to work closely with migrants on California ranches. Those relationships, coupled with an early sympathy for the weak and defenceless, deepened his empathy for workers, the disenfranchised, the lonely and dislocated, an empathy that is characteristic in his work.

Following Stanford, Steinbeck tried to make a go of it as a freelance writer. He briefly moved to New York City, where he found work as a construction worker and a newspaper reporter, but then returned to California to hone his writing craft.



In the late 1920s, during a three-year stint as a caretaker for a Lake Tahoe estate, he wrote several drafts of his first novel, *Cup of Gold* (1929) about the pirate Henry Morgan, and met the woman who would become his first wife, Carol Henning, a San Jose native. After their marriage in 1930, he and Carol settled, rent-free, into the Steinbeck family's summer cottage in Pacific Grove, she to search for jobs to support them, he to continue writing. During the decade of the 1930s Steinbeck wrote most of his best California fiction: *The Pastures of Heaven* (1932), *To a God Unknown* (1933), *The Long Valley* (1938), and *Tortilla Flat* (1935), a humorous novel about Paisano life in the Monterey region which was the author's first real success. Steinbeck struck a more serious tone with *In Dubious Battle* (1936) and *The Long Valley* (1938), a collection of short stories.

In 1937, Steinbeck's tightly focused *Of Mice and Men* was intended to be both a novella and a script for a play. Both the text and the critically-acclaimed 1937 Broadway play (which won the 1937-1938 New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for best play) made Steinbeck

a household name, assuring his popularity and, for some, his infamy. Three different movies have since been made of this story.

Widely considered Steinbeck's finest and most ambitious novel, *The Grapes of Wrath* (1939) tells the story of a dispossessed Oklahoma family and their struggle to carve out a new life in California at the height of the Great Depression. The book captured the mood and angst of the nation during this time period. *The Grapes of Wrath* sold out an advance edition of 19,804



Posters from two movie versions of "Of Mice And Men": The 1939 production starring Burgess Meredith and Lon Chaney Jr., and Gary Sinise's 1992 feature with John Malkovich.

JOHN STEINBECK (Continued)

by mid-April of 1939; it was selling 10,000 copies per week by early May; and won the 1940 Pulitzer Prize.

In 1941 Steinbeck travelled to Mexico to collect marine life with his long-time friend Edward F. Ricketts, a marine biologist and founder of Pacific Biological Laboratories, a marine lab eventually housed on Cannery Row in Monterey. Their collaboration resulted in the book *Sea of Cortez* (1941), which describes marine life in the Gulf of California.

Steinbeck was determined to participate in the war effort, first doing patriotic work (*The Moon Is Down*, 1942, a play-novelette about an occupied Northern European country, and *Bombs Away*, 1942, a portrait of bomber trainees) and then going overseas for the New York Herald Tribune as a war correspondent. In his war dispatches he wrote about the neglected corners of war that many journalists missed – life at a British bomber station, the allure of Bob Hope, the song “Lili Marlene,” and a diversionary mission off the Italian coast. These columns were later collected in *Once There Was a War* (1958). Immediately after returning to the States, a shattered Steinbeck wrote a nostalgic and lively account of his days on Cannery Row, *Cannery Row* (1945).

Steinbeck continued to write despite his turbulent personal life of the 1940s – divorce from Carol Henning in 1942, followed by a 6-year marriage to Gwyndolyn Conger which ended in 1948 – the same year that he was numbed by the sudden death of Ed Ricketts. In 1949 he met and in 1950 married his third wife, Elaine Scott, and with her he moved again to New York City, where he lived for the rest of his life. Much of the pain and reconciliation of those late years of the 1940s were worked out in two subsequent novels: his third play-novelette *Burning Bright* (1950), a boldly experimental parable about a man's acceptance of his wife's child fathered by another man, and in the largely autobiographical work he'd contemplated since the early 1930s, *East of Eden* (1952). With this novel and, later, *The Winter of Our Discontent* (1961), Steinbeck's fiction became less concerned with the behaviour of groups and more focused on an individual's moral responsibility to self and community.

Like *The Grapes of Wrath*, *East of Eden* was a defining point in his career. During the 1950s and 1960s the perpetually restless

Steinbeck travelled extensively throughout the world with his third wife, Elaine. In 1962, the author received the Nobel Prize for Literature – “for his realistic and imaginative writings, combining as they do sympathetic humour and keen social perception.” Upon receiving the award, Steinbeck said the writer's duty was “dredging up to the light our dark and dangerous dreams for the purpose of improvement.” However, the day after the announcement of his award, the New York Times ran an editorial by the influential Arthur Mizener, “Does a Writer with a Moral Vision of the 1930s Deserve the Nobel Prize?” Wounded by the blindside attack, unwell, frustrated and disillusioned, John Steinbeck wrote no more fiction.

He did continue to write reams of letters to his many friends and associates, and scores of journalistic pieces. And he worked diligently on a modern English translation of a book he had loved since childhood, Sir Thomas Malory's *Morte d'Arthur*. In 1960, he toured America in a camper truck designed to his specifications, and on his return published the highly praised *Travels with Charley: in Search of America* (1962), another book that both celebrates American individuals and decries American hypocrisy. His disenchantment with American waste, greed, immorality and racism ran deep. His last published book, *America and Americans* (1966), reconsiders the American character, the land, the racial crisis, and the seemingly crumbling morality of the American people.

By the time of his death from heart disease on December 20, 1968, at his home in New York City, Steinbeck had written 16 novels, a collection of short stories, four screenplays (*The Forgotten Village*, *The Red Pony*, *Viva Zapata!*, *Lifeboat*), a sheaf of journalistic essays – including four collections (*Bombs Away*, *Once There Was a War*, *America and Americans*, *The Harvest Gypsies*) – three travel narratives (*Sea of Cortez*, *A Russian Journal*, *Travels with Charley*), a translation and two published journals (more remain unpublished). Three “play-novelettes” ran on Broadway: *Of Mice and Men*, *The Moon Is Down*, and *Burning Bright*, as did the musical *Pipe Dream*. Never easy to pigeonhole personally, politically, or artistically, Steinbeck remains one of America's most significant twentieth-century writers.

A mural in Salinas, California, depicting scenes from the works of John Steinbeck.



THE CAST

GEORGE

Mike Gallagher

LENNIE

Pete Brassington

CANDY

Bill Platt

THE BOSS

Martin Deighton-Brown

CURLEY

Joe Etherington

CURLEY'S WIFE

Natalie Boyd

SLIM

Andrew Higson

CARLSON

Jamie Sloan

WHIT

Aidan Burgess

CROOKS

Joseph Jacobs

CANDY'S DOG

Izzy

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Director Joseph Meighan

Original Music composed by Mark Goggins

Set Design Joseph Meighan

Lighting Design James Merrington

Sound Design Mark Goggins

Stage Manager Alan Jones

Asst. Stage Managers Vi Pope

..... Louise Hope

Rehearsal Prompt Alison Davis

Properties Claire Eddleston-Rose

..... Claire Corneill

Costume Production Mike Shaw

Assisted by Stella Blackburn

Julie Shaw Betty Farmer

Lynne Saleh Catherine Phillips

Helen Phillips Sarah Steer

Noel Watson Jen McEvoy

Head of Stage Paul Simpson

Production Carpenter Steve Cox

Scenic Artist Mandy Cooke

Assisted by Barry Purves Trevor McKie

Jane Milner Charlotte Leigh

Rob Robinson Ruth Stocks

..... Holly Cooper

Set Construction Paul Simpson Steve Cox

Trevor McKie Alan Jones

Barry Borgen Mark McEwan

Nick McKie John Murphy

Andy McHugh John Ross

Cliff Mills Dave Bailey

Bob Green Drew Lightfoot

..... Alistair Duffy

Rehearsal & Production Photography Martin Ogden

Publicity & Programme Design Nick Sample

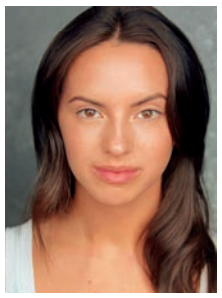
All information was believed to be correct at the time of going to press.

Some names or designations in the Creative Team may have since changed.

Thank You
VERY MUCH

Without our incredibly dedicated, enthusiastic team of **Volunteers** and **Staff**, whose sheer hard work often goes un-noticed, Altrincham Garrick Playhouse would simply be unable to continue providing such a range of top-quality productions for you everyone enjoy. **With their continuous commitment to excellence, we owe them all a huge debt of gratitude. Thankyou all so much!**

THE COMPANY



Natalie Boyd CURLEY'S WIFE

Natalie trained as an actor and writer with the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain, the British Youth Music Theatre and the Barrow Group New York before founding a production company which champions under-represented creatives, supported by Arts Council England. Her first production '*HoneyPot*' premiered at Edinburgh Festival Fringe and was later produced at the Other Palace Theatre. During the Covid-19 pandemic, Natalie created an open-air arts festival '*HoneyPride*' at the London Southbank's Scoop Amphitheatre which was reprised annually between 2020-2022. Other credits include: *The Great Gatsby* (South Hill Park), *People Places and Things* (Headlong UK Tour), *Pericles* (Olivier Theatre), *Press Go* (Almeida Theatre), and short-films and series for Amazon, BAFTA-Cymru, Sky, Universal. Natalie is thrilled to make her Garrick debut in *Of Mice and Men*!

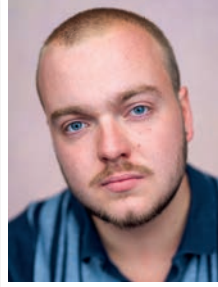


Pete Brassington LENNIE

Pete graduated from Trinity St David's with a BA in Acting, and after moving to Manchester he made his debut at the Garrick in 2016 playing the over-the-top *Prince Regent* in *The Madness of George III*. Further notable main stage performances include *The History Boys*, *Nightmare*, *Dick Whittington*, *The Sound of Music*, *Shakespeare in Love*, *The Shawshank Redemption* and *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, as well as Directing the recent sell-out shows *The Vicar of Dibley* and *A Vicar of Dibley Christmas: The Second Coming*. Pete has also performed in some brilliant plays in the Studio including *Orphans*, *The Truth About Blokes* and *Edith in the Dark*, as well as directing *Constellations* and *Pronoun*. Pete recently won *Best Drama* at the NODA Awards for his direction of *Constellations* at Macclesfield Amateur Dramatic Society.

Pete will be directing *Bleak Expectations* (the story Dickens might have written after drinking too much gin!) on the main stage in September/October later this year, tickets on sale now!

Pete is delighted to have been cast in *Of Mice and Men*, without a doubt his most challenging role to date! He studied the play doing his GCSEs, and has always wanted to play *Lennie* as a bit of a dream role. He would like to say a huge thank you to the director and all of the cast and crew for their hard work in making this show possible. He hopes you have a brilliant time watching!



Aidan Burgess WHIT

Mancunian born and bred, Aidan is an Actor, Director & Writer, who trained at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts and East 15 Acting School. Aidan graduated from East 15 in July 2024 with a BA (Hons) in Acting First Class and is represented by Beccy Kilgariff at VSA.

Credits whilst in training include *Barry* in *Motor Town*, *Frank* in *All My Sons*, *Firs* in *The Cherry Orchard*, *Leonato* in *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Barry* in *Saved* and *Timothy West* in the premiere production of *O'Toole's Macbeth*.

Aidan first began his time at the Garrick back in 2014 as a member of the cast in *Oh, What A Lovely War!* Other credits at the Garrick include: *Philip* in *Orphans* (2017), *Beadle Bamford* in *Sweeney Todd* (2016), *Abram* in *Romeo and Juliet* (2016), *The Secret Garden* (2017) and *Joseph Buquet* in *The Phantom of the Opera* (2014) and, more recently, *Bob Serber* in *Oppenheimer* (2025). Aidan will also be playing *Barry Mann* in the upcoming production of *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*.

Aidan would like to thank his family and friends for their never ending support and also to Joe and everyone behind the scenes for making this show a possibility.



Martin Deighton-Brown THE BOSS

Martin has been involved in theatre for many years and has played many roles varying from the serious to the down right bizarre

At Altrincham Garrick he got his first roles as *The Emperor of China* in *Aladdin* followed by some rather strange roles in *Peter Pan!* (*A shadow* and *a mermaid* to name a couple)

Also at Altrincham Garrick he played *Baldeo*, a mean character in the original version of *The Jungle Book*, and *Heywood* in *The Shawshank Redemption*. Following that he joined an ensemble cast of 12 (playing 70 characters) in *A Christmas Carol* where he played (amongst other roles) the flamboyant and loud *Ghost of Christmas Present*. Last year, Martin was very excited to be playing a particularly nasty pirate called *Billy Bones* and also *Killigrew the Kind* (don't let the name fool ye!) in *Treasure Island* – which in one performance included a dramatic (and unscripted) exit from the stage when his character was killed off..!

Martin dedicates a lot of his spare time running a section of the Timperley Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme where he is also training manager.

When he's not escaping to the stage he's spends a lot of time "herding cats"!!!! He has a wife, four kids, a dog (who also ignores him!) 2 ducks, 4 chickens and an obnoxious cat! (Oh and a therapist!!!)

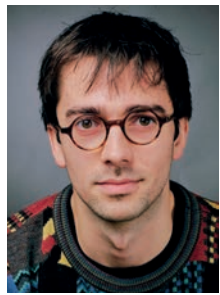


Izzy the Lurcher CANDY'S DOG

Hailing from Cheshire, 12-year-old Izzy is a very beautiful dog who has loads of character and lots of lovely facial expressions. A very calm dog who adapts well to new situations, Izzy has a huge personality and bags of intelligence. This girl is a family dog who loves nothing better than cuddling with her human siblings. She is a very calm, submissive and intelligent dog with a relaxed temperament, but also has a very active side, which can be seen during her agility competitions and outdoors.

With having pet modelling experience, Izzy worked in a studio on a stills photography shoot for *Scruffs* – a dog bed company. Lately, she was involved in the awareness campaign for *Dechra Pharmaceuticals* which is raising awareness of Cushing's Syndrome, and also starred in Channel 4's *Big Fat Quiz of Everything*.

Izzy is delighted to be making her Garrick Playhouse debut in *Of Mice And Men*.



Joe Etherington CURLEY

Joe is returning to the Garrick stage a mere thirteen years after his last appearance with us, in **Footloose**. Since completing his training at Guildford School of Acting, Joe's credits include appearances in the UK Tour of **Cilla, Spamalot** (English Theatre Frankfurt), **Little Robin Redbreast** (Salisbury Playhouse), **San Domino** (Tristan Bates Theatre), and **Twelfth Night**

(Petrovden Shakespearean Group).

Joe is a musician and music producer in the bands 'Sleep Walking Animals' and 'Dinnerladyyy'.



Michael Gallagher GEORGE

This is Michael's tenth performance on the Altrincham Garrick Playhouse's main stage, having appeared most recently in the iconic role of **Long John Silver** in this swashbuckling adventure Treasure Island last year. He also played **Dr. Gibbs** in Joe Meighan's production of **Our Town**. Previous roles have included **Donny Osbourne** in **The Lieutenant Of**

Inishmore, **Baldrick** in **Blackadder the Third** and **Private S. Baldrick** in **Blackadder Goes Forth**, **Pat O'Dooley** in **The Beauty Queen Of Leenane**, several characters in **Corrie!** (including **Richard Hillman & Fred Elliot**), **Dad** in **George's Marvellous Medicine** and a variety of characters in Jessica Swale's **Blue Stockings**.

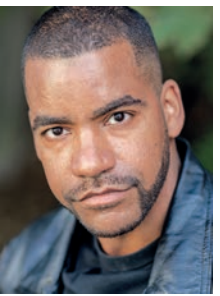


Andrew Higson SLIM

Andrew has been a member of the Garrick Playhouse since 1995 and has appeared in numerous productions on our main stage. Favourites include **The Vicar of Dibley** – and he's most recently reprised the role of **Owen Newitt** for the third time on the Garrick Playhouse stage, in last November's staging of **A Vicar of Dibley Christmas**.

Andrew's favourite roles have included appearances in **Abigail's Party**, **The Ritz**, **Return to the Forbidden Planet**, **La Cage aux Folles**, **Bronte** and **Jeeves and Wooster**. And in the Garrick Studio, plays include **Greek** by Steven Berkoff and **The Visitor**. Before his most recent revival of **Owen Newitt**, Andrew played Chief Inspector Morse's partner, **Detective Sergeant Lewis** in 2022's **House of Ghosts** and the **Narrator** in June 2023's **Into The Woods** by Stephen Sondheim.

Andrew was also one of the first to perform in **JB Shorts**, now established as a major highlight of acting entertainment in Manchester.



Joseph Jacobs CROOKS

Joseph is excited to be making his Altrincham Garrick Playhouse debut in **Of Mice And Men**, having previously made notable appearances in **Port** (Johnathan / Kevin) **Bluebird** (Guvnor) and **Blue Orange** (Christopher) at Stockport Garrick.

Significant television credits include roles in **Coronation Street**, **Prime Suspect 5: Errors of**

Judgement, **Casualty**, **The Bill**, and **Where the Heart Is**.

When not treading the boards or gracing the screen Joseph enjoys spending time with his loving supportive family and friends.



Bill Platt CANDY

Bill has been a member of the Garrick for over 34 years and has appeared in numerous productions as well as directing on eight occasions. Recent appearances include the role of W. H. Auden in **The Habit of Art**, Alderman Fitzwarren in **Dick Whittington**, and appearances in the companies of **Queers** and **The Laramie Project** in the Garrick Studio, all offering

up a definite variety of roles. Prior to playing **Frank Pickle** in both **The Vicar of Dibley** and **A Vicar of Dibley Christmas** last year, Bill's last appearance on the Garrick's main stage was in September 2023's memorable production of **The Shawshank Redemption**.

Bill is also President of Northenden Players, and has a weekly community radio programme on Wythenshawe FM all about theatre in Greater Manchester.



Jamie Sloan CARLSON

Jamie has performed in many Altrincham Garrick productions, including the title role in **Vincent in Brixton** (2016), **Handbagged** (2017), **These Shining Lives** (2017), **Stones in His Pockets** (2018), **Around the World in 80 Days** (2018), **Jeeves and Wooster** (2020), **Constellations** (2022), **The Importance of Being Earnest** (2023), **A Christmas Carol** (2023) and most

recently as both **Richard Feynman** and **Haakon Chevalier** in **Oppenheimer** (2025). Jamie has enjoyed being involved in **Of Mice and Men** - it has been a pleasure to work with such a talented cast and crew, especially Izzy. When not treading the boards, Jamie can often be found ballroom dancing at Topaz dance studio in Stretford.

The affecting, Pulitzer Prize-winning story of enduring friendship
and the crumbling of the American dream

of mice and men

by John Steinbeck

**altrincham
garrick
playhouse**

**Thursday 8 –
Sunday 18 May**

Evenings at 7:30pm (except Sun 11 & Sun 18)
No performances Monday 12 & Tuesday 13
Matinees, Saturday 10 May at 2:30pm
Sunday 11 and Sunday 18 May at 4:00pm

Box Office: 0161-928 1677
www.altrinchamgarrick.co.uk

The poster is a reproduction of the original poster for the play. It is not a reproduction of the play itself. It is a reproduction of the poster for the play. It is not a reproduction of the play itself. It is a reproduction of the poster for the play. It is not a reproduction of the play itself.



Joseph Meighan DIRECTOR

Joseph is the Artistic Director at Altrincham Garrick Playhouse and trained at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts in London. He has worked as a Theatre Director, Producer and Actor in both Manchester and London, and his love for theatre began at the age of four when he joined The Helen Donohue School of Speech and Drama.

Directing credits include *The Jury* (Upstairs at the Gatehouse/ Off-West End, London), *Parade*, *A Chorus Line*, *The Addams Family*, *GHOST*, *Chicago* (Waterside Arts), *The Wizard of Oz*, *Betrayal* (Z-Arts), *Our Town*, *Anne Boleyn*, *Into The Woods*, *Guys & Dolls*, *Scrooge! The Musical*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Misérables* and many more.

Directing credits at Altrincham Garrick Playhouse: *People*, *Priscilla: Queen of the Desert*, *Annie*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *The Crucible*, *The Secret Garden*, *Disney's The Little Mermaid*, *The Last Five Years*, *CHATROOM*, *Curtain Up*, *Peter Pan*, *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*, *Jumpers for Goalposts*, *Calendar Girls: The Musical*, *The Sound of Music*, *Shakespeare In Love*, *The Laramie Project*, *Our Town*, *Into The Woods*, *The Shawshank Redemption*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Let The Right One In*, *Treasure Island*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Jack and the Beanstalk* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*.

Joseph was the Founder and Artistic Director of MYT Productions in Manchester for ten years. He also regularly works as an acting coach and for the past few years he has trained actors at different stages of their careers.

Joseph trained as an actor and his theatre credits whilst training include Craig in *Fanatical - A New Musical* (Workshop and Karamel Club), *Reverend Parris* in *The Crucible* (Arcola Theatre, London) and *Tim Bunty* in *Singer* (Bernie Grant Arts Centre, London). After graduating, he appeared as *Ian* in *Might Never Happen* (UK Tour) before concentrating on his career as a Theatre Director... Although, most recently, owing to the indisposition of one of the company, Joe had to step into the role of *Prince Frederick the First* in our 2023-24 pantomime, *Sleeping Beauty*. And he absolutely loved it!



Mark Goggins COMPOSER

Mark recently retired from his position as Reader in Music Theatre at The University of Central Lancashire where he led the BA (Hons) Music Theatre degree and also directed the award-winning University Chamber Choir.

Mark has directed many UCLan Music Theatre productions including *A Little Night Music*, *Parade*, *Spring Awakening*, *bare – a pop opera*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *London Road* and *Urinetown*. His professional musical theatre work includes the UK tours of *Beauty and the Beast*, *Cats*, *Starlight Express*, *The Producers*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *The Sound of Music*, *Shrek*, *Wicked* and most recently *The Lion King*.

Mark has conducted at many of the leading UK concert venues including The Royal Festival Hall, Birmingham Symphony Hall and the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, where he has performed with the Hallé Orchestra. Previous credits as M.D. at the Garrick include *La Cage aux Folles*, *A Little Night Music*, *Follies*, *Cabaret*, *West Side Story*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Secret Garden*, *Priscilla*, *Queen of the Desert*, *Cats*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Calendar Girls – The Musical*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and *Merrily We Roll Along*.

Mark also works as a composer and sound designer including, for the Garrick, *Blue Stockings*, *Let The Right One In* and *The History Boys*.

Mark was delighted to direct the first play in our 2024-25 Season of Irish Drama in the Studio Theatre, a compelling production of Martin McDonagh's *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*.

THE ROAD TO NOWHERE

John Steinbeck said he wanted Lennie in his 1937 novella to stand for the "inarticulate and powerful yearnings of all men".

He had himself worked among ordinary agricultural labourers in the first half of the 1920s, when he needed money to finance his university studies, and was all too aware of the effects of October 1929's Wall Street Crash. At that time, America was still a predominantly rural nation. The so-called jazz age touched only a minority of its richer citizens, and most people did not benefit from the invention of the car or the refrigerator. Hard work, poor conditions and low wages were the norm, and the Depression simply exacerbated an existing situation.



The cities were certainly badly affected during the Depression years of the 1930s, with homelessness, food shortages, large-scale unemployment and rioting becoming everyday occurrences, but it was still the rural population that was hardest hit. Worst off of all were the tenant farmers of the middle states such as Oklahoma, where intensive farming followed by years of drought removed the fertile topsoil and created the Dust Bowl. Unable to grow crops, and so unable to pay their landlords, hundreds of thousands of these small farmers had little option but to take their families and the belongings they could carry, and make their way by whatever means they could to the fabled 'golden land' of California.



They were humiliated, angry and resentful, but were received at the end of their often extremely arduous journey with suspicion and more resentment. Californians did not want these 'foreigners' taking their jobs or forcing down wages, while the incomers only wanted the basic necessities of life: the means to procure a roof over their heads and food for their families. They were re-enacting the frontier philosophy of the country's settlers and holding on, like George and Lennie in *Of Mice and Men*, to a version of the American dream in which people could acquire their own piece of the New World by virtue of working hard. Unfortunately, the fall-out from the Wall Street Crash ended most ordinary people's chance of turning that dream into a reality.

In California, two-thirds of the travelling workforce were unemployed at any given time. Itinerant labourers like George and Lennie would weave across the state finding jobs wherever they could. They were open to exploitation by employers and, as well as working long hours for low wages, they were often obliged to sleep rough. Journalist Lorena Hick reported on conditions for fruit pickers at this time:

"Although the growers are supposed to provide decent housing and sanitary conditions for these people, they don't. Most of the workers live in tent colonies, with no water and no sanitation. Many of them live on the banks of the irrigation ditches and drink the ditchwater."

Farm workers were a subculture in their own right, with their own hierarchy. Before machines took over much of the work, the mule driver was top of the tree. Slim in *Of Mice and Men* is just such a figure, his worth recognised by the farm owner from above, and able to command respect from the other workers. His reward is the certainty of permanent employment and the possession of a highly prized transferable skill. By the time Steinbeck wrote his story, the Wall Street Crash and the Depression that followed were already bringing this way of life to an end.



It is not difficult to draw parallels between the plight of working people in the 1930s and the situation many find themselves in today. The global financial crisis of 2008, precipitated by the high-risk strategies of banks such as Lehman Brothers, brought us perilously close to the consequences we see in *Of Mice and Men*. The parallels are more striking still when we see the mass migrations of recent years.

People haven't always left their homes for the same reasons; often, it has been because of violence and oppression rather than poverty and hunger (although the two go hand in hand), but the effects are the same. Since 2015, countries all over the world have had to contend with the arrival of large numbers of refugees, ranging from asylum seekers to economic migrants, many escaping from the Middle East and Africa.



According to the UN Refugee Agency, there are more than 65 million forcibly displaced people worldwide and as many as 28,300 a day forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution. Those numbers have never been so high.

So desperate is their plight, refugees have risked their lives on perilous journeys, exposing themselves, like George and Lennie, to unscrupulous opportunists, from people smugglers to poverty-wage employers, on the way. Heading to Western Europe, thousands have crossed the Mediterranean in over-crowded boats at great financial and personal expense, only to be greeted with animosity and suspicion when they arrive. Once more, survival requires not only perseverance, ingenuity and courage but also, after decades of ever-increasing individualism, the ability to appreciate the value, the necessity even, of pulling together.

Opposite page: Dorothea Lange's classic photograph of a couple of migrant workers on the road to California. Above left: A poor migrant mother and her two young children, and (top) a migrant family pictured in their temporary home. Above: An overloaded boat of refugees making their way across the English Channel.

For One Night Only!

Fabulous Entertainment for Everyone



Thursday 22 May
7:30pm

The original comedy show and their outrageous big band are bringing your much-loved Big Band hits to the stage with a unique show audiences LOVE!

Packed with personality and humour, Crooners has been wowing audiences with its witty and exhilarating show full of hilarious one liners, laugh out loud silliness and superb musical numbers with the outstanding 9-piece The Mini Big Band live on stage. The show pays homage to

some of the greatest Crooners of all time with a splendiferous injection of Britishness. Featuring humour, tap dance and some of the most quintessential songs from **Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr, Matt Monro, Nat King Cole, Bobby Darin**. Expect some *Come Fly With Me, Fly Me to the Moon, Mack the Knife* and many more...

"A simply super show for anyone who loves the big band sound and a fun evening out" Fiona Harding, The Reviews Hub.

Tickets £29.50 Friends of the Garrick £27.50



Saturday 24 May
7:30pm

Jump aboard the midnight train – heaven is a place on Earth as the greatest end-of-the-night anthems spectacular roars into town.

One way, or another, nothing's gonna stop us now... join us for a crazy, crazy night of non-stop, singalong favourites. The boys and girls are well and truly back in town. And this time they're breathing life into the music of **Bryan Adams, Blondie, Cher, Rainbow, Bon Jovi, Kate Bush,**

Starship, Europe and Belinda Carlisle... and that's just for starters!

This electrifying, high-energy theatre production brings you 30 of the biggest end-of-the-night anthems – including **Summer of '69, I Love Rock 'n' Roll, Livin' on a Prayer, Sweet Child O' Mine, China in Your Hand, You Shook Me All Night Long, Sweet Home Alabama** and many more – all brought to life in full colour with a sizzling cast, fantastic costumes and amazing light show. It's time to let your hair down and come dressed to impress to the biggest party night EVER!

Tickets £31.00



Friday 23 May

Doors Open 7:00, Starts 8:00pm

Featuring some of the funniest award-winning comedians on the UK comedy circuit, who are all personally chosen by Jason Manford.

Mike Wilkinson The laughs come thick and fast with Wilkinson's dry humour and razor sharp wit... but hecklers

beware, that cheeky grin can lash out and crush a heckler at lightening speed. Tour support for Peter Kay, Jonny Vegas, Ross Noble, Dave Spikey, Jason Manford. **"Relaxed and confident stage presence"** The Last Laugh.

Matt Bragg With a unique, low energy, deadpan style and meticulously crafted material Matt has been gaining critical acclaim from audiences, promoters and comedians alike. Tour support for Ricky Gervais, Harry Hill, Jason Manford, John Bishop. **"Classic observation comedy, delivered with effortless style."** Ricky Gervais

Stephen Bailey The multi-award nominated star's brand of gossipy humour has singled him out as one of the UK's most sought-after talents for comedy and entertainment formats. As well as boasting over 100k followers on Instagram after one of his videos was shared by none other than Melissa McCarthy. Tour support for Micky Flanagan, Lucy Beaumont, Katherine Ryan, Jenny Eclair, Jason Manford, John Bishop and Sarah Millican. **"He's an arch-bitch with a winning style, everyone's favourite gay best friend. Confident, funny and suitably rude!"** The Reviews Hub.

Tickets: £13.50

Member of the Get Off Initiative
www.getofflivecomedy.co.uk



FRIDAY NIGHT IS COMEDY NIGHT!



Sunday 25 May
7:30pm

MY HEART WILL GO ON is the ultimate celebration concert of the music of one of the world's greatest iconic singers of all time - Celine Dion.

This outstanding concert has been storming its way across Europe for 4 years gaining critical acclaim and outstanding reviews. Described as a "power-house performance that delivers on every level..."

With a live sensational band audiences are taken on a magical ride through four decades of hits that include: **The Power Of Love, River Deep, It's All Coming Back To Me Now, I'm Alive, All By Myself, Because You Loved Me** and the classic ballad **'My Heart Will Go On'** ... Join us for an unmissable evening as we pay homage to the Queen of power ballads.

Tickets £28.00

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

We value your feedback, and would like to invite you to share your thoughts about the Altrincham Garrick Playhouse. Have you enjoyed a recent performance, or didn't enjoy it for some reason? Perhaps there's something we could improve on? Are there specific plays, musicals, or shows you'd love to see on our stage? Any visiting acts you'd like to recommend? What do you think of this programme? How did you find out about what you came to see? We would love to receive your reviews and suggestions.

This season, we've partnered with Star Feedback to make it easy for you to share your opinions. Simply scan the QR code (right) and let us know what you think. Thank you for helping us create the best experience possible!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!



STARFEEDBACK
REVIEW MANAGEMENT MADE SIMPLE

altrincham garrick cinema

Coming
soon:



Wednesday 21 May 7:30pm

Based on the Oscar-nominated film, Billy Elliot the Musical has won the hearts of millions since it opened in London's West End in 2005. Set in a northern mining town, against the background of the 1984-85 miners' strike, Billy's journey takes him out of the boxing ring and into a ballet class where he discovers a passion for dance that inspires his family and whole community and changes his life forever.

The original creative team behind the film - including writer **Lee Hall** (book & lyrics), director **Stephen Daldry** and choreographer **Peter Darling**, are joined by **Elton John** (music) to produce a funny, uplifting and spectacular theatrical experience that will stay with you forever.



Sunday 8 June 7:30pm

Starring Tony-nominee **Jeremy Jordan** and Olivier-nominee **Frances Mayli McCann**, this award-winning production (including *Best New Musical - What's On Stage Awards 2023*) re-tells the unbelievable true story of America's most infamous couple, Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow.

Recorded live at London's Theatre Royal Drury Lane, discover the electrifying story of love, adventure and crime that captured the attention of an entire nation.

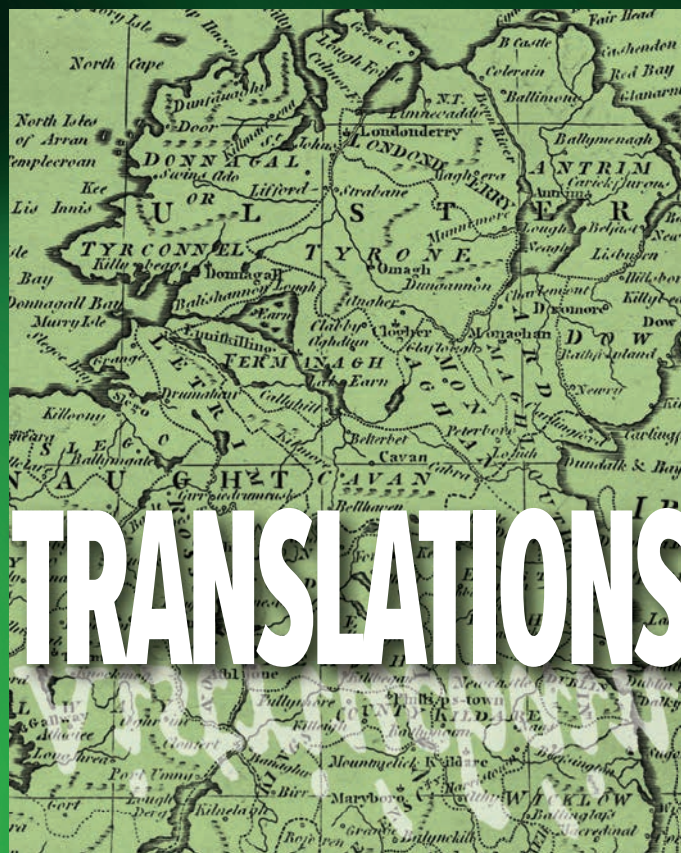
Book today for Sunday 6 July 7:30pm



Next in the Studio

Tuesday 10 – Sunday 15 June

"You can learn to decode us"



by **Brian Friel**

Directed by **Charlie Tomlinson**

From the acclaimed playwright of *Faith Healer* and *Dancing at Lughnasa*, this hauntingly lyrical play is about nothing less than language as the soul of a nation.

In 1833 Baile Beag, County Donegal, a hedge schoolmaster gives his Irish-speaking students a classical education, versing them in Ancient Greek and Latin – but not in English. Meanwhile, the British Army arrives to create a new map of Ireland that will 'standardise' the Irish place-names to English. With the schoolmaster's son returning home from Dublin to serve as the Army's translator, local farm girl Máire finds herself torn between the affections of the local school teacher and the love of a British soldier, between her native tongue and a new language, between the comfort of the world she knows and the excitement of foreign possibilities. The resulting clash of two worlds threatens the very heart of the community as they struggle to interpret a new language and each other. What gets lost in translation?

Brian Friel's modern masterpiece examines the fractious relationship between people and nations through the lens of language and (mis)communication.

This play appears on the recommended Secondary School Reading List.

altrincham garrick studio

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Nick Hern Books Ltd.
www.nickhernbooks.co.uk

Next on the Main Stage: **Mon 2 – Sat 7 June**

Evenings at 7:30pm

SCOUSETRAP!

IT'S THE SPAT OF THE DECADE...

One woman left with her suspicions vindicated, the other with her reputation destroyed, and soon everyone's dirty laundry will be interested on a human wanted to work Rebekah Vardy's Was there a level of self-deception or compulsive lying, or was there some



VARDY v ROONEY

they needed to win this case, so the only way they were going to win was to absolutely destroy Vardy's credibility. I understand why they had



Adapted by
Liv Hennessy

THE WAGATHA CHRISTIE TRIAL

Directed by
Daniel Ellis

Forget about The Mousetrap...

The Wagatha Christie Trial is currently the most intriguing mystery on everybody's minds!

On a quiet October morning in 2019, a tweet from Coleen Rooney surfaced on Twitter. In the detailed post, she revealed that over the past five months, she had been working to uncover who had been leaking her private Instagram stories to the press. Driven by suspicion, she'd blocked all but one account from viewing her stories, and baited that account with fake stories that would later appear in The Sun newspaper – and that account belonged to Rebekah Vardy.

What followed was a trial that gripped the nation, and would soon be dubbed "*The Wagatha Christie Trial*."

Only a handful of people witnessed what happened behind the closed doors of this footballers' wives drama – and now you can too in this hilarious production, as it is recounted by the two parties and edited from seven thrilling days of High Court transcripts.

Recommended Age: 12 + WARNING: This production contains some strong language and adult themes.