



PHOENIX THEATRE COMPANY

with kind permission  
of **Samuel French**  
present  
an amateur dramatic  
production of



# THE ACCRINGTON PALS

By Peter Whelan

# PALS

May HANNA PEPE Tom CHARLIE WHITE

Ralph RYAN CROSS Eva JESSICA LUNN

Sarah STEPHANIE COGDELL Bertha ROSA VINYARD

Annie Boggis ALISON O'NEIL Arthur Boggis LAWRENCE ROBINSON

Reggie Boggis MAX WEBB C.S.M Rivers PETER HORWOOD

Poetry read by ROSEMARY GILLETT Pianist CAROLYN HOLLEYMAN

Bugler DAVID HEALY (From Wadhurst Brass Band) Voices off Stage BARBARA LAIRD & IAN FORGAN

Directed by Toni Mehra

Assistant to Director & prompt ROSEMARY GILLETT Stage Manager CHRISSIE ROBINSON Properties and Scene Painting JANET DUCHESNE

Costumes TONI MEHRA, CHRISSIE ROBINSON & JO COMPTON Lighting & Sound NIGEL CASSFORD & SARAH TRUELOVE

Makeup DANIEL HOEY Set design and Construction TONY WOODLIFFE, ROY HARRIS,  
YVIE BARRACLOUGH, KEN AUDSLEY & DAVID WHITTALL

Back stage BARBARA LAIRD, IAN FORGAN & STEPHEN KNOWLDEN

Program and publicity STEPHEN KNOWLDEN Front of House JOHN WILLSON & MEMBERS

Bar DAVID ROBINSON Raffle MARGARET HARRIS Box Office BURNETTS OF MAYFIELD



THE ROYAL BRITISH  
LEGION



PLEASE GIVE  
a donation box will  
be position at the  
exit at the end of  
every show

## THE ACCRINGTON PALS

### ACT 1

Scene 1: The Market Stall, Autumn 1914

Scene 2: The Recruiting Office

Scene 3: The Market Stall, mid-morning

Scene 4: May's Kitchen, 3 months later

Scene 5: The Guard House, Penkridge

Scene 6: May's Kitchen

Scene 7: A Bunkhouse, Ripon 1915

Scene 8: The Market Stall, Winter 1915

Scene 9: May's Kitchen, some weeks later

Scene 10: The Market Stall

### ACT 2

Scene 1: France & May's Kitchen, Summer 1916

Scene 2: The Front, a little later

Scene 3: May's Kitchen, 1/2 hour later

Scene 4: The Western Front, The Somme 1916

Scene 5: Sarah's Back Yard

Scene 6: May's Kitchen, a day later

Scene 7: The Market Stall

Scene 8: The Market Stall, some time later

## Director's Voice

**Toni Mehra** has been involved in 'Am Dram' since the '60s and has played many varying parts, both in London & Mayfield including *Miss Bingley* in *Pride & Prejudice*, *Miss Skellen* in *See How They Run* and *Mother Superior* in *Bonaventure* to name but a few.

More recently, due to the fact that her memory is not only 'exiting left' but going offstage altogether, and she can't remember lines, she has turned to directing on the premise that you don't need a memory for that! Ha! Ha! Having thoroughly enjoyed directing *The Cemetery Club*, with a 'well seasoned' cast, the bigger and much younger cast of *Accrington Pals* has presented quite a challenge, but they have all stepped up to the mark and have done extremely well. Our thanks to - **Harveys of Hove, Ringmer Dramatic Society** and **'The Greenhouse' Heathfield** for supplying costumes and props.



## The Cast



### Hanna Pepe

Hanna's first theatrical experience was at Junior school and since then her passion for acting has grown to the point where she has played in many amateur productions, most recently as *Annie* in *Oklahoma*, *Pam* in *Full Monty*, *The Musical* and as *Silly Girl* in *Beauty & the Beast*, all with the LAMPS in Tunbridge Wells. She is delighted to have been given the opportunity to play the straight role of May in *The Accrington Pals*, and would like to thank everyone who has helped her along the way.



### Charlie White

Charlie has been in numerous productions including *Billy Elliott*, and *A Christmas Carol*, but this is his debut performance with Phoenix as the dreamer, Tom. He says he has enjoyed rehearsals tremendously, and hopes to have the privilege of working with Phoenix in the near future.



### Ryan Cross

He has been involved in various things, including parts in the Mayfield pantos when he was young (er!) A few years ago he did Drama at G.C.S.E. level, and is currently doing a B-Tec National Diploma in Performing Arts. He would like to continue studying acting, ideally at University or Drama School.



### Jessica Lunn

Jes has been in many productions with other companies, such as Rotherfield Players, her most recent parts being in *The Railway Children* and *The Mikado*. This is her first role with Phoenix and she hopes you enjoy watching it as much as she has enjoyed playing it.



### Stephanie Cogdell

This is Stephanie's first production with the Phoenix Players - talk about baptism by fire! Stephanie took the role only 3 weeks ago after another member had to bail out. She has previously appeared in a number of plays with the Village Players in Rushlake Green and was last seen mostly sleeping and wandering around on the aforementioned green as *Hermia* in *Midsummer Nights Dream*. Stephanie is very excited to be working with such a young cast although she doesn't count herself in that age group!



### Rosa Vinyard

Rosa is currently studying Performance Arts at college and this is her first role with Phoenix, as Bertha. She says she has really loved working on *Accrington Pals*, and hopes you enjoy watching it as much as she has enjoyed playing in it. She can't wait to be in our next production!



### Alison O'Neill

Alison last performed with the Phoenix Theatre Company 5 years ago, playing the role of Monica in *The Shelf*. Since then she has been busy bringing up her two daughters, Georgia 4yrs & Emily 2yrs, so has had her hands full! In the part of Annie Boggis, Alison has drawn on her experience as a teacher to create the no nonsense, strict style the character demands.



### Lawrence Robinson

Lawrence is 33yrs old and based around Tunbridge Wells. He has loved acting since he was 16. He studied theatre and film at College and has been working with a local comedy writer for several years. This last year has seen him become more and more involved with various theatre projects and he has recently started playing small roles in independent feature films. Lawrence also plans to direct his first short film this year.



### Max Webb

- aged 13yrs - This is only the second production that Max has been involved in. He was a 'naughty boy' in the Waldron Community Play *The Black Sheep* and he plays another naughty (gormless) boy in this play - is he being typecast he asks? According to his Mother he has just become another teen-age dirt bag!



### Peter Horwood

Peter has been 'treading the boards' since 1984 and has tackled numerous roles ranging from Dame in Pantomime to the heavy-handed *Danforth* in a recent production of *The Crucible*. He last appeared for Phoenix as 'Sam, the playboy butcher' in *The Cemetery Club*. He is married with 3 daughters, all of whom are involved in the theatre. When not acting, Peter is to be found on the golf course!



## PAST PLAYS BY THE PHOENIX

Gloria's Angel	2003	2006 Fawley Towers
Gilly's Gem	2003	Hotel Inspectors
Riddle in the Sand	2003	Waldorf Salad
Black Widow	2004	2008 Party Piece
Perfect Wedding	2004	2008 Don't dress for Dinner
Price to Pay	2005	2009 Cafe Molnar
Wyrd Sisters	2005	Husband and Lovers
The Shelf	2006	2009 Harvey
World Premiere	2006	2010 Cemetery Club