

GUEST SPEAKERS

Sian West – Justice Consultant

Sian is a Kent-based justice consultant, focusing primarily on reducing reoffending and promoting restorative justice, including lecturing on this topic in local universities. She is Chair of the Chris Donovan Trust, as well as the newly formed offender-rehabilitation charity 2Makelt. Previously, she was Governor of Cookham Wood, then High Down and finally HMP Cardiff, as well as Sian became Director of Why me?, a restorative justice campaigning charity.

Vi & Ray Donovan – Founders, The Chris Donovan Trust

The Chris Donovan Trust is a non-profit charitable organisation set up by Vi and Ray Donovan who in 2001 experienced the tragic loss of their son Chris through unprovoked violence. Using their own devastating experience, they want to help educate people about the impact of crime on the victim, their family and wider society.

WHO ARE WE

St Michael's Players is one of the longest-standing drama groups in London. We have been staging plays in West London since 1949; this year is our 70th anniversary. We are a very friendly group and aim to entertain as well as stage high quality. We are constantly on the lookout for new members to act and help backstage. We rehearse twice a week here at St Michael's Centre.

Please contact our Chairman Alastair Dewar alastair.dewar@cgi.com if you would like to get involved - **WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Upcoming shows

15-19 Oct – An Experiment With An Air Pump by Shelagh Stephenson

11-14 Dec – PANTO TIME! Treasure Island by Ben Crocker

Also recommended

7 Sept – **Clean Break's Sweatbox, Royal Court.** Enter the back of a prison van in which three women share their stories as they are transported to and from court and prison (Tickets on sale now at royalcourttheatre.com/whats-on/sweatbox/).

www.stmichaelsplayers.org

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St. Michael's Players award-winning production of

The Long Road

by Shelagh Stephenson



THE LONG ROAD

“It’s a rare play that hits the news with such cruel topicality...Stephenson offers a powerful, illuminating piece of dramatic fiction” Evening Standard

When eighteen-year-old Danny is fatally stabbed in a random attack, his family struggles to find meaning and forgiveness. His mother’s determination to understand the atrocity brings her face to face with his killer and forces the family to confront the bitter senselessness of their loss.

The Long Road evolved out of a period of research with prisoners by Synergy Theatre Project, in collaboration with The Forgiveness Project and award-winning playwright Shelagh Stephenson. It premiered at Soho Theatre on 19 May 2008.

DIRECTOR PAUL SMITH

This is without a doubt a hard-hitting play: I was struck on first reading it by its powerful portrayal of grief. The play offers few answers to the *causes* of violent crime, but gives a searing insight into its effects. It simply asks: how do you make sense of a senseless act? How do you handle the pain of losing someone suddenly and meaninglessly? Whatever road you take is likely to be fraught, even a search for understanding. As one character says *“Understanding will change how you feel. It always does. That’s the point of understanding, isn’t it?”* And those changes are not even guaranteed to be positive.

OUR THANKS TO:

The Synergy Theatre Project: synergytheatreproject.co.uk

The Forgiveness Project: theforgivenessproject.com

Clean Break: cleanbreak.org.uk

THE LONG ROAD

Please join us immediately after the performance for a Q&A
Wednesday: Sian West, chair of the Chris Donovan Trust
Thursday: Vi & Ray Donovan, founders of the Chris Donovan Trust

CAST

In order of appearance

Joe – Louis Bricusse

Mary – Elizabeth Ollier

John – Alastair Dewar

Emma – Fleur de Henrie Pearce

Elizabeth – Leonia Chesterfield

CREW

Writer – Shelagh Stephenson

Assistant director/stage mgr – Bryony Wilman

Lighting and sound – Ian Trowbridge

Set design – James Holmes-Siedle

Music – Harry Doyle

Producer – Fleur de Henrie Pearce

Director – Paul Smith

Running time: 81 minutes, no interval