



Dear Tavonians members and friends,

As I write this, we have just completed our run of The Railway Children with two performances at Okehampton Charter Hall.

The production has gone very well and received complimentary reviews from Michael Simpson (our NODA representative) and Amy McEvoy of the Evening Herald, plus lots of lovely comments from the audience. Everyone involved has worked extremely hard and all deserve a very big THANK YOU!

This newsletter is being sent using a more sophisticated mailing system which will enable us to more effectively manage our email distribution list. This enables us to provide a facility to unsubscribe from these newsletters if you so wish (look for the link at the end), but of course we do hope you all want to stay in contact.



On tour in March  
including 14th-16th at The Wharf

# Shadowlands

By William Nicholson

## SPRING 2017 PRODUCTION

Several plays were discussed as possibilities for our March 2017 production but we found that it wasn't possible to get performance licences for some of them due to

imminent professional revivals - a frequent problem for theatre groups like ourselves who want to perform good, interesting and classic plays.

The play eventually but happily chosen is "Shadowlands", a poignant, humorous and ultimately optimistic love story based on the life of shy Oxford don and children's author C. S. Lewis (Narnia) and American poet Joy Davidman. Set in the male enclave of academic Oxford in the 1950s, their relationship starts as an exchange of literary correspondence. When Joy visits Oxford, her intellectual assertiveness delights and refreshes Lewis but appals his condescending fellow academics. A beautifully touching play, dramatising the unlikely romance that blossomed between the academic and the poet.

## **OPEN AUDITIONS**

**Sunday 11th December - 1.30pm**

**The Guide Hall, Canal Road, Tavistock**

### Cast required:

C S Lewis	An Oxford don in his 50s. Known as "Jack".
Major W H Lewis	Lewis's bachelor brother, known as "Warnie". 50s.
Joy Gresham, née Davidman	An American in her late 30s.
Professor Riley	An Oxford Don
Rev. Harry Harrington	An Oxford Chaplain
Alan Gregg	An Oxford Don
Dr Maurice Oakley	An Oxford Don
Douglas	Joy's 8-year-old son (actor aged 12-14 preferably)

Registrar, Clerk, Witness, Nurse, Doctor, Waiter, Priest  
(Various smaller roles to be doubled with above or as stand-alone roles)

Crew: We need you! No experience needed.

Stage Manager, Set builders, Costume, Props, Technical (Sound & Lighting ops),  
Publicity, Front of House.

Di ffitch, the Director, will hold auditions on Sunday 11th December at 1.30pm in the Guide Hall, Canal Road, Tavistock. Scripts will be available. For further info contact us via Facebook, or Email: [secretary@tavonians.org.uk](mailto:secretary@tavonians.org.uk). If you are unable to attend the auditions, but would like to be involved, please contact us. New members welcome!

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **Christmas meeting: Thursday 15th December**

A relaxed social event after a busy year, combined with The Railway Children end-of-run party. Please bring party food/nibbles and drinks. There will be a short seasonal play we can read, and you're welcome to bring any Christmas poems, readings or songs to add to the entertainment. At Peter and Rosy's, 3 Sunway Close, Tavistock, PL19 8LU (near top of Old Launceston Road). Email [secretary@tavonians.org.uk](mailto:secretary@tavonians.org.uk) if you have queries.

### **AGM - Annual General Meeting: week of 17th February**

More details to follow. This is when our members get together to look at our achievements in 2016 and our financial position, and to elect some officers and committee members. This is a good opportunity to take your turn in helping to run the group, and also to discuss any issues and put forward ideas for future productions and activities. We usually have a short play lined up to read afterwards.

### **Playreadings:**

Three dates have been booked so far for playreadings, open to all, with a view to choosing future productions:

**Friday 13th January:** 7.30pm at the Guide Hall: "Nobody's Perfect" by Simon Williams (rom com).

**Friday 10th February:** 7.30pm at the Guide Hall: "Night must Fall" by Emlyn Willams (thriller)

**Friday 7th April:** time, place and play title to be announced later.

**Spring 2017 production: "Shadowlands"**

**March 14th-16th at The Wharf**, with a tour of local villages before and after.

**Theatre Visit: Jane Eyre - Theatre Royal, Plymouth**

**Tuesday 2nd May - 7.30pm**

Di ffitch is organising this. Please email [secretary@tavonians.org.uk](mailto:secretary@tavonians.org.uk) if you would like to go. Tickets will be £24 if we can get a group of 10+ together.

**URGENT REQUEST for STORAGE**

We are looking for dry, accessible storage, preferably in or not far from Tavistock, for our collection of scenery, costumes and props. Do you know of any unused outbuildings or maybe rooms over a shop we might be able to use for a small charge? Please let us know at [info@tavonians.org.uk](mailto:info@tavonians.org.uk).



**OTHER GROUPS:**

**Tavistock Passion: telling the Easter story on Good Friday, 14th April, in Tavistock town centre:**

This exciting new event by and for the Tavistock community is rapidly taking shape, with a specially-written script and music. The Director is David Stranks and rehearsals will start in the new year. There are still opportunities to join in, particularly for younger (20s-40s) men and women, as actors and as backstage helpers and stewards. Please contact the Producer, Steven Martin, at [TavistockPP@gmail.com](mailto:TavistockPP@gmail.com) if you are interested or would like more information.

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We are very much looking forward to seeing you at the Shadowlands auditions,

Alison Wright

Treasurer, Tavonians Theatre Company  
208 Whitchurch Road, Tavistock.

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