

Happy Jack

by John Godber

Performance dates: 11-19 May

Auditions: 1st March @ 19:30

About the Play

For those of our audience who loved our production of September in the Rain we are bringing the wonderful Liz and Jack back to The Rep!

Written a year after September in the Rain, we encounter the same two characters addressing the audience about the biographical details of the characters they play, and then slipping into those characters. Small, lovingly detailed extracts from the couple's lives are shown from their early courtship days, through to their retirement, but not in chronological order, so we constantly weave a path through their long life together.

Happy Jack is a funny and touching play. Set in a West Yorkshire mining village, the play is inspired by John Godber's own grandparents and follows the couple's 60-year marriage through good times and bad.

The play weaves through the story of this ordinary working-class family and retells snippets of their lives together, the love, sadness, anger, joy and conflict. Balancing humour with some tougher realities, the play highlights the lives of working miners and the terrible legacies that many of them were left with long after leaving the pits.

About the Characters

I cannot think of a better description of the two main characters in Happy Jack than to share John Godber's own comments about these two characters. This is what he said.

Happy Jack, was truly inspired by my grandfather, Jack Deakin, a giant of a man, and his wife, Liz, who mostly controlled his tempers. Jack had been orphaned and was a volatile, but loving character who adored his two daughters, my Mum and my Aunty. In many ways the relationship of Jack and Liz is an amalgam of my parents heated but loving relationship, my grandparents stoical brooding relationship, and that of my wife Jane and I, which is brutally honest and hopefully healthy. We are still able to argue about anything and do, daily!

The actors playing Liz and Jack need to be able to play various ages throughout the play. They need to have excellent timing, a Yorkshire accent and the ability to play both comedy and drama. The setting is very simple. Just a couple of chairs so it is all about the acting. If you saw my production of September in the Rain you will already have met Liz and Jack.

'I look forward to seeing you there'

Angie Goss