

Director's Notes

A year ago I was one of the rare few who hadn't ever actually seen the film of *The Railway Children*, or read the book. But you wouldn't believe the number of people who have since told me that it was their favourite film *ever*, (or the number of males of a certain age who have suddenly gone slightly distant when discussing Jenny Agutter and the petticoat for that matter!) It's easy to see why it is so loved - it's a wonderful story, a series of surprisingly dramatic episodes recalling an eventful childhood summer, but also threaded through with the mysterious absence of a father, and the sadness and worry that they all try so hard to hide. Not to mention the allure of the trains.

The script is so good, that I felt from the start that we shouldn't try to be too literal with a set, but that we could convey everything with the help of sound, light, costume, props (and *lots* of steam), and I'd like to say a particular thank you to everyone on the production team who has worked so hard and been so tolerant of my ever-expanding lists. Having said that any set should be *extremely* simple, it has of course turned out to be a huge and nightmarish construction job, so thank you for that too...I do appreciate it!

It has been a really fun show to work on thanks to this lovely and creative cast. Everyone has come up with great ideas and suggestions, we're all now fluent French and Russian speakers, and I don't know how many miles Emma, Cora and Matt must have run, but they're probably all quite fit by now. We have had some memorable moments in rehearsals, not only because it's so funny in parts, but because the performances are also very moving, which is in turn a tribute Edith Nesbit's great storytelling and Mike Kenny's faithful but theatrical script. It's very different to the film, but you might recognise some of the familiar music here and there. It seemed the right thing to do!

I hope you enjoy it. ("There is always hope!" as Daddy and the Old Gentleman both say...) So - all aboard for Oakworth... Toot toot!

Cathy

HARLESTON PLAYERS

THE RAILWAY CHILDREN

BY E. NESBIT, ADAPTED BY MIKE KENNY



PROGRAMME

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2014

Licensed Bar

[www.harlestonplayers](http://www.harlestonplayers.com)

THE RAILWAY CHILDREN

Director.....Cathy Gill

ProducersDavid Cumming, Helen Farrar

CAST

Bobbie (Roberta).....Emma Martin
Peter.....Matthew Bruty
Phyllis.....Cora BurrIDGE
CookCherryl Jeffries
Butler.....Lawrie Hammond
Maid.....Helen Farrar
Mother.....Pat Parris
Father.....David Cumming
Perks.....Grant Filshill
Mrs Viney.....Annie Chapman
Doctor.....David Cumming
Mrs. Perks.....Juliet Lloyd
The Perks Children.....Victoria Ford and Isabelle Ford
Old Gentleman.....Roy Goodwin
Mr Szezcpansky.....Lawrie Hammond
District Superintendent.....Paul Baker
Workers.....Lawrie Hammond, Paul Baker
Jim.....Ben Willmott
MaidVal May
Cook.....Liz Smith
The Hare.....William Ford

THE RAILWAY CHILDREN

CREW

Stage Manager.....Stefan Kubala
Asst. Stage Manager.....Megan Price
Lighting Arthur Brown, Matt Way
Sound.....Graham Fuller
Wardrobe.....Carla Ford, Jean Leatherbarrow
Make up.....Teresa Farman, Carol Parker
Helen Farrar, Sara Curtis
Set design.....Roy Goodwin
Set build.....David Cumming, Roy Goodwin
Finn Cutting, Lawrie Hammond, Stefan Kubala
Properties.....Eileen Ryan, Megan Price
Poster design/Artwork.....Harriet Leith
Publicity.....Nadia Dervish, Mike Davison
Tickets/ Programme/Licences.....Eric Curtis
Photography.....Richard Bennett
Front of House.....Rosemary Goodwin, Sue Kubala
and team
Box office.....Harleston Pet Stores
Telephone sales.....Val May