

# FORUM THEATRE BILLINGHAM CLEVELAND

From 25th November to 7th December, 1974

# UNDERGROUND

by  
MICHAEL SLOAN

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25th November to 7th December, 1974

## **Underground**

by

MICHAEL SLOAN

Directed by **ROGER REDFARN**

Designs and Lighting by **BRIAN CURRAH**

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## Gemma Craven

was born in Dublin and came to England when she was eleven. After training at drama school she went into rep at Westcliff and at the end of the season played Cinderella in their pantomime. She then went into the West End production of *Fiddler on the Roof*, during which time she also played the lead in *Audrey* at Theatre Workshop production at The Place. From there Gemma travelled between Coventry and Birmingham doing various productions which included the premiere production of *First Impressions* in which she played Jane Bennett. After that it was *Leatherhead* to play Sabrina in *Sabrina Fair*. After a lot of searching, Gemma landed the lead in the West End production of

the musical *Trelawney*. The show opened at Sadler's Wells Opera House, then transferred to the Prince of Wales Theatre. Among her TV appearances are *The Harry Secombe Show*, BBC pantomime *Dick Whittington* and the YTV series *Hey Brian*.

Gemma has just completed her second season at the Chichester Festival Theatre. In her first season she played Sheba in *Dandy Dick* with Alastair Sim, which transferred to the West End. This year she did *The Confederacy* in which she played the juvenile lead with Dora Bryan as her mother and Peggy Mount as her mother-in-law. Gemma records on the Phillips label.

## Gareth Forwood

started in rep at Oxford, Farnham, Worthing and Lincoln, and has appeared twice at Hampstead Theatre Club, at the Royal Court in Charles Wood's *Dingo* and as Charley in *Charley's Aunt* with Tom Courtenay at the Apollo. Last year appeared as Bentley in *Misalliance* at the Mermaid Theatre. He has appeared in more than thirty teleplays, notably Rattigan's *Man and*

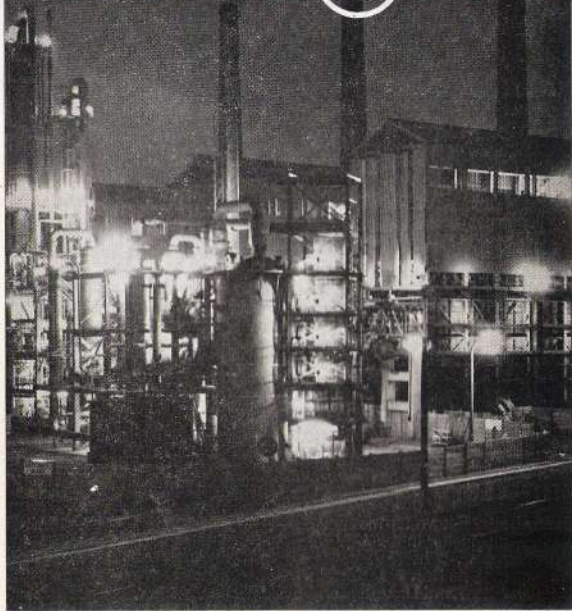
*Boy* opposite Telly Savalas, *Sovereign's Company* (BBC), *Eyeless in Gaza*, Alun Owen's *The Piano Player* and more recently *The Pallisers*. His films include Lieut. Pickering in *The Bofors Gun*. This summer he has spent six weeks in Athens shooting *The Gangsters*, a Greek cops and robbers film. Prior to this he played at the I.C.A. in Royce Ryton's *The Importance of Being Neutral*.

## David Henry

is probably better known for his portrayal of Bart Fisher in the ATV series *Crossroads*. Other TV appearances include Det. Sgt. Ross in *New Scotland Yard* and Linkman for the BBC TV's series *Don't Ask Us*.

His stage work includes two and a half years with the National Theatre Company and a variety of leading roles in reps at Coventry, Farnham, Leicester, Watford and Sunderland.

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## Patricia Hassell

trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and has since worked, mostly in repertory, in theatres throughout the country including Bristol Old Vic, Worthing, Stoke, Windsor, Westcliff and Hornchurch. She comes to Billingham from the Theatre Workshop, Stratford, where she has been working since the summer. The only time she has

played before in the North was at Hull during a Regent's Park tour of *Much Ado About Nothing* in which she played Hero. Other parts she has enjoyed playing include Alison in *Look Back in Anger*, Mag in *Lovers*, Nancy in *The Knack*, Ophelia in *Hamlet* and Nina Murray in *Dracula*. Patricia lives in Battersea where the fun fair (no longer) comes from.

## Lloyd McGuire

after rep. in St. Andrews, Ayr and Cheltenham, he joined the Royal Shakespeare Company and spent seasons in London and Stratford before going to New York with John Barton's production of *Richard II*, which he left to play Peter in the national tour

of Ayckbourn's *Time and Time Again*. He then played in *Brief Encounter* for the Village Hall TV series and in *Worth-a-Million*, an episode of *Softly Softly*. Immediately before joining the company appeared in Timothy West's *Macbeth* in Brighton.

## Derek Murcott

has just returned from San Diego, California where he has been playing in a season of Shakespeare at the old Globe Theatre. Born in Hanley, Staffordshire, he has had wide experience both in this country and America. Whilst in New York in the early 60's he made several appearances in *The Defenders*, played a leading role in the film, *The Devil's Doubloon*, and his last play there was *The Big Killing* with Shani Wallis. In this country his favourite role was George in the national tour of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* He has also toured as Sir Charles Kilke in *The Right Honourable Gentleman* and as Maior Wimbourne in *Conduct Unbecoming*. More recently he has been in *The Hollow* with Cicely Courtneidge and Jack Hulbert and

*Subway in the Sky* with Pat Phoenix. Derek has spent several years in various repertory companies and his many London stage appearances include taking over for a period from Leslie Phillips in *The Man Most Likely To* at the Vaudeville Theatre and Sgt. Stubbs in *Dick Turpin* at the Mermaid. His English films include *The Comely Man* and *Where the Spies Are*. His numerous TV appearances include *The Saint*, *No Hiding Place*, *Compact*, *The Human Jungle*, *Sgt. Cluff*, *Vendetta*, *The Champions*, *Special Branch*, *Crimebuster*, *Martin Chuzzlewit*, *Five Men for Freedom*, *The Pueblo Affair*, *Detective*, *Please Sir*, *Doctor at Large*, *Spy Trap*, *Dr. Who*, *The Upper Crusts*, *Crossroads* and *Crown Court*.

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## John Normington

has made countless television appearances including *The Main Chance*, *Owen M.D.*, *Barlow*, *Song of Songs*, *The Microbe Hunters*, *Edward VII*, *Father Brown*, *Coronation Street* and *Z Cars*. On stage he has been seen in *The Homecoming* playing Sam which also went to Broadway. He was a member of Prospect Productions, The Royal Shakespeare Company and the Royal Court during which time he

played a variety of parts, the most recent being *Taking Stock* at the Royal Court. His most recent West End appearance was in *The Happy Apple* and his last appearance at The Forum was in June of this year in *The Prodigal Daughter*. His films include *Inadmissible Evidence*, *The Dream*, *The Reckoning*, *Stardust* the follow up to *That'll be the Day* and about to be rehearsed *Rotherball*.

## Roger Redfarn

(Director)

made his West End debut as a director with his production of *The King and I* which was first presented at The Forum. He worked at various reps and after a spell with the Welsh National Theatre he spent six years as Associate Director at the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, where he was responsible for over 50 major productions. He has worked in America, Canada and South Africa and has two British Council European tours to his credit. In 1973 he was awarded a Winston Churchill Fellowship and spent three months travelling the United States. He has

worked with many notable stars including Dame Flora Robson, Glynis Johns, Peggy Mount, Peter Wyngarde and Wilfrid Hyde White. Christmas 1973 he worked for the first time with Terry Scott at Oxford and since has directed him in *The Mating Game* at Oxford and *A Bedful of Foreigners* which will be seen in South Africa and London next year. He will be responsible for Terry's Christmas Show this year, *Mother Goose*, at Richmond, and *Cinderella* with Hugh Lloyd at Newcastle. Roger lives happily in Brighton.

## Carmen Silvera

born in Canada, educated in England, was trained from the age of three for classical ballet. In her teens, after attaining her Advanced Honours Degree from R.A.D.A., she worked with the famous Col. de Basil's Ballet Russe. Her love of straight theatre eventually led her to give up ballet and concentrate on a career as an actress. She worked in many repertory companies including Birmingham, Glasgow, York and Coventry, and in 1969 she appeared in the Pitlochry International Festival for six months. In the West End she played in several successes at the Comedy, Fortune,

Garrick and Mermaid Theatres — and she has appeared in literally hundreds of television productions. During the past three years she has toured Holland playing Kath in *Entertaining Mr. Sloane* and in Yugoslavia filmed a version of Alberto Moravia's book *Two Women* playing Concetta. Has been seen in several BBC TV series including *Dad's Army*, *Dr. Who*, and most recently, *Double Dealers*. She has just completed seven weeks of playing the Magistrate in *Equus* at Leicester and Cambridge and is due to be seen on the TV screen in *Jackanory* next February.

# Underground

by Michael Sloan

|                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| JEFFREY HOLLAND | Guard             |
| GEMMA CRAVEN    | Elizabeth Snowden |
| PAT HASSELL     | Sue               |
| JOHN TURNER     | Maclain           |
| DEREK MURCOTT   | Craig             |
| DAVID HENRY     | Burnett           |
| VICTOR WINDING  | Mr. Porter        |
| JOHN NORMINGTON | Howard            |
| CARMEN SILVERA  | Mrs. Allender     |
| GARETH FORWOOD  | Preston           |
| LLOYD MCGUIRE   | Brooks            |
| DAVID WEBB      | Tramp             |

Time : The Present

There will be two intervals

For FORUM THEATRE, BILLINGHAM,  
CLEVELAND

|                                  |                |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Theatre Director                 | LES JOBSON     |
| Theatre Administrator            | JEAN RANSOME   |
| Young People's Theatre Organiser | TOM SPENCER    |
| House Manager                    | ERNEST JOBSON  |
| Box Office Manageress            | DOROTHY WILSON |
| Box Office Assistants            | AUDREY ROBERTS |
|                                  | EILEEN JOHNSON |
|                                  | MARY WOMPHELY  |

#### Production Staff

|                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Production Manager      | MICHAEL BURCHILL  |
| Resident Stage Manager  | NEVILLE FENWICK   |
| D.S.M.                  | SALLY FLEMINGTON  |
| Assistant Stage Manager | ANN PUGH          |
| Electrician             | DAVE ASHTON       |
| Head Carpenter          | LES ROBINSON      |
| Carpenters              | PAUL EASON        |
|                         | RICHARD RAWLINGS  |
| Apprentice Carpenter    | LESLIE DONALDSON  |
| Scenic Artists          | GEOFFREY GRAINGER |
|                         | TONY SAYERS       |
| Prop Assistant          | ANN PUGH          |
| Wardrobe Assistants     | EILEEN SOUTHALL   |

Please no smoking or photography in the auditorium.

The Management reserves the right to refuse admission to the theatre and to change, vary or omit, without previous notice any item of the programme.

Coffee is available during the interval in the restaurant area.

Drinks for the interval may be ordered before the show commences.

For quick and convenient exit after the performance theatre patrons are advised to leave by the emergency exits.

## Michael Sloan

(Author)

is a twenty-eight year old American writer and film producer. He comes from a theatrical family background — his parents were producers on Broadway for twenty years and his cousins are actors Keenan Wynn and Milburn Stone — Doc in *Gunsmoke*. Michael started his career as an actor, trained at the Arts Educational Trust in London and has appeared in numerous films and television series. In 1971 he formed a film company,

The Pennine Organisation, with Peter Brave, and has written the original screenplays and co-produced three feature films — *Hunted* starring Edward Woodward, *Assassin* starring Ian Hendry and *Moments* starring Keith Michell, all currently on release. He has just completed an episode of the popular Peter Falk series *Columbo* for Universal Studios. *Underground* is his first stage play.

## Victor Winding

who plays Tony Porter, worked for several years in repertory companies before joining the London Old Vic Company for two seasons in 1960/61. He first appeared in London at the Criterion Theatre as Meff in *Next Time I'll Sing to You* which won James Saunders the most promising playwright award. This was followed by *Poor Bits* at the Arts Theatre, which later transferred to the Duke of York's Theatre where it was acclaimed as the best play of the year. In 1965 Victor co-starred at the Malvern Festival appearing in the first English production of *The Laundry* and in 1967 he was at the Haymarket Theatre

in London as Gratiano with Sir Ralph Richardson as Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*. His tours have included Petruchio in *The Taming of the Shrew* for Orbit Productions and *Death on Demand* by William Fairchild. He has made well over 200 television appearances including the highly successful *Expert* series for BBC and *The Flaxton Boys* for Yorkshire TV. He has just returned from the Northcott Theatre, Exeter, where he played Benedick in *Much Ado About Nothing*. His latest film, *Death at Nightmare Farm*, is due to be released shortly.

## John Turner

made his first professional appearance at Nottingham Playhouse in 1950 while still studying at RADA. After three years at Stratford he returned to Nottingham as leading man before joining the Brook/Scofield Hamlet Company which played in Moscow and the Phoenix Theatre, London in 1955. Other West End appearances include *The Power and the Glory*, *No Time for Sergeants*, *Keep Your Hair On*, *Lulu*, *I Claudius* and, most recently, *Charlemagne* in the American musical, *Pippin*. He has played opposite his wife, Barbara Jefford, in many classics including two

productions of *Antony and Cleopatra* as well as *Medea*, *Phedre*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *The Taming of the Shrew*. With the last named play they led the Bristol Old Vic on a tour of South America. They have also visited 28 other countries with their entertainment, *The Labours of Love*. He has starred in such films as *Petticoat Pirates*, *Black Torment* and *The Greek Affair* and on TV in many plays and series including the title role of Adam Knight in *Knight Errant*. He will next be seen on TV as Sir Walter Raleigh in the BBC's series *Churchill's People*.

## David Webb

hails from Luton, Bedfordshire, and began his career with the York Repertory Company in 1954 after training at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. More "rep" followed in Scarborough, Bromley, Richmond and Worthing and he then toured in two musicals, *Love from Judy* and *The Water Gipsies*. A successful audition led to his first television role in *The Sky Larks* and he has subsequently appeared in literally hundreds of television programmes for all the major TV companies. He has appeared in many regular series like *Z Cars*, *The Avengers*, *Emergency Ward 10*, *Dixon of Dock Green*, *Compact*, *Coronation Street*, *Dr. Who* and *New Scotland Yard* as well as many classic serials like *Hilda*, *Lessways*, *Middlemarch* and *Resurrection*. Some of his full length TV drama productions include *The Gorge*, *The John Hilarian Salt Exhibition and Numerous Illustrated Slides*, *Waters of the Moon*, *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists*, *The Cathedral*, *Tigers of Subtopia*, *Hallelujah Handshake* and he

co-starred with Ronald Fraser in London Weekend Television's *Conceptions of Murder* play *What Do They Know of England?* David has also appeared in numerous feature films including *Tunes of Glory*, *Witchfinder General*, *Diamonds for Breakfast*, *Sunday*, *Bloody Sunday*, *His and Hers*, *Very Important Person*, *Battle of Britain*, *Villain* and, earlier this year one for the Children's Film Foundation called *What Next?* For the first six months of 1972 he toured in a revival of Julian Slade's musical *Salad Days* and this was followed by another six months in John Schlesinger's musical *I and Albert* at the Piccadilly Theatre, London. Since then David has worked almost exclusively in television in such programmes as *The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes*, *Van der Valk*, *Hadleigh*, *Six Days of Justice*, *Crown Court*, *Special Branch*, *Not on your Nellie*, *The Top Secret Life of Edgar Briggs*, *Barlow* and he has just completed playing the part of 'Drake' in BBC TV's forthcoming series *The Fight Against Slavery*. David, a bachelor, lives in Chelsea and his main hobby is painting.

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Published by Stilwell Darby & Co. Ltd., 8 Headfort Place, London, SW1X 7DH.  
Tel. : 01-235-3547/8 (Enquiries & General Office) ; 01-235-0661/2 (Production Department)  
Printed by The Starley Press Ltd., 27 Bradford Road, Dewsbury, WF13 2BY

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