

ALC/R42

Stantonbury Campus

Director

Milton Keynes MK14 6BN
Buckinghamshire

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RM/JP

Telephone

Wolverton

Stantonbury Campus is a community centre in the northern part of the new city of Milton Keynes. On the Campus are schools, shops, a leisure centre and a youth centre and a newly built theatre. Working from the theatre for the past three years has been a community drama group.

I am writing to invite you to visit Stantonbury for the second major production of the group. Two years ago we wrote and performed 'The Burston School Strike', the story of the struggle of two Norfolk Schoolteachers in the early part of the century. This received considerable acclaim, including many favourable reviews. We were invited to discuss the possibility of a London performance with the National Theatre and eventually because of their building problem were offered a three week run at the Roundhouse. For a variety of logistical reasons this proved beyond the resources of the group at the time!

As a result, however, the East Midlands Arts Association and a number of other organisations put up the money to commission another production. The money was used to employ a part-time researcher and pay consultancy fees. The main advisers have been Peter Cheeseman from the Victoria Theatre, Stoke on Trent and Ewan MacColl and Peggy Seeger.

This new play is written by a group and performed by a cast of a hundred and called 'All Change'. The story centres on the construction of the London and Birmingham Railway. The early resistance to the line in the House of Lords and the eventual triumph of Robert Stephenson's engineering is set against the social upheavals of the period. The movement from the land and the growth of a new industrial class is well represented in the story of this railway. We consider the classic mid-nineteenth century conflict between a 'workers' manager, James McConnell, who designed the famous Bloomer engine and a new breed of entrepreneurial capitalist Richard Moon (no relative!) who became chairman of the railway company. The outcome of their struggle ends the play (and provides the beginning for another at some future date).

Wolverton, our nearest station, is only 55 minutes from Euston and Stantonbury Theatre is a 50 pence taxi ride from the station.

Performances are from March 3rd - 5th at 8pm. with a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm.

I would very much like to invite you to review what we consider to be an original and very exciting documentary play. I can promise that the journey will be very worthwhile.

I therefore very much look forward to hearing from you.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Bob Moon.