

PETER GRIMES



P E T E R G R I M E S

C a s t :

George Crabbe	..	Martin Shaw
Peter Grimes	..	Jon Downham
Ellen Orford	..	Jane Ogden
Mr. Blayney	..	Andrew Manson
Bob Boles	..	Matthew Jagger
Aunty	..	Julian Hinchliffe
Old Grimes	..	Simon Dodds
Mr. Archer	..	Robert Lambert
Will Belcher	..	Sean Parkinson
Neddy	..	Martin Lambert
Reuben	..	Andrew Lennox
Mrs. Benbow	..	Debbie Tingay
Sam	..	Richard Callis
		Richard Anderson
Nieces/fisherwomen	..	Sue Mason, Alison Hole,
		Karen Freeson
Constable	..	Andrew Oldale
Vicar	..	Stuart Forsyth
Fishermen	..	Adam Griffiths,
		Adrian Heathfield,
		Paul Freestone,
		Marcus Holmes,
		Miles Dent,
		Richard Thomas,
		Richard Hallas,
		Steven Calladine,
		Andrew Leighton,
		James McDowell,
		Michael Briggs,
		Alan Clark,
		Ivan Parkinson,
		Ben Forbes.

Music: Richard Porter, Tom Bryson, Mark Gilthorpe.

Stage crew: David Channon, Paul Brunyee, Peter Marsden,
Mr. A. H. Yorke.

Business Manager: Mr. M. R. Williams

Produced by: Mr. Alan Williams

Grateful thanks to: Mr.R.D.Griffiths
Mr.J.Parkinson
The Crucible Theatre
The Parents' Association

There will be one interval during which refreshments will be available

P E T E R G R I M E S

Crabbe, the author of "The Borough", of which "Peter Grimes" forms a part, was born in Aldeburgh, the son of a drunken and quarrelsome harbourmaster, in 1754. Unhappiness at home was succeeded by unhappiness at school, where minimal food and education were supplemented by frequent beatings. At fourteen he was apprenticed to an apothecary at Woodbridge, where he began to write verse and became engaged. At 21 he returned to Aldeburgh as a labourer but was then set up as an apothecary to the poor by the Borough. The following year he went to London to learn anatomy, only to find when he came back that he had been cheated out of his shop. Disillusioned, he returned to London to seek his fortune as a poet - and failed miserably. He was rescued in 1781 by the great Edmund Burke who saw to the publication of a poem and persuaded Crabbe to be ordained, thus ensuring an income while he wrote. Although not a good vicar, there is little evidence that he harmed the Church of England.

Given this background, it is easy to see that Crabbe may have identified himself with Peter Grimes. Although there is not much in Grimes' character to redeem him, the people of the Borough are portrayed in little better light; in their hypocritical world, Grimes was an embarrassment, but in the deaths of the boys they all stand accused, and in his death they are all convicted. It is not without interest that in our own time it was to "Peter Grimes" that another notable Aldeburgh resident, himself something of an outsider, turned when seeking a libretto for an opera.

"Peter Grimes" is one of the masterpieces of English Literature; this dramatisation makes it accessible to those who may never read the poem.

M.N.J.

