

MORE RIPPING YARNS

26 - 28 AUGUST 2021
THE ARCHES THEATRE



SHOW PROGRAMME

A WORD FROM (ONE OF) THE DIRECTORS...

When I approached Michael Palin to ask him for permission to put *Ripping Yarns* on at the Arches, it occurred to me that his writing partner Terry Jones, and my dad and uncle had all died of dementia of one strain or another and it might be a good chance to raise some money for the cause. This I put to Michael Palin and he waived any fee and with the backing of Alison Jones, Terry's widow, we went for it and decided to raise money for The National Brain Appeal, which researches all areas of dementia and was chosen by Alison Jones.

If we raise £5k then an anonymous donor will match fund it. I don't think we will get there quite as there are overheads that have to be paid, but the venue is free, the rights are waived and various people have helped for nothing or very little money, but if we can get there that would be great, so do let me know if you would like to make a donation. All the profit will go to The National Brain Appeal.

There are pros and cons about putting on productions at the Arches. The weather can be the pro or the con as when it's good it's great and when it's not it's wet, and by golly there is moaning when it is wet, but on the other hand we British know exactly what the weather can be like and we do enjoy a moan, so everyone's happy really.

The freedom at the Arches is marvellous. We don't have to book rehearsal space or clear anything with theatre venue managers or worry about putting blu-tac on the walls and all that nonsense. We can stay there as long as we like and we can have a party at the end without worrying about the time.

I hope you enjoy it, and please dig deep for The National Brain Appeal.

David Pibworth
Arches Theatre

The National
Brain Appeal
Funding advances
in neurology and
neurosurgery

NEURO
MUSCULAR
SPASTIC PARALYSIS
SPINTELLIPSY
SPINTELLIPSY
PAIN IN HOUR
MUSCULAR
SPINTELLIPSY
SPINTELLIPSY
SPINTELLIPSY
SPINTELLIPSY
SPINTELLIPSY



TOMKINSON'S SCHOOLDAYS

SET IN ENGLAND, 1913

New boy Tomkinson struggles to adjust to the horrors of boarding school and dreams of escape back to his family...



THE CAST

Tomkinson
Older Tomkinson, the Narrator
The Headmaster
Tomkinson's Mother
Mr Ellis
Mr Roach
Mr Lendon
Mr Moodie
The Chaplain
Mr Craffit
Nurse
Maid
Grayson, the school bully
Suki
Bully's minders
Fag

Stephen Johnson
Richard Duncombe
Gary Martindale
Sue Walmsley
Roger Mann
Andy Oxford
Linda Davy
David Lovesy
Jon Davies
Carl Defriend
Emma Dell
Jodie Commercial
Keith Lennox
Emma Dell
Howard Potten and Robert Lindsay
Matthew Clark

Assorted boys, hoppers, ferocious animals and semi naked men
Roger Widdecombe, Jon West, Phil Tipper,
David Pibworth and Natalie Stevenson

WITH A FIFTEEN MINUTE INTERVAL BETWEEN EPISODES...

GOLDEN GORDON

SET IN YORKSHIRE, 1936

Barnstoneworth United Football Club's greatest fan, Gordon Ottershaw comes to the rescue of the failing club in a crucial match against Denley Moor FC...



THE CAST

Gordon Ottershaw
Eileen Ottershaw
Barnstoneworth (their son)
Cyril - the barman
Mrs Rockworth
The Manager
Barnstoneworth players

The Club Chairman
Mr Foggen
Mrs Foggen
Davitt - the butcher
The Goalpost

Jon Davies
Jodie Commercial
Benjamin Hall
Keith Lennox
Emma Dell
David Pibworth
Robert Lindsay,
Roger Widdecombe
and Roger Mann
Andy Oxford
David Lovesy
Phil Tipper
Carl Defriend
Roman's Goalpost

Other players and Barnstoneworth residents

Natalie Stevenson, Matthew Clark, Phil Tipper, Howard Potten,
Stephen Johnson, Jon West, Gary Martindale, Steve Clark,
Linda Davy, Sue Walmsley

WITH A FIFTEEN MINUTE INTERVAL BETWEEN EPISODES...

ESCAPE FROM STALAG LUFT 112B

SET IN GERMANY, 1917

*Major Phipps, celebrated WWI
escaper, attempts to break out of the
infamous German POW camp...*



THE CAST

Narrator

Richard Duncombe

The Germans

Vogel, a German NCO

David Lovesy

German Guards

Carl Defriend, Linda Davy, Phil Tipper,
Howard Potten, Sue Walmsley

The Kommandant

Jon West

The British POWs

Major Phipps

Jon Davies

Colonel Badger-Owen

Gary Martindale

Nicholson

Robert Lindsay

Major Attenborough

Steve Clark

Captain Walcott

David Pibworth

Chips

Stephen Johnson

Bo-Bo

Roger Widdecombe

Spiker

Jodie Commercial

Ginger

Andy Oxford

Dusty

Emma Dell

Carter

Jon West

Tosh

Roger Mann

Bongo

Matthew Clark

THE PRODUCTION TEAM

It takes an Elite bunch of behind-the-scenes professionals to make everything seem this chaotic. But just who are these technical legends?

Directors	Dave Pibworth (<i>Golden Gordon</i>), Keith Lennox (<i>Escape from Stalag Luft 112B</i>) and Steve Clark (<i>Tomkinson's Schooldays</i>)
Production Manager	Steve Clark
Marketing & Publicity	David Lovesy
Lighting	Dave Greenaway and Neill Elliott
Sound	Peter Lawson and Mark Luckin
Stage Management	Dave Greenaway, David Howard, Jade Johnson & Mac
Props	Pam Buckle
Make up and hair	Emma Dell (One Salon)
Costumes	MKTOC, Admiral Costumes
Wardrobe 'Mistress'	Emily Thomas
Front of House Manager	Phil Tipper
Front of House Team	Matt Hamer, Clare Scrimshaw, Darren Smith, Hannah Meara, Hannah Kitchen, Sian Mander, Alex Taylor, Annette Parmar, Alison Statham, Sue Whyte, Shirley Jones, Graham Horne, Val Lindsay, Steve Hall, Paula Hall
Obligatory Injured Cast Member	Ann Skelly (who now has a different cast of her own!)

This production, by kind permission of Michael Palin and the late Terry Jones' wife, Alison, will be donating all profits to **The National Brain Appeal** – a dementia charity.

**The National
Brain Appeal**
Funding advances
in neurology and
neurosurgery



STAY INFORMED OF OUR OTHER SHOWS AT WWW.MKTOC.CO.UK

SO WHAT IS “RIPPING YARNS” ANYWAY?

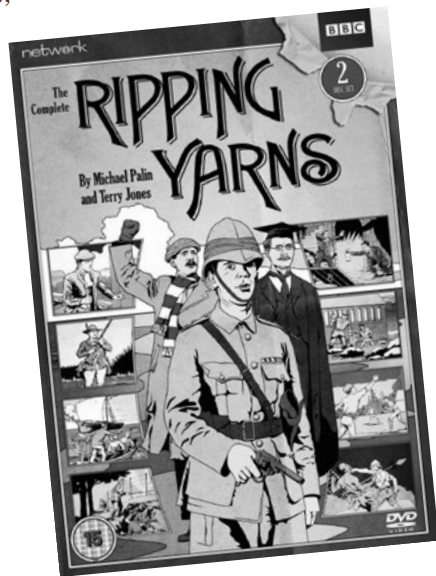
Ripping Yarns was written by Michael Palin and Terry Jones of Monty Python fame and commissioned by the BBC. Following an initial pilot episode in January 1976 (“Tomkinson’s Schooldays”), it ran for two series — five episodes in September and October 1977 and three episodes in October 1979. Each episode has a different setting and characters, each looking at a different aspect of British culture and parodying pre-World War II literature aimed at schoolboys.

The pilot episode featured Palin and Jones playing multiple roles but once the series was picked up, Jones did not appear in any further episodes. Instead, the leads in all the subsequent episodes were played by Palin.

Each episode featured several guest character actors including Ian Ogilvy, Kenneth Colley, Liz Smith, Roy Kinnear, Frank Middlemass, Iain Cuthbertson, John Le Mesurier, Jan Francis, Denholm Elliott, Gwen Taylor, Harold Innocent, Richard Vernon, Gwen Watford, Barbara New, Gerald Sim, Gilly Flower, Joan Sanderson, Roger Sloman and David Griffin. John Cleese even made a cameo appearance in the episode “Golden Gordon”.

The series was nominated for a BAFTA award in 1978 for ‘Best Film Cameraman’ (unusual for the time and type of production much of it was photographed on film rather than videotape) and won in 1980 for ‘Best Light Entertainment Programme/Series’.

In 2009, MKTOC staged three episodes of Ripping Yarns - “The Testing of Eric Olthwaite”, “Murder at Moorstones Manor” and “Across the Andes by Frog”. It’s taken us a while to get on to three more episodes, and if history repeats itself you can look forward to our staging of “Roger of the Raj”, “Whinfrey’s Last Case” and “The Curse of the Claw” in 2033!



THE GREYBRIDGE SCHOOL SONG

Please sing along in episode one!

My school, my school, how bravely she stands,
Long steeped in the memories of
Time's ageing hands.

My school, my school, how oft I recall
The comrades, the wisdom, the bat and the ball.

The bails and the wickets,
the stumps and the pads,

The athletic supports ... *(fade off into mumbling)*

Thank you to our fellow performers at **ETC Theatre** for the loan of a lectern, to **Tony and Anne Billingham** for donating furniture, and **David Howard** for the loan of microphones. We kiss the foreheads of each of you in an awkward manner.

DAVID PIBWORTH
P R O D U C T I O N S

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