

Some of
The Cast



This production was sponsored by



**Doxey
Community
Association
and
Mikron
Theatre
Company**



Village Voices

*A play about a community
in a fast changing world*

by Richard Povall

St Thomas' and St Andrew's Church,
Doxey, Stafford. ST16 1EQ.

Saturday April 30th 2005 at 7.30pm
Sunday May 1st 2005 at 3.30pm

Official Programme.



Little River, Big World

Little river, big world.
Beneath the surface a tale unfolds,
of a story whose end is far from view
For me and for you.

Sharp hooks, sly lures,
Good bait from the deepest pools
Trawl the depths for a yarn spun years ago,
By me and by you,
For me and for you.
Children following (you)

There's a stream of brackish memories we've not yet plumbed,
Over the tracks and fields, not far away.
An island in the marshes, where the big fish are.
We'll be there and back by tea time. Wait and see!

Little river, big world.
Below the surface a tale uncurls,
of a story whose end is far from view
For me and for you.

Little river, big world.
Below the surface a tale uncurls,
Of a story whose end is far from view
For me and for you.
Children following (you)

There's a stream of brackish memories we've not yet plumbed,
Over the tracks and fields, not far away.
In Doxey by the marshes
Where the big fish brook is
Listen to the stories
We'll be there and back by tea time. Wait and see!

Richard Povall



Mikron Theatre Company

Catch Mikron later this year.

As soon as the second performance of Village Voices is over, Richard will go away and rework the play for the Mikron Theatre Company's cast of four actors. The premiere of this full-length version will be performed in **Doxey**

on Saturday, 11 June at 7.30 p.m.

In the hall of St Thomas' and St Andrew's Church

**Get your tickets from Stafford Tourist Office, William Sutton Centre,
Doxey Stores, Bradbury Rise Stores or call Barbara on 607771
In advance: £2.50 single or £6 for a family. On the door: £3.00**

**After June 11 Village Voices will be taken on tour with Mikron's other 2005
production: The Wheel of Fortune.**

Waterways & Summer Tour: 11th June - 4th September

Autumn Tour: 19th September - 28th October

For more information visit: www.mikron.org.uk or call: 01484 843 701.

Village Voices

From the Universal, To the motorway
Let village voices say, What village voices may

Along the Doxey Brook, To the end of Greensome Lane
It's all that you can do, To stop the voices coming through.

When there's so much to say,
Say it clearly so that we can hear it coming through.
'Cos there's so much to say.

Children left from Tenterbanks. Now they leave a different school.
Different voices shrieking, Different games with different rules.

See your granddad running, Back from school, the bombers coming.
Uni's ack-ack guns are gunning. Practice just in case it happens.

Just listen what he says.
So much story-telling that one day you'll want to hear.
So, listen what he says.

All those kids look like they're fighting,
Shouting, swearing, looking frightening,
Hoods up, trainers, knocking, running.
"In the bushes - cops are coming."

If you hear what they say,
You'll find that there's not much difference to the way you once were,
If you hear what they say

In the brook we'll all go fishing, Watching, waiting, hoping wishing,
Old and young, men and women, Chip shop kid and Izaak Walton

Bait your hook with curiosity. Cast it in a swim of memory.
Get a bite and land it well. What you get the time will tell.

So, let's hear what you say.
Let the village voices say what the village voices may.
Let's just hear what you say.

Welcome to this production of Village Voices

The Village Voices project had its origin in a visit made by some Doxey residents in 2002 to a performance in Hixon by the Mikron Theatre Company. It was felt that their kind of play would go down well in Doxey. So Mikron were invited to Doxey for the summer of 2003.

As well as putting on one of their plays, Mikron ran work-shops in the afternoon before the performance. Members of the Company also stayed with Doxey residents before continuing their tour.

Mikron liked Doxey – the welcome it gave and the interest in theatre expressed by its residents – and Doxey liked Mikron. Both parties agreed that a return visit had to be made.

It is not clear exactly how the idea for the present project arose, but it was soon agreed that Mikron's next visit to Doxey should be about more than just putting on its plays. There should be more interaction between Mikron and the people of Doxey.

What emerged during the following autumn and winter was a proposal that, with the help of Mikron, the people of Doxey would create and produce a piece of theatre, telling the story of the community itself. While Mikron would see to the actual writing and direct the actors, the actors would be mainly local people and other residents would contribute to all of the other activities needed to put on a play. Further, after the performance of this play in Doxey, the Mikron writers would rework it into a format suitable for its cast of four actors and include it in the repertoire for its 2005 tours.

In the meantime, Mikron would visit Doxey in the summer of 2004, funded once again by a grant from our county councillor's Local Members' Initiative Fund. On this occasion they performed two plays and ran a workshop in Doxey Primary School. Once again, the company enjoyed local hospitality.

At the same time steps were being taken to obtain funding for the project - Mikron is a fully professional company. In November the Community Association was awarded the sum of £27 510 by The Arts Council. This was enough for preparations to start. Mikron made further visits to Doxey to get to know the village even better and notices were put in Doxey Times to raise local interest.

Meanwhile, more fundraising was taking place and eventually we had positive responses from Staffordshire County Council's Arts Fund, Awards for All, the William Sutton Housing Association, Culturegen – Stafford Borough's organisation for supporting local arts professionals – and the Community Council's Community Champions fund.

Much of the rest of the story has been reported in successive issues of Doxey Times. Mikron's writers paid two extended visits to Doxey and met with about 30 residents who provided them with enough stories about Doxey to fill several plays. Groups of Doxey people have got together to learn about and apply the various techniques involved in producing a play. Finally, after completion of the script, the actors applied themselves diligently learning their lines and rehearsing. We believe that the outcome of all this effort will be an evening of humour, pathos and truth which you will remember for some time.

Acknowledgements

The successful completion of this project is due in a large part to the help and co-operation of the vicar and congregation of the parish church of St Thomas and St Andrew in Doxey. The extensive use of the church hall for rehearsals and the ability to store equipment and properties have been invaluable. We are grateful too for flexibility in the timing of church services around the performances.

Thanks are also due to Derek Gask and the Gatehouse in Stafford and to Matt Smith - Stafford Sound and Light, for advice on lighting matters and the loan of equipment.

Of great assistance have been the many agencies which have accepted publicity leaflets and/or posters and also those which have sold tickets: The William Sutton Housing Association, the Doxey Stores, the Bradbury Rise Stores; The Stafford Tourist Office.

Extensive advice and assistance on graphics and publicity has been provided by Jim Wheeler. Our excellent logo design by Katy Clapp. Mike Day has advised on photography, Barry of the New Victoria Theatre on stagecraft and Media Divas on video making.

Swing Universal

On Friday night,
My mirror says to me
Be all that you can be
And step into the light
When we go out on the town
There's no doubt that you'll drown

The girls that you won't allow
Your little boys to bring home.
They couldn't handle the glow.

We're always out on the street
So if you see us go home
You wouldn't go with the flow.

All for one and one for all, now.
One for all and all for one.
We're going out together as a
gang now
(And) We dunno when we're
coming home

Swing Universal it's universal
Going out together
And hanging out

All for one and one for all, now.
One for all and all for one.
All for one and one for all.
It's how we all go.

The girls that you won't allow
Your little boys to bring home.
They couldn't handle the glow.

We're always out on the street
So if you see us go home
You wouldn't go with the flow.

All for one and one for all, now.
One for all and all for one.
We're going out together as a
gang now
(And) We dunno when we're
coming home

Swing Universal
It's universal
Going out together
And hanging out

Swing Universal
It's universal
To stick around together
And scream and shout

And when we're home
We'll dream about the night
Until the morning light
Shines into our rooms

And we'll get old
But won't forget the nights
And all the shining lights
That played over our heads.

MIKRON THEATRE COMPANY

Stage management	Richard Perry, Tom Perry
Costume & Properties	Lettie Hall, Denise Peel, Alice Paton, Jemma Clews, Annabel Pattyson
Scenery & Lighting	Richard Essex, Sheila Ball, John Smith, Matthew Jackson, Adrian Venables, Sally Hems
Publicity and Graphics	Katy Clapp, Stephen Moore Mary Pickard, Eileen Skelton
Transport	Mick Johnson

Stories of Doxey told by:

Joan Anslow	Eileen Arnold	Sheila Ball
Joyce Beach	Tom Beach	Brenda Bishop
Judy Bishop	Sandra Brereton	Hannah Burgess
John Corcoran	Susan Corcoran	Pat D'Arcy
Rory D'Arcy	Val D'Arcy	David Dutton
Maureen Dutton	Geoff Greenwood	Alan Houldcroft
Ossie Lloyd	Hilda Lunt	Margery Middleton
Jean Parrack	Trevor Pattyson	Marie Peake
Mary Pickard	David Sinfield	Eileen Skelton*
Adrian Venables	Ken Waines	Bill Wilshaw

** A special thank you should be extended to Eileen Skelton for the loan of her extensive archive of cuttings and documents about Doxey.*

Research Barbara and Iain Simpson

Hospitality and/or refreshments

Marion Belcher	Rob Belcher	Laura Day
Jane Essex	Sarah Jessop	Owen Moody
Joan Moore	Stephen Moore	Denise Peel
Iain Simpson	Barbara Simpson	Gill Smith
John Smith		

MIKRON is unique. For over 30 years, this small company has been taking vivid and dramatic musical theatre to places where other outfits wouldn't dream of going; performing to audiences starved of professional theatre.

Founded in 1963 and based in London performing new work at small theatre venues, Mikron took to the water in 1972 to tour on the waterways of England by narrowboat, performing at canal and riverside pubs, in village halls and community centres, and at festivals and rallies.

Since then, Mikron has produced nearly forty new plays and employed over seventy actors, plus many freelance writers, musical directors and designers. More recently the Company has expanded into communities, helping their inhabitants turn pasts and futures into dramatic entertainment.

As well as waterways themes - social, environmental and historical - Mikron has covered such diverse subjects as the Yorkshire textile industry and the industrial revolution, women's suffrage, hilltop farming, transport, and pubs and brewing.

Mikron moved north in 1978 to its present base in Marsden at the head of the Colne Valley, eight miles from Huddersfield.

In addition to its role as a touring theatre company, Mikron is very much part of its local community through the Mikron Youth Theatre and involvement with activities at its home base of the Marsden Mechanics, including the annual Marsden Jazz Festival.

Director	Richard Povall
Songs by	Rebekah Hughes & Richard Povall
Musical Director	Rebekah Hughes
Project Manager	Mike Lucas
Workshop Facilitators	Laura Sydonie & Robert Took
Mikron Acting Company	Ellen Callender, Laura Sydonie, Robert Took & Daniel Wexler
Design Consultant	Emma Hopkinson

VILLAGE VOICES

by

Richard Povall

The play is set in Doxey, from 1945 to the present day. The action takes place in various locations, particularly Doxey Marshes, the Universal Grinding Wheel works and the Doxey Institute.

While the play is based on conversations with a large number of Doxey people, the play is a work of fiction and the characters who appear are not intended to represent any real person, living or dead.

The play runs for just over an hour. There will be an interval of about 20 minutes during which free refreshments will be served.

Cast – in order of appearance

The River	Denise Peel
	Sophie Tasker
Bob Ashe aged 10	Freddie Essex
Ena Backhouse aged 10	Louise Belcher
Tunga	Tunga Muzangaza
Rita Ashe	Valerie D'Arcy
The Uni Girls	
Edna	Laura Day
Tippy	Valerie D'Arcy
Kitty	Kirsty Higgs
Mary	Mary Pickard
Terence	Terry Williams
John	John Smith
Announcer	Dan Wexler
Interviewer	Rob Took
Alan	Tunga Muzangaza
Ena aged 18 to 27	Anita Sumner
Cheeky tyke	Courtney Cowperthwaite
MC	Rob Took
The Costume Girls	Alice Paton
	Jemma Clews
	Annabel Pattyson
Bob Ashe aged 27	Terry Williams

Eileen	Laura Day
Man 1	Dan Wexler
Man 2	Rob Took
Woman 1	Ellen Callender
Woman 2	Laura Sydonie
Child with coal	Rebecca Smallman
Peter Parker	Rob Took
William Ashe	William Essex
Reg Snapper	John Smith
Editor	Fiona Paton
Journalists	Laura Sydonie
	Ellen Callender
Old Bob	Terry Williams
Old Ena	Kirsty Higgs
Boy	Freddie Essex

Chorus

Hannah Burgess	Jane Clapp	Jemma Clews
Tunga Muzangaza	Joan Moore	Alice Paton
Fiona Paton	Annabel Pattyson	Margaret Robinson
Gill Smith	John Smith	Anne Winnington

Musicians

Keyboard	Rebekah Hughes, Geoff Moore
Clarinet	Rebekah Hughes
Flute	Anne Winnington, Alice Paton
Drums	Matthew Jackson
Guitar	Rob Took
Banjolele	Rob Took
Bass guitar	Rachel Moore.
Rap by ST16	MC Blast, MC Fader, MC Flex
	MC Joiner, MC Spritz

Other contributors to the production

Archiving, Photography & Video recording

Isabella Davies, Peter Hall,
Stephen Jackson, Geoff Moore, Joan Moore,
Barbara Simpson Eileen Skelton, John Smith