



THE BOATSWAIN'S MATE

Ethel Smyth (1858 – 1944)

Libretto by Ethel Smyth

Based on a story by the same name by WW Jacobs

A Buxton International Festival production

Sung in English with side-titles

First performed in 1916, The Shaftesbury Theatre, London

DATES & TIMES

Monday 8 July	7.15pm
Sunday 14 July	7.15pm
Friday 19 July	7.15pm

VENUE

Pavilion Arts Centre

DURATION

1 hour and 20 minutes

CREATIVES

Musical Direction/Piano

Director

Designer

Lighting Designer

Rebecca Warren

Nick Bond

Elliott Squire

Rachel E Cleary

CAST

Mrs Waters

Harry Benn

Ned Travers

Policeman

Mary Ann

Elizabeth Findon

Joshua Baxter

Theo Perry

Richard Woodall

Rebecca Anderson

MALE CHORUS

Tenor

Baritone

Brennan Alleyne, Yihui Wang

James Connolly, Hamish Garrity

ENSEMBLE

Piano

Violin

Cello

Rebecca Warren

Matthew Chin

Harvey Kelly

SYNOPSIS

PART ONE

The Beehive, a pub in Margate. Our landlady, Mrs Waters, is a spirited widow with no thought of marrying again. She has caught the eye of one of her regulars, Harry Benn, a retired boatswain who has proposed to her five times and always been rejected. Today, as Mrs Waters slips out on an errand, she leaves Harry Benn in charge of the bar for a few minutes. In walks Ned Travers, a chatty ex-soldier down on his luck. The two men quickly strike up a friendship. As they talk, a cunning plan forms in Harry's mind with the aim of persuading Mrs Waters to finally accept his advances. Ned will pretend to burgle the pub that night, giving Harry the opportunity to ride to the rescue, fight him off and win the landlady's affection. He gives Ned a note explaining everything in case there should be any trouble with the police.

PART TWO

That night the plan is put into effect, but Ned makes too much noise going upstairs. Mrs Waters emerges from her bedroom with a lamp and shotgun. Ned hides in a cupboard, and she locks him in. He begs to be released, explaining the plot and when she lets him out, she is able to read Harry's note. She and Ned now decide to teach Harry a lesson. Mrs Waters fires her gun and screams for help. When Harry arrives to the rescue, she announces that she has shot a burglar and tells Harry to go outside and dig a grave. But Harry, wracked with guilt, goes instead to give himself up to the police. Once Mrs Waters proves to the constable that no-one is dead, she and Ned are left to come to a mutually satisfactory arrangement – which leaves Harry outwitted.



REBECCA WARREN

Musical Direction/Piano

Rebecca is a répétiteur and collaborative pianist from Ireland. Recent opera credits include *La Ciociara* and *Lalla Roukh* (Wexford Festival Opera), *The Land of Might-Have-Been* (BIF and Norwich Theatre), *Aida*, *Madama Butterfly*, *The Deadly World of Opera* and *Die Zauberflöte* (Irish National Opera). In 2023 she made her debut as Musical Director at

Wexford Festival Opera, directing a condensed version of *La Fille du Régiment* from the piano. She is a graduate of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, was répétiteur with the inaugural Irish Opera Studio (2018/2019), in 2020 was awarded the Next Generation Artist Award by Arts Council Ireland and was recently awarded the James H Geddes Award for Répétiteurs.



NICK BOND

Director

Nick is a director and writer who trained on the MA Theatre Directing course at Mountview under Peter James, after completing a BA (Hons) in Music and Drama at the University of Manchester. Nick was Assistant Director on *La Sonnambula*, directed extracts from *The Land of Might-Have-Been* and directed *The Enchanted Pig* (2021) at Buxton International Festival.

He was appointed as a Young Associate Board Member for BIF 2021-2024. Other directing credits include: *Lucky Stiff* (Hope Mill Theatre), *The World Goes Round* (Arden School of Theatre), *In and Out of Knowing: A New Musical* and *Far Away* (Mountview), *Motherhood* (Hen and Chickens Theatre), *The Lieutenant of Inishmore* (University of Manchester), *Seussical* (Council Chambers Theatre).



ELLIOTT SQUIRE

Designer

Elliott is a Canadian set and costume designer for theatre and opera. He is a graduate of Edinburgh's Scenehouse Programme and he also holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Design from the University of British Columbia. Opera credits include *Semele* (Set Design), *Candide* (Blackheath Halls Opera), *Rip van Winkle* (Gothic Opera), *Captain Blood's Revenge*

(Norfolk Into Opera Festival), *Giulio Cesare* (Bury Court Opera) and *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Xi'an Concert Hall). Theatre highlights include *Midnight: A New Musical* (The Union Theatre & Seoul, South Korea) and *Cartas Vivas* (Cervantes Theatre, London & Teatro de La Abadía, Madrid).



RACHEL E CLEARY

Lighting Designer

Rachel has designed lighting for plays, musicals and opera. Credits Include: *The Lucky Stiff* (The Arden at Hope Mill), *Cinderella* (Derby Theatre), *Queen Leer*, *Mary Shelley*, *Bronte*, *Hobson's Choice* and *Spokesong* (Birmingham Conservatoire); *Anthony and Cleopatra*, *Cendrillon* and *Enchanted Pig* (Buxton International Festival); *Petticoat*

Council (Steph Hartland Productions); *Little Shop of Horrors* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Canterbury Malthouse Theatre); *This Island's Mine* (The King's Head Theatre, Islington – Ardent Theatre Company); *Bess the Commoner Queen* (King's Head Theatre and UK Tour – Kevin Fegan Productions). Rachel is an alumna of the Association for Lighting, Production and Design's 'Lumière Scheme'.



ELIZABETH FINDON

Mrs Waters

Elizabeth studied at GSMD and RNCM. She has previously worked for ENO in Britten's *Peter Grimes*, Glyndebourne Festival and Touring Opera covering First Lady *The Magic Flute*. Previous seasons include 2019, 2020 and 2021. She made her National Theatre debut in *Amadeus*, cover Katerina Cavalieri and sang 'Opera Club'. Previous roles include Fiordiligi *Così Fan*

Tutte, Countessa Almaviva *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Clonter Opera), Micaëla *Carmen* (RNCM and CCYO), *Iolanta*, *Fraarte Radamisto* and she created the role of Proserpina in *The Tale of Januarie* in collaboration with the ROH (Phillips & Plaice) GSMD.



JOSHUA BAXTER

Harry Benn

Tenor Joshua Baxter has performed in operas, operettas and oratorios across the UK and Europe. He has worked with companies including Glyndebourne Festival Opera and The Grange Festival, performing and covering roles and also singing in the Chorus. He is active on the Oratorio stage, performing works by Mozart, Bach and Smyth. Joshua

made his role debut as Faust with Guildford Opera in 2023 and recently his soloist debut in the Verdi Requiem. He is a graduate of the Royal Academy of Music.



THEO PERRY

Ned Travers

Hailing from Essex, Theo is a lyric baritone, comfortable in both operatic and concert repertoire. He studied at Trinity Laban, where he won the Gold Medal, before joining the RCM Opera Studio. Past roles include John Proctor *The Crucible*, Don Giovanni, Marullo *Rigoletto*, Mercury *The Coronation of Poppea* and Ormonte *Partenope*.



RICHARD WOODALL

Policeman

Richard studied at Middlesex University and the Guildhall School of Music. He has performed with companies including ENO, Opera North, D'Oyly Carte and De Vlaamse Opera, Belgium. Recent roles include Dulcamara *L'Elisir d'Amore* (Opera South East), the title role in *Gianni Schicchi*, Scarpia *Tosca*, Amonasro *Aida*, Reb Mordcha *Fiddler on the Roof*

(Grange Park and the BBC Proms), Harvey *The Wreckers* and Lord Capulet *Romeo and Juliet* (Arcadian Opera). He is returning to the Buxton International Festival for a third season.



REBECCA ANDERSON

Mary Ann

Rebecca is a Scottish mezzo-soprano working across the UK. She completed a Masters of Music (2021) and a Postgraduate Diploma (2023) at the Royal Northern College of Music where she also worked as President of the Students' Union 2021-2022. Recent opera credits include Lady Bertram *Mansfield Park*, Minskwoman *Flight* and Lapak *The Cunning Little Vixen*.