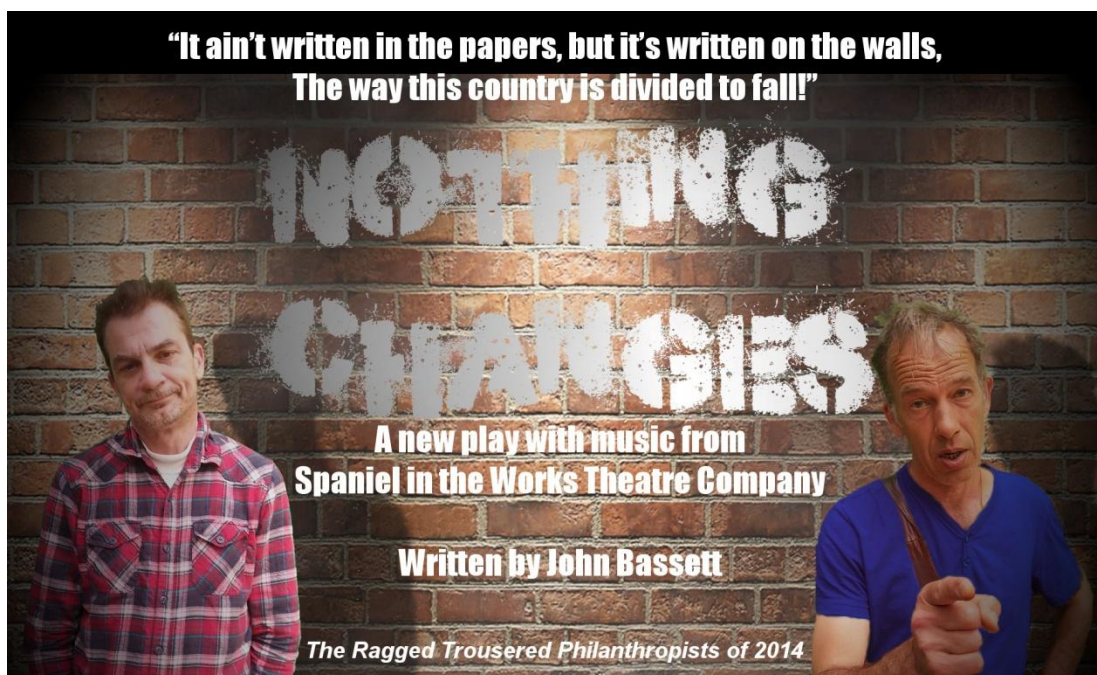


NOTHING CHANGES

THEATRE INFORMATION PACK



SPANIEL IN THE WORKS THEATRE COMPANY

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ABOUT *NOTHING CHANGES*

Nothing Changes is an emotional journey through the political landscape of "austerity Britain" - inspired by Robert Tressell's classic socialist novel, the *Ragged Trousered Philanthropists*.

Many of the issues addressed in the book are still relevant today and for this reason we are touring *Nothing Changes*. The play addresses issues such as zero hour contracts, bedroom tax, immigration, minimum wage and the inequalities which exist in "austerity Britain".

THE PLOT

Nothing Changes follows the lives of a group of painters and decorators in 21st century Britain.

At the heart of the story is Ruth, a single mother and apprentice who is hoping, by learning a trade, that she will get a better life for her son. The difficulties she faces through a lack of money and her relationships with other characters form the spine of the story.

Jack is an older, highly skilled worker who is sacked so that the company can hire a cheaper worker. Throughout the play we see Jack's decline from a proud man to a desperate one relying on foodbanks to survive.

Owen is the socialist driver, both in Tressell's novel and in *Nothing Changes*. He is a caring man who helps others wherever possible. Nicknamed the Professor by others in the group, he explains basic political theories.

Crass, an archetypal Daily Mail reader, is the counterpoint to Owen. Brash and uncaring, he believes everything that he reads and is not prepared to see the bigger picture. The conflict he creates brings a lot of humour to the play.

***Nothing Changes* incorporates songs from The The, The Housemartins and Stiff Little Fingers, amongst others, to highlight the plight of the characters and the issues within the story.**

(Note - All rights have been cleared through PRS to use these songs for the performances).

The songs chosen come from the last major political songwriting time, the 1980's. The songs are still very relevant today and highlight once again that nothing changes.

TOURING NOTHING CHANGES

The show premiered in September 2014 at The Stroud Theatre Festival and audiences said:

“A vital piece of theatre that needs to be seen by everyone”

“A timely update boldly done... poignant and relevant”

“Brilliant adaptation – funny and good at getting such a valid message across”

“Excellent... Needs to be shared widely”

“Thoroughly enjoyable – an acerbic and sometimes desperately sad commentary on the state of our nation”



2015 is an election year and it is appropriate that the play tours in April, before the election, to carry its important message to a wider audience.

We are looking to tour the show from April 2015 nationally to as many venues as possible and to reach audiences who may not normally go to the theatre.

FINANCIAL PACKAGES

Nothing Changes has a cast of six (plus a technician) and is available on the following financial terms:

- **Straight fee : £1000 per performance**
- **Or straight 70/30 split in our favour over a £650 guarantee**
- **In all cases - NO contras**
- **Maximum ticket prices – £12**
- **Merchandise – if the venue can provide a staff member to sell merchandise, 15% of gross takings will go to the venue**

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Get in: 3 p.m.(for a 7.30 p.m. show)

Please ensure a technician is available for get in when crew arrive.

Parking : Safe parking for two vehicles.

Sound :

- **Use of the p.a. system and projector (if available) for visuals and sound effects (run from laptop).**
- **Ambient mics if available**

Stage:

- **Black box drapes (screen where available)**

Lighting:

- **General cover**
- **Ability to isolate area stage left and area stage right**

NOTHING CHANGES RIDER

We list below the requirements for *Nothing Changes* and request you to make the necessary arrangements at no expense to the company.

- 1. ACCESS:** 3.00pm get in (for a 7.30 p.m. show)
- 2. PARKING:** Safe parking for two vehicles.
- 3. SOUND:** Will utilise house p.a. and projector for visuals and sound effects.
- 4. LIGHTS:** House lighting will be used. Show to be operated by company technician.
- 5. DRESSING ROOMS:** A lockable dressing room with an iron, ironing board and suitable power supply. Access to tea and coffee making facilities.
- 6. CATERING:** Light refreshments for 6 (including vegetarian option) to be supplied preferably one hour before performance – e.g. sandwiches and soft drinks.
- 7. SECURITY:** Adequate security to be supplied to ensure no public entry to any backstage area before, during, or after the show. No public access to the auditorium until half an hour before the start of the show.

THE ABOVE CLAUSES ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE CONTRACT.



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NOTHING CHANGES

The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists of 2015

Robert Tressell's classic work provides the inspiration for a new piece of theatre exploring "austerity Britain".

Featuring songs by The The, Stiff Little Fingers and The House Martins. *Nothing Changes* explores the inequalities in society which still exist a century after Tressell's classic book was published.

Set in 21st century Britain, the play follows the lives of a group of painters and decorators trying to survive. At the heart of the story is Ruth, a single mother and apprentice, trying to find a better life for her and her son. *Nothing Changes* highlights the truths behind the headlines – focusing on zero hour contracts, foodbanks, immigration, the bedroom tax and benefit sanctions.

This emotional and sometimes humorous work explores the disparity in society and how after 100 years, nothing has changed.

For further information, please contact Spaniel in the Works:

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