

ALC/R36

1st. December 1976

Mr. W.E, Levett,
British Rail Wolverton Works,
Wolverton.
MILTON KEYNES

Dear Mr. Levett,

After I spoke with you about the possibility of performing our play 'All Change' at the Wolverton Works canteen, the plays Director, Roy Levitt, visited the canteen with Mr, Dunkley. The following is an outline of the proposal that emerged from the visit. We are very grateful for Mr. Dunkley accompanying Mr. Nevitt,

The Play - Wolverton's Early History

The play concerns planning and building the London and Birmingham Hallway, the siting of the Railway Depot at Wolverton and the development of a town there. The story is based entirely on primary source material which has come from local and national archives, newspapers, travelogues, autobiographies and interviews. Several historians have helped us find and collect information. We researched the period from about 1828 to the present day but in the drama we have decided to tell the story of early Wolverton - covering the period 1830 to 1862 approximately. It's an exciting time and we have always been aware of the parallels between Wolverton Station, as Wolverton was then called, and the New City of Milton Keynes.

Performance Dates

As the play concerns Wolverton and the works, we have always wanted to perform our play to the men who work there and their families. Since many people are still reluctant to come into our Theatre, we would like to bring the production to the works. The play will be performed

In Stantonbury Theatre on 3rd. 4th. and 5th. March 1977 and we would like to perform at the Wolverton Works canteen on Wednesday 9th. March 1977 commencing at 7.30pm. Mr. Dunkley explained that the canteen is regularly used by the works clubs e.g. Wolverton Band but that there was a good probability that we could book the canteen for this date. We presume from

the variety of events that take place in the canteen that it is licensed for the performance of plays.

Use of Profits from the Performance

The project was commissioned by Hilton Keynes Development Corporation and is partly funded by them, Milton Keynes Foundation and East Midlands Art? Association. We shall be ploughing back ticket receipts from performances at Stantonbury Theatre into a fund for producing further documentary dramas, and we would like to offer the takings of the Wolverton Works performance - after any incidental expenses are deducted - to one of the works charities. Mr, Dunkley suggested Rennie Lodge.

Arrangement of Seating and estate Areas in the Canteen

'All Change' is performed in the round, the audience sitting on all four sides of the performance area which is delineated by a painted stage cloth. This is the plays most important stage prop. To perform 'All Change' in the round in the canteen, we envisage laying the stage cloth on the canteen floor with seating arranged on three sides of it, and seating on the fourth side placed on the canteen's raised stage. We did ask Mr. Dunkley if there were any Stillages or blocks that we could make use of to raise some of the seating and we would like to use any that are available.

Lighting

Since lighting is such an integral part of the play, we would like to rig up some of our powerful stage lights to give us the necessary flexibility in lighting the performance area.

Preparing the Canteen for the Performance

We would be able to bring everything needed for the performance and rig it up in the afternoon once the canteen was cleared after the lunch break, However, we would need some help from a works electrician to wire our lights into the electric circuit. The preparation would have to be carefully planned but detailed arrangements could be prepared nearer the time.

Coming to an Arrangement with BRSA

Another matter we considered with Mr, Dunkley was our coming to an arrangement with the BRSA and he suggested we contact Mr. S... about this.

The area of the canteen used by BRSA has an open roof and it would be difficult for both functions to take place at the same time. Amongst the things we considered, was that we could offer BRSA members tickets at a reduced price or perhaps the association would like to run a bar before the performance and during the interval.

Refreshments

The interval is very much part of the show and we would like to provide a bar before the performance and during the interval and also to serve coffee in the interval.

Ticket Sales and Publicity

We would undertake to arrange ticket sales and publicity. I hope we could persuade some of the work people to sell tickets for us.

Asking: People Working at Wolverton Works to Help with the Production

I wondered if it would be possible to include a notice in the bulletin posted on the works notice boards, which would help us in two respects. In the first place, as rehearsals are to begin shortly, there is still opportunity for people to join the production team, either on stage or behind the scenes, and we would like anyone who is interested to contact Roy Nevitt at ... or Margaret Broadhurst at..., for further details.

Secondly, we would like to contact anyone whose family moved north to Crewe after the locomotive works was transferred there from Wolverton in about 1864, or who has any details about this event.

We hope very much that it will be possible to perform 'All Change' in the works canteen and we realise that much more detailed and firm arrangements will be needed that are included in this proposal. We hope, however, this report will provide a basis for further developments.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Broadhurst. Mrs.

Researcher for 'All Change':