

## A Note from the Author

It is most gratifying that the play continues to be appreciated and provide opportunities for companies around the world.

Though on the other hand it is disappointing that over forty years after I wrote it the topic is still relevant in the law of our land. I thought then that by now the play would be a museum piece, trotted out now and again to show how benighted the mid twentieth century was! There have been slight gains but very slight. Thank you for doing your bit to move us forward.

It may interest you to know that in fact, the play is the first recorded instance of the use of Habeas Corpus in right to die cases. Subsequently to its first production in the early seventies, firstly in America and then in England, lawyers began to use it in actual cases. I am actually quite proud of the fact that Theatre showed the way. (Even though at the time I came up with the idea as the only way I could think of to end the play)

Thank you once again.

Best Wishes, Brian

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Trinity Players Barnsley presents....

# WHOSE LIFE IS IT ANYWAY?

BY BRIAN CLARK

You'll Laugh till you Cry

At the Barnsley Lamproom

Wed 10th June 2015

Thur 11th June

Fri 12th June

Sat 13th June

Also at the Wakefield  
Drama Festival  
in May 2015

8 Nominations, 3 Awards and Overall Second Place  
At the Wakefield Drama Festival

PROGRAMME

# Director's Notes



**Paul Taylor, Director**

I welcome you to The Lamproom Theatre and hope you will thoroughly enjoy tonight's performance.

This sort of notice normally includes accolades directed towards the cast and crew who have worked so hard to bring the piece to the stage. Well, this notice will continue that tradition – they have been fantastic to be amongst and to share time with.

This play has been on my "wish list" for quite a few years now. Indeed we started to collect furniture and props for it some time ago. The bed, for example, was an item surplus to NHS requirements (due to its age) and has languished at our premises injuring people shins! The two high back chairs have previously appeared for Trinity Players in "Side Effects".

The story of this play is a serious one but Brian Clarke's writing is delightful in its construction and he brings this subject to us with sensitivity and with humour. It was written in the 1970's and we have set it in the 1980's but it is as relevant today as it was in previous decades. Only a few weeks ago the papers carried a story about a man who chose to end his life rather than face what he felt would be a frustrating and undignified existence.

Whatever your opinion about such a choice I am sure your thoughts will be provoked by this moving story.

Thank you all for coming.

# We Are Trinity Players Barnsley

We are always happy to meet new members so if you have a longing to tread the boards or get involved in any way, come along. We meet every Wednesday evening at the Trinity Church Hall BUT!... Don't complain if you come to do a bit of painting and end up on stage in a chicken costume. You have been warned!

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**Search for "TRINITY PLAYERS BARNSELEY"**

Or visit our website

**WWW.TRINITYPLAYERSBARNSELEY.COM**

Or E-Mail us for info

**BOXOFFICE@TRINITYPLAYERSBARNSELEY.COM**

The Trinity Committee

Chairman: Paul Taylor

Vice Chair: Jim Parkinson

Secretary: Dale Rivers

Treasurer: Ruth Willerton

And Andrew Crossland, Anne Prew,

Ian Harley and Barbara Parkinson

And Honorary President: Bill Moss



## Synopsis

Ken Harrison (Andy Wild) is a well-known and respected sculptor, until a terrible car accident leaves him a quadriplegic. His once positive outlook descends into depression as he comes to grips with the loss of his independence and his art.

Even as he develops a relationship with Clare Scott (Karen Slater), all he wants to do is end his life, but law forbids assisted suicide. Dr. Emerson (Ian Davies) vows to keep Ken alive -- while Ken's lawyer fights for his right to die.

## Production Crew

*Stage Manager* | **Neil Barham**

*Producer* | **Jane Laverack**

*Prompt* | **Bob Willerton**

*Sound & Lights* | **Jim Parkinson**

*Set Design* | **Neil Barham**

*Set Construction* | **Neil Barham, Paul Taylor,**

**Bob Willerton & John Ryall**

*Props* | **John Ryall**

*Costumes* | **Lynne Almand**

*Publicity* | **Dale Rivers & Anne Prew**



Jim and Neil without whom we wouldn't be seen nor would we have owt to sit on!

Oh! And they won the award for best Set Presentation at the Wakefield Festival



## Cast

(in order of appearance)



**Ken Harrison—Andy Wild (Quadriplegic)**— Andy has been acting since he was old enough to walk on stage on his own — something that won't be required in this production! Andy has performed with Trinity Players and with the Lamproom. He has enjoyed various roles from farce to pantomime, but does prefer a serious drama.



**Sister Anderson—Anne Prew (Hospital Sister)** - Anne has been a member of Trinity Players for sixteen years or so. During that time she has done numerous parts at Trinity, Lamproom, Academy, and Wakefield Festival with the present play. Mostly she has played bossy, managing women. This time she is a bossy, managing sister, so no change there then!



**Nurse Sadler—Esther Dyson (Student Nurse)** - Esther has enjoyed several roles with Trinity Players such as Dick Whittington and Robin Hood and appeared in the drama festival with them two years ago with 'Side Effects'. She has also performed at the Lamproom in Scrooge, a Christmas Carol, Hi De Hi and Witness for the Prosecution



**John—Andrew Crossland (Hospital Orderly)** - Andrew has been involved in theatre since birth and is an accomplished actor, playwright (Best Served Cold), backstage lackey and, when wearing a frock, scrubs up as a very fetching dame too.



**Dr Scott—Karen Slater (Hospital Doctor)** - Karen is thrilled to be at the Lamproom once again as it has been some years since she has performed here. Her most beloved role being Lady Macbeth. A member of Trinity Players for 30 years she has performed a myriad of characters but her preferences are for the more thought provoking, serious roles such as Dr Clare Scott in this play.

## Cast cont....



**Dr Emerson—Ian Davies (Consultant Physician)** - Ian forgets how many plays he has been in with Trinity however he always plays Dr Emerson in every one so he should know his lines by now! He married a Toon fan and hopes they have a better season next year.



**Nurse—Dawn Waite (Nurse)** - Dawn has been a loyal member of the Trinity Players appearing several times in many productions preferring the smaller parts. Dawn is also the Company Catering Manager serving the best tea this side of Mapplewell.



**Mrs Boyle—Jane Laverack (Medical Social Worker)** - One of it's newer members, Jane joined Trinity Players in 2014 and made her acting debut in Home Is Where Your Clothes Are playing the part of Jacqueline for which she won Best Supporting Actress at the Wakefield Festival.



**Mr Hill—Dale Rivers (Solicitor)** - Dale lives in Barnsley, works as an IT Consultant and is an actor as a hobby. He considered acting for a profession but realised there was no money in it so stuck to fixing computers. If you have a computer problem, call someone else because Dale is busy learning his lines. If you want an autograph, he's almost certainly to be found in the bar after the show.



**Peter Kershaw—John Parker (Ken's Barrister)** - John has been a member of Trinity Players for 12 years performing in a number of plays of which his favourites were Sylvia's Wedding and Last Tango in Whitby as well as being in several Pantomimes. John has also directed three plays at Trinity and will be directing a 4th, the Farce "See How They Run" in October

## Cast cont....



**Dr Travers—Peter Horner (Consultant Psychiatrist)** - Peter has enjoyed a variety of roles both at Trinity and the Lamproom. This role is not too far removed from his actual real role working in the NHS and he is a qualified physiotherapist. He is looking forward to performing at the Lamproom once again.



**Dr Barr—Ruth Willerton (Psychiatrist)** - As a long standing Trinity member, Ruth is usually to be found treading the boards in the annual Pantomime or performing Front of House duties. This is her first small foray into "serious" drama and she is thoroughly enjoying the experience. She thanks all cast and crew for their great support and encouragement



**Mr Eden—Nick Percival (Hospital Barrister)** - Nick started treading the boards in the early 1960s. More recently he has been in Trinity Players' pantos with roles ranging from an Ugly Sister to a dwarf! Nick was in the LMTC's production of Jesus Christ Superstar in 2014. In the same year he played a barrister in Trinity Players production of Best Served Cold.



**Mr Justice Millhouse—Ian Harley (The Judge)** - A retired journalist, Ian was reporting on the Worsbrough Mystery Plays in the 1990s when coerced into appearing in them. Trinity appearances in Cash On Delivery, Last Tango in Whitby, Best Served Cold, all six pantomimes and several Lamproom Theatre Company shows have failed to quell his now-legendary stage fright.

