

The Season

November 26 - 29

When We Are Married

J.B.Priestley

Compass Theatre

January 25 - 28

The Normal Heart

Larry Kramer

Travellers

March 1 - 4

Faith Healer

Brian Friel

Orley Farm School

May 27 - 30

The Fireraisers

Max Frisch

Travellers

Company contacts

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Proscenium is affiliated to Harrow Arts Council and is a registered charity - no 283141

PROSCENIUM

74th SEASON

1997 - 1998

PROSCENIUM

J B Priestley

When We Are Married

26th - 29th November 1997 at the Compass Theatre

When We Are Married

By

J B Priestley

John Boynton Priestley was born in Bradford in 1894, the son of a schoolmaster, and died ninety years later, one of the most prolific and popular writers of the twentieth-century. His work includes novels, literary criticism, biography, travel, essays and those famous wartime broadcasts. There is also great variety within his fifty or so plays : psychological mysteries, experiments with time, exploration of social and political themes.

But of all his plays, 'When We Are Married', first produced, ironically, the year before the outbreak of the second world war, is the funniest, sunniest and most warm-hearted, full of rich comic characters. Within the framework of his "Yorkshire Farcical Comedy", he pokes fun at the middle class pretension of Edwardian Society (and of 1938 and, perhaps, of 1997) and has shrewd observations to make about marriage after twenty five years. The three couples in this play are wiser, more generous and more loving at the end than when they started their Silver Wedding celebration.

Proscenium wish to thank the many people who have helped with this production, in particular St Lawrence Players for the loan of the camera.

Cast in order of appearance

Ruby Birtle	<i>Claire Wooster</i>
Gerald Forbes	<i>Miles Eagling</i>
Nancy Holmes	<i>Nikki Gerrard</i>
Mrs Northrop	<i>Anne Gerrard</i>
Fred Dyson	<i>Charles Anthony</i>
Henry Ormenroyd	<i>Colin Hickman</i>
Alderman Joseph Helliwell	<i>David Watkins</i>
Maria Helliwell	<i>Crystal Anthony</i>
Councillor Albert Parker	<i>Michael Williams</i>
Herbet Soppitt	<i>Roderick Jones</i>
Clara Soppitt	<i>Kathleen Jones</i>
Annie Parker	<i>Susi Thornton</i>
Lottie Grady	<i>Linda Hampson</i>
Rev. Clement Mercer	<i>Morris Suckling</i>

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Directed by	<i>Michael Gerrard</i>
	<i>Colin Hickman</i>
Stage Manager	<i>Margaret Rudolph</i>
Asst Stage Manager	<i>Siaka Suma</i>
	<i>Jenny Glover</i>
Set Design and Contruction	<i>Alan Glover</i>
Lighting Design	<i>Colin Tufnell</i>
Lighting	<i>Anton Jungreuthmayer</i>
Costumes	<i>Anne Gerrard</i>
	<i>Evelyn Moutrie</i>
Properties	<i>Jeannie Jungreuthmayer</i>
Production Coordinator	<i>Anton Jungreuthmayer</i>

There will be an interval of approximately twenty minutes between Acts I and II and five minutes between Acts II and III.

The Normal heart by Larry Kramer

Larry Kramer is a writer and AIDS treatment activist. In 1981, With five friends, he founded Gay Men's Health Crisis, now the world's largest AIDS service establishment; and in 1987 he founded ACT UP, the AIDS advocacy and protest organisation.

His play about the early years of AIDS, *The Normal Heart* (1985), has had over six hundred productions world wide and holds the record for longest running play at Joseph Papp's Public Theater in New York. The British premiere at the Royal Court Theatre, starring Martin Sheen, broke all box-office records there before transferring to the West End.

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Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart* is in the great tradition of Western Drama. In taking a burning social issue and holding it up to public and private scrutiny so that it reverberates with the social and personal implications of that issue, *The Normal Heart* reveals its origins in the theatre of Sophocles, Euripides and Shakespeare. In his moralistic fervour, Larry Kramer is a first cousin to nineteenth-century Ibsen and twentieth-century Odets and other radical writers of the 1930s. Yet at the heart of *The Normal Heart*, the element that gives this powerful political play its essence, is love - love holding firm under fire, put to the ultimate test, facing and overcoming our greatest fear: death.

I love the ardour of this play, its howling, its terror and its kindness. It makes me very proud to be its producer and caretaker.

Joseph Papp.

Original New York Production of
THE NORMAL HEART
By New York Shakespeare Festival

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Proscenium's production of Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart* takes place at the Travellers Theatre from January 25th - 28th 1998