

# THE GREAT MIDDLEMARCH MYSTERY

## CAST

### GEORGE BEACH

as *John Raffles*

George trained at RADA. He has performed in many theatre productions here and abroad including West End runs, UK Tours from the Shetlands to Cornwall and several stints at Vienna's English Theatre. TV credits include: *Poirot*, *Inspector Morse*, *Silent Witness*, *The Entertainer*, *Soldier Soldier*, *The Bill*, *Seaforth*, *Doctors*, *Harry*, *Covington Cross*, *BerlinBreak* and *Killer Clergy*. George has also played keyboards with artists including Joe Walsh of *The Eagles* and Brian Robertson of *Thin Lizzy*.

### AIMEE POWELL

as *Rosamond Vincy*

Aimee most recently appeared in *Seaview*, a digital series created by Strictly Arts Theatre Company. Other credits include: *This Little Relic* (BBC Radio Drama), *Coca-Cola* (Christmas advert 2021), *Crongton Knights* (Belgrade Theatre), *Freeman* (Strictly Arts Theatre Company) international tour. Aimee has also appeared in *BBC Doctors* and *The Archers* on BBC Radio.

## CREATIVE TEAM

Directed, Co-Adapted & Created by:

### JOSEPHINE BURTON

Josephine Burton is a Theatre Director and the Artistic Director, co-founder and Chief Executive of Dash Arts. She has created over 80 new pieces of award-winning cross art-form work and produced over 300 gigs at venues including Barbican, Royal Albert Hall, Roundhouse, Sadler's Wells and South Bank Centre. Recent highlights include the creation and direction of the internationally celebrated *Songs for Babyn Yar* in London, Berlin and Kyiv.

Designer: **ALEX PODGER**

Alex is an Australian site-specific designer & artist based in the UK. His work spans a range of artforms from visual installations, film, fire, opera & outdoor theatre and is driven by a strong sense of community and celebration.

Production photography: **IKIN YUM**

### ANDREW CULLUM

as *Nicholas Bulstrode*

Andrew trained at Webber Douglas in the 1980s. Recent theatre work includes *Jeeves and Wooster* at Chipping Norton and Cirencester, Sandi Toksvig's *Treasure Island* at Leicester Haymarket and *For King and Country* at Southwark Playhouse. He has played seasons with Heartbreak, Polka, Illyria, Eastern Angles, and The Rude Mechanicals. For nine consecutive years he was the regular Pantomime Dame for Solihull's Core Theatre. **Television:** *The Crown*, *EastEnders*, *Emmerdale*, *Brum*. **Audiobooks:** Over 40 available on Audible.

### DEBORAH TRACEY

as *Lucy Vincy*

Deb has enjoyed many roles across stage and screen as an actress, singer and writer.

**Theatre includes:** *Fisherman's Friends: The Musical* (Hall For Cornwall), *Dogwalker* (Stephen Joseph Theatre), *United Queendom* (Les Enfants Terribles), *Standing At The Sky's Edge* (Crucible) & *A Mad World My Masters* (RSC)

**Screen includes:** *This Sceptred Isle* (Sky), *Doctors* (BBC), *AbFab: The Movie* (Fox) & *Patient Zero* (Sony). Deb is delighted to be back in Coventry for *The Great Middlemarch Mystery!*

Co-Writer and Research Lead:

### RUTH LIVESEY

Ruth is Principal Investigator of the AHRC Leadership Fellowship, 'Provincialism: Literature and the Cultural Politics of Middleness in Nineteenth-Century Britain'. She is Professor of Nineteenth-Century Literature and Thought in the Department of English, Royal Holloway, University of London. Her work adapting & co-writing the Great Middlemarch Mystery with Josephine Burton forms part of the larger AHRC funded engagement project 'Finding Middlemarch in Coventry 2021'.

Costume Designer: **JAMES REEVES**

Associate Designer: **BRYAN WOLTJEN**

Design & Costume Assistant:

### SIENA TONE

Art Department Assistant:

### MANUEL DI FRANCESCO

### TOM GORDON

as *Dr Tertius Lydgate*

Tom Gordon is an actor, producer, director and writer, his training includes LAMDA, The Impulse Company and Leeds University. He has worked extensively on Film, Stage, TV, Radio, Commercials and Immersive Theatre. He co-founded and is the joint CEO of the award-winning film company Good Shout, which produced the BAFTA long listed short film *The Listener*. He is thankful that his work has taken him around the world, including America and Europe.

### RYAN VAN CHAMPION

as *Will Ladislav*

Ryan trained at Guildhall School of Music & Drama.

Theatre credits include Patrick Dennis in *Auntie Mame* (rehearsed reading, Lost Musicals); *Journey's End* (Watermill Theatre) and *The Cherry Orchard* (workshop, Prima Del Teatro). Theatre whilst training includes *Rags*; *The Laramie Project*, *A Respectable Wedding*, *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*, and *Toast*.

Previous television credits include *Casualty* and *Doctors* (both for BBC). Radio whilst training includes *The Boneless Wonder*.

Assistant Director:

### CONNOR ALEXANDER

Connor is a West Midlands-based theatre maker, artistic director of Bladder & String and founder of Noctium Theatre. Connor's practice revolves around devising, exploration and play informed by a range of performance techniques including improvisation, clowning, mime, puppetry and physical theatre.

**Credits include** *Echoes of Invention* (Bladder & String), *Hymns for Robots* (Noctium), *EVERYTHING* (Bladder & String), *The Righteous Jazz* (The Mechanicals), *Reynard The Fox* (The Fabularium).

Sound Designer: **WES FINCH**

Graphic Design: **PAUL SMITH ART & DESIGN, DESK TIDY DESIGN, SIENA TONE, NATALIE SIREN**

BSL Interpreters: **ANDREA DALY, RACHEL TIPPING**

Filming: **RB FILMS**

### AMANDA HURWITZ

as *Mrs Dollop*

Amanda was born and bred in Belfast and has worked in theatre, TV and film.

Highlights include: Theatre: Marianne Faithfull in Faithfull, a one woman show (Citizens Theatre, Glasgow); Grace in The Faith Healer (British Council Tour); Two (Irish tour, Mad Cow Productions); Bondage - a one-woman show (Project Theatre, Dublin). Film: Mary in Wildfire; Mary Ellen in Whole Lotta Sole. Television: Deirdre in Women On The Verge (Merman/UKTV/RTE); Maeve in Derry Girls (Hat Trick Productions/Channel 4).

### JOAN WALKER

as *Harriet Bulstrode*

Joan trained at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and started her theatre career at the Dukes Playhouse, Lancaster. She has huge stage, musical, TV and film experience plus a wealth of radio plays and readings for the BBC. Favourite roles include Tanya in Mamma Mia (World tour); Lady Fancifull (Greenwich theatre); the Queen in The King's Speech (BBC R4); Madame Beck in Villetta (R4). She has narrated countless audiobooks and is the proud winner of AudioFile's Earphones Award and the Library Journal's Best audiobook of 2016 both for Britt-Marie Was Here; and in 2017 for Here in Berlin. Upcoming TV is the hotly anticipated series *This Sceptred Isle*, autumn 2022.

## THE MIDDLE PEOPLE AND NEWSPAPER CONTRIBUTORS

Adam Rowley, Angela Keen, Anne Bevan, Ashley Hayward, Bengy Speer, Bernadette Howarth, Cathy Webb, Cecelia Stower, Francesca Rogers, Isaac Lee, Judith Roberts, Louise Day, Mollie Garratt, Jess Hobson, Naomi Day, Norma Bell, Robert John Chaston, Sandra Brownbridge, Shirley Anne Burnham, Steve Hands, Tracy Villiers, Victoria Cowell.

# THE GREAT MIDDLEMARCH MYSTERY



## PRODUCTION TEAM

Company & Production Manager:

**RACHAEL HEAD**

Deputy Stage Manager:

**EMILY DAVIES**

Assistant Stage Manager:

**BETHANY BARRINGTON-DAVIS**

## WE'D LIKE TO THANK

the following partners, donors and organisations for their support of Dash Arts and *The Great Middlemarch Mystery*:

Principal Funder: **UK Research and Innovation Arts and Humanities Research Council.**

Additional funding and support from: Coventry City Council  
Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry Cathedral, Arts Council England, The Garrick Charitable Trust, Royal Holloway, University of London, The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust, Three Monkeys Trust, Middlemarch Giving Circle and The Thistle Trust.

With **special thanks** to The Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry Cathedral, Georgia Cowie, Asha Eade-Green and all the staff at St Michal's House, Underground Lights Community Theatre, Anthony Allgood, Ian Attard, Sophie Austin, Shannon Burns at Belgrade Theatre, John Burton and The George Eliot Fellowship, Bally Gill, Carmi Gordon, Alice Kirk, Marcus Lynch, Jessica Rowe, Trish Willetts, Alice Wonders-Langrish, students from The Centre for Victorian Studies at Royal Holloway University, and our fantastic community of participants.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES...

Over the last two years, my co-conspirator, Ruth Livesey and I have lovingly adapted George Eliot's 19th century epic novel, *Middlemarch* for Coventry 2022. Determined to create an experience where the audience can feel part of the community of Middlemarch, we decided to situate the drama across four locations in Central Coventry where our audience, our Middlepeople (community performers) and professional cast can gather: Mrs Dollop's Green Dragon Pub, Mrs Vincy's Living Room, Bulstrode's Bank and the Town Hall.

We have run workshops with actors and members of the community, from and around Coventry, to understand how we might inhabit this beautiful book and create a theatrical production with it. And most importantly, we chose to place our drama in 1982, forty years ago, mirroring George Eliot's *Middlemarch*, which she wrote in 1871-2, forty years on from the world she depicted in her *Middlemarch*, a town inspired by Coventry where she'd been to school. Whilst keeping much of her astonishing original writing, we have sought to bring the magic, challenges and music of life in Coventry in the 80s to our show, and hope that you enjoy a step through time with us.

Thank you for being part of our show!

*Josephine Burton*

## DASH ARTS

Dash Arts is an award-winning arts company that creates theatre productions, live and digital arts events across the country, with the help of many wonderful artists and local participants. We will be bringing our next project, *Dido's Bar*, to the Royal Docks London, Oxford, Leicester, Portsmouth and Manchester this autumn. We hope to see you there!

## DASH ARTS TEAM

Artistic Director and Chief Executive: **JOSEPHINE BURTON**

Producer: **CRISTINA CATALINA**

Head of Marketing, Communications and Audience Development: **JANE SHOWELL**

Head of Individual Giving: **GEORGINA RALSTON**

Head of Grants, Trusts and Foundations: **SARAH HARDIE**

Marketing Manager (For 'The Great Middlemarch Mystery'): **JEN MARSCHEIDER**

PR Manager (For 'The Great Middlemarch Mystery'): **MARTIN SHIPPEN**

Podcast Producer: **RACHAEL HEAD**

Marketing Assistant: **NATALIE SIRED**

Company & Production Assistant: **BETHANY DAVIS**



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