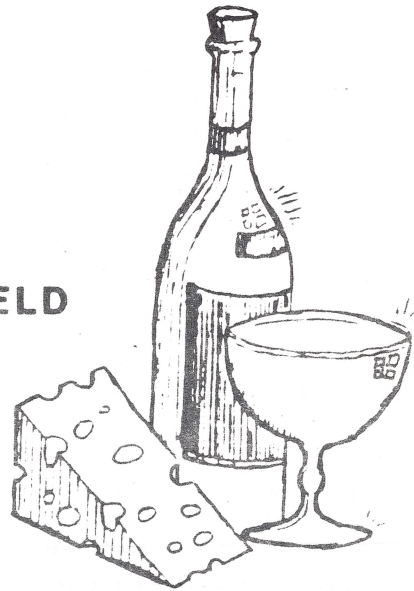


# CHESTERFIELD SCHOOL

**PICNIC ON THE  
BATTLEFIELD**



**THE SECOND  
SHEPHERDS PLAY**

PICNIC ON THE BATTLEFIELD

by

FERNANDO ARRABAL

CAST

Zapo.....	Simon Harrison
Zepo.....	Tarun Jaiswal
M. Tepan.....	Ivan Parkinson
Mme Tepan.....	Beth Ogden
Stretcher bearers.....	Peter Marsden
	Richard Anderson

Fernando Arrabal is a Spanish lawyer who lives in France and writes in French.

The absurdity of the world Arrabal portrays springs from the fact that his characters view the human situation through the simple and uncomprehending eyes of children, and the afflictions the world heaps on them are suffered patiently but never understood.

In the original French the title of this play is a cruel pun, lost in translation, which illustrates the nature of Arrabal's art. The play is a comedy, redolent of a Charlie Chaplin film in its mixture of innocence and cruelty, but with a savage and thought provoking ending.

M.N.J.

Coffee and mince pies will be available during the interval

## THE SECOND SHEPHERDS' PLAY

### CAST

Phil Bramley, Jason Dent, Simon Dodds, Adrian Hardy  
Geoff Holloway, Richie Hooper, Greg Kurcewicz, Sean  
McArthur.

### Mystery Plays

It was not until the 14th century that the Bible became available in English for the majority of ordinary people; before then it had been in Latin, the language of the church. People learned Bible stories from the Mystery plays performed by the trades guilds in towns such as York, Chester and Wakefield.

Each guild acted out a story that was suited to its particular craft, for example, the bakers acted out the Last Supper and the nailmakers told the story of the Crucifixion.

Each play was performed on a pageant wagon at various places in the town. After each performance the wagon was moved on to the next stop and the play was presented again to a fresh audience. The crowds in the street would see the Bible stories acted out in order, each story by a different guild on a different wagon.

The Second Shepherds' Play is a combined version of the Wakefield and Coventry plays concerning the shepherds and the story of the Nativity, with additional material written by David Self.

A.G.W.

## MUSIC

Alan Athey, Tom Bryson, Phil Gadsby, Richard Gibbs, Glenn Hickman, Mandy Hubbard, Cathy James, Beth Ogden, Rosie Till, Nigel Turner, Nadine Wall, Miles Wholey, Alan Williams, Jacky Williams, Lindsay Yeates.

The music you will hear tonight is mainly mediaeval, although some of the songs and tunes date from the 16th and 17th centuries.

The musicians felt that the original mediaeval arrangements of the songs and tunes would not appeal to the modern ear, and so they have been re-arranged for more modern instruments such as bass, guitar and drums, rather than shawms, bombards and crumhorns.

The song at the end of The Shepherds' Play is called the Wassail Song, traditionally sung by groups of children who went round people's houses just before Christmas, asking for wassail - seasonal food - in return for a blessing for the coming year.

A.G.W.

## Technical

Paul Brunyee, Dave Channon, Gary Warner, Mr A. H. Yorke

## Stage

Martin Frost, Phil Gadsby

The next production will be THE ROYAL HUNT OF THE SUN