

tricolore
theatre company ltd



Sponsored by
THE MAZZINI-GARIBALDI
FOUNDATION

Saffron Hill

A new play by Penny Culliford
Directed by Anthony Shrubbsall

6th - 11th October 2015

• PLEASANCE •

Pleasance Theatre Islington,
North Road, London N7 9EF.

Programme £1

All proceeds of the programme sales will be
donated to the Club Sociale Italiano di Finchley



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#saffronhill2015



TricoloreTheatreCo

Main image courtesy Islington Local History Centre

Saffron Hill

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Premiere 6th October 2015

“Down the ‘ill”

An introduction by Olive Besagni

In the early 19th century, immigrants from the Italian countryside settled in central London. As with all movements of people, they came looking for a better way of life and the prospects of wealth. For many of them, it was a chance to escape from the poverty trap of too many mouths to feed from too small an acreage of land. These immigrants were drawn to an area of Clerkenwell. Here they built their church, St Peter’s Italian church. Why they chose Clerkenwell originally, we will never know – perhaps the first successful immigrants had found a welcome or a job and others just followed – who knows?

Saffron Hill begins in 1872 with a family of early Italian immigrants fleeing poverty and grief to make a new life in London. Will they find a welcome or a job, or will life take a different turn?

Olive’s book, *A Better Life*, can be purchased from diandsaulbooks.co.uk by following this link: <http://bit.ly/1F1IPvP>

One street, one family, three stories.

Saffron Hill is a new play in three acts by Penny Culliford that follows the lives and fortunes of generations of a fictional family in Saffron Hill, Clerkenwell from the 1870s to the 1960s. The play explores, through the eyes of this family, the issues, attitudes and music of the times. Although based around historical events, these stories represent the personal lives, loves and losses of Italian immigrant families living in the area.

Saffron Hill was written to commemorate the 150th Anniversary in 2014 of The Mazzini Garibaldi Club in 2014 in and the 150th Anniversary of Giuseppe Garibaldi’s visit to London in 1864, as well as the 75th Anniversary of the sinking of the *Arandora Star* on the 2nd July 2015. Tricolore would like to thank The Mazzini Garibaldi Foundation for sponsoring their production.



In memory of Gilda Thomas, Donato Borzoni and Carlo Missaglia, former members of the Mazzini Garibaldi Club, whose work and dedication for the Italian Community will never be forgotten.

Family Tree

Act 1: 1872

Giuseppe Musetti m **Rosina** (d)

Rosa Musetti m **Vincenzo Giulianotti** **Lucia Musetti**

Paolo Giulianotti

Act 2: 1940

Vita Giulianotti m **Lorenzo Berni**

Act 3: 1968

Antonio Berni m **Maria Vittoria Berni** **Carlotta Berni** m **Giovanni Barbieri**

Other characters

Act 1 **Samuel Peters** – A landlord.

Act 2 **Sofia** and **Roberto Zanre** – co-owners of Rosa's Cafe with Vita and Lorenzo Berni.

Arthur Betts – a policeman.

Act 3 **Luigi Brattisani** – a journalist.

Timeline

Act 1: 1872

Scene 1 A room in an apartment in a slum in Saffron Hill, Little Italy, Clerkenwell, London. An evening in October.

Scene 2 A few days later

Scene 3 The next day

Scene 4 The following week

Scene 5 The next afternoon

Scene 6 The next morning

Scene 7 The next day

Scene 8 The next day

Act 2: 1940

Scene 1 Rosa's Gelateria, an ice cream parlour and cafe in Saffron Hill. A morning in June.

Scene 2 Later that week

Scene 3 A few days later. Night.

Interval

Scene 4 A week later

Scene 5 Then next day

Scene 6 A few days later

Scene 7 That evening

Scene 8 Several weeks later

Act 3: 1968

Scene 1 Rosa's Cafe, Saffron Hill, Little Italy, Clerkenwell, London. An early morning in October.

Scene 2 A few weeks later

Scene 3 The following week

Scene 4 A week later

Scene 5 Later that day

Scene 6 A few weeks later

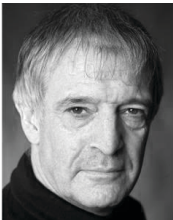
The Cast and Crew



Anthony Comerford
Samuel Peters / Roberto Zanre / Antonio Berni

Anthony trained at Birmingham School of Speech and Drama. Theatre experience includes: *Shakespeare's R&J* (West End

transfer: National Tour, Director Joe Calarco) and *An Experiment With An Air Pump* (Birmingham Library Theatre, Directed by David Grindley). Film and television includes *Harley In 1106 Days*, *Web*, *Will's Diaries* and *Dead Ideas* (directed by Owen Trevor). In other work, Anthony has fronted commercial campaigns in Budapest, Holland, Portugal and the UK. He is the Presenter on all Currys/PC World KnowHow products. He is also a former member of the National Youth Theatre.



Edmund Dehn
Giuseppe Musetti / Arthur Betts / Luigi Brattisani

Edmund won Best Supporting Actor for Charon in *Lovelorn* at the LA Reel Film Festival in 2009. He has worked in Film, TV and Theatre to good reviews. Other

films include *Spoon*, with Darren Boyd and Rutger Hauer, *Cradle Of Fear*, *Olive Green and Brothers Of War*. He played the title role in the *Judge Minty Fan Film* and shorts *Junta* and *After Life*, both recently screened at Cannes. Stage roles include Prospero, Job, Becket in *Murder In The Cathedral* and Subtle in *The Alchemist*. In the last year, he's appeared in *Summer 14: A Dance Of Death* at the Finborough and played leads in *Orbits* at the White Bear and *Magna Carta* around the country. TV includes *Knightmare*, *Oil Storm* and *Speer Under*. He read the *Gormenghast* trilogy unabridged on to Audiobook; he has a Cambridge History degree and last year he played Garibaldi for Tricolore at Fishmongers Hall. Years ago, he also played the poet Dante for BBC TV in *Strange Landscape: The Circles Of Light*.



Roseanna Frasca
Lucia Musetti / Vita Berni / Maria Vittoria Berni

Rosie trained at LAMDA. Theatre credits include *Alia*, *Nahda* (Bush Theatre), *Nicole*, *Spike* (King's Head), *Katie/ Stacey*, *No Borders* (Oxford Playhouse/Theatre

503), *Baby*, *Dirty Dancing* (Playful Productions, No 1 UK Tour); *Holly*, *At First Sight* by Barney Norris (Latitude Festival, UK Tour), *Antigone* (Southwark Playhouse), *Murder In The Cathedral* (Oxford Playhouse). Film includes *True Stories* (Animage Films/Forced Marriage Unit), *The New Boy* (East End Film Festival). Short films include *Looking For Marilyn* (Channel 4).



Maeve Leahy
Rosa Musetti / Sofia Zanre / Carlotta Berni

Maeve trained at Drama Studio London. She has toured internationally for the American Drama Group in roles including the Fool and Cordelia in *King*

Lear, *Hermia* in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Sybil Vane* in *The Picture Of Dorian Gray* and *Oliver* in *Oliver Twist*. She did two Seasons of Rep at The Sevenoaks Playhouse in plays by Ionesco, Moliere and Chekhov. Musical theatre roles include *Liesel* in *The Sound of Music* at The Cork Opera House. More recent credits include a new two-hander *Eggshells* at the Nursery Theatre; a puppet show *Fritz In Pieces* and *Robin Hood*, both for Tour de Force; *Laugh Your Farce Off* at The Pleasance Theatre in Islington; *Boston Marriage* and *The London Cuckolds* at The Cockpit Theatre and *Her Name Was Pamela Mooney* at The Belltable Theatre, Limerick, Ireland, for which she was nominated Best Actress by the Limerick Unfringed Festival. Maeve also lives a double life as a backing vocalist on the London blues/folk/rock scene.



Fed Zanni
Vincenzo Giulianotti / Lorenzo Berni / Giovanni Barbieri

Fed trained at ArtsEd. His Theatre credits include: *Jesus* in *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Fringe), *Pancho* in *The Night Of The Iguana* (West End), *The Return*, *Citizen Erased*,

Two Noble Kinsmen and *Midnight*, *When Trumpets Cry*. His Film and TV credits include: *Being Human*, *Never Better*, *Hotel Babylon*, *Afterlife*, *The Taming Of The Shrew* and *The Girl In The Cafe*. Fed also writes, directs and edits his own short films and in 2012 he founded 'Threw A Glass Films', with his wife Katrina Cooke. All their projects can be found on 'Threw A Glass Films' Vimeo page.



Anthony Shrubsall

Director

A professional stage director and former theatre academic of many years standing, Anthony is currently Artistic Director of OPEN Ealing and a founder member of the Entire Theatre Company.

This year his production of the latter's show ORBITS has been at the White Bear Theatre and he has been guest director for Interrupt the Routine's 5 Star rated show: *Misfits of London: The Gin Chronicles*, in London (St James' and Bridewell theatres) and Edinburgh. In 2013/14 he directed Richard Tyrone Jones's *Big Heart*, which toured nationally and internationally and was adapted for BBC Radio 4. A former Artistic Director of the Drayton Court Theatre, previous work includes *Lanza*, with the opera singer, Andrew Bain, at the Kings Head Theatre in 2011 and Zena Edwards's *Security*, a BAC and Birmingham Rep co-production, which became the first UK show invited to perform at the Shizuoka Performing Arts Festival, Japan, in 2010.



Penny Culliford

Writer

Penny is the author of the *Theodora's Diary* books, a series of comedy-novels, published by Zondervan and *The Art Of Standing Still*, a novel based in Kent, about medieval Mystery

plays. Her previous works with Tricolore Theatre Company were a bilingual version of the traditional children's story, *The Gingerbread Man*, a joint production of *Warden Pie*, a haunting play set in the precincts of Canterbury Cathedral and in 2012, *The Golden Chain*, a bilingual play in the Commedia dell'Arte tradition. She has written the scripts for *Henry Hand Puppet*, a series of animated stories for very young children.



Nadia Ostacchini

Producer / Marketing and Publicity

Nadia was born in London of Italian parentage and gained a BA (Hons) in Italian at University College London before training at The Academy Drama School.

She has worked as a professional actress, voiceover

artist and corporate presenter. As Artistic Director of Tricolore, she enjoys the freedom and creative process of exploring the ideas and themes that interest her within a theatrical context. Nadia's stage work has included several major national and international tours, and she has featured in various corporate videos and commercials. Recent credits include voiceovers for Renault, Nivea, FIFA, a Pirandellian artist-led project entitled: *Treatment For Six Characters*, a new English learning audio book for children in Reggio Emilia for Augeo and a TV narration for NHK World, the International arm of Japan's broadcasting service.

Fiona McKeon

Production Designer, Stage Manager and Wardrobe

Fiona McKeon is a set and costume designer and stage manager. She graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) in 2012 with a Postgraduate Diploma in Production Creation to compliment her Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in Technical Production (Stage Management). She moved to London in 2015 to continue to develop her skills and experience. Fiona has worked with a range of Australian companies both whilst studying and after, including Opera Queensland, Shake 'n' Stir, Melbourne French Theatre and Queensland Theatre Companies. She has worked with both over 40 different professional and student companies as both a designer and stage manager over the last 6 years. Since coming to the UK she has worked on projects that include costume for a short film called *Claudia*, as the Stage Manager for Golden Age Theatre Company's *School Of Light* and as Designer for the first reading of *Cuckoo Pint* by Michael Currell both directed by Linda Miller.

Edmund Sutton

Sound/Lighting

Edmund Sutton has a physics degree from Bristol University. Recent credits include *Umrao* (Asian Music Circuit), *Orbits* (White Bear) *A Night At The Palace* (Watford Palace Theatre), *Putain De Guerre!* (French Cultural Institute), Emerge 14 dance festival (C-12 Dance Theatre), *Queen Anne* (Historia Theatre), *The Duchess Of Malfi* (New Diorama), and *The London Cuckolds* (Theatro Technis). Other credits include *Macbeth* and *Six Characters In Search Of An Author* (WOH Productions), *Handel Furioso*, *The Emperor Of Atlantis*, and *The Queen Of Spades* (Arcola Theatre),

The Cast and Crew

Salon Mashup (Armenian Institute, Shoreditch Town Hall), and *Macbeth, Au Revoir Les Enfants* and *Monsieur Ibrahim Et Les Fleurs Du Coran* (German tours). Other re-lighting includes *Dr Jekyll And Mr Hyde* (Italian tour), *Drum* (Oily Cart, Abu Dhabi Festival), *The Great Gatsby* (Swiss-German tour), and *Finisce Per A* (WOH Productions). He is a member of the Association of Lighting Designers and the Institute of Physics.

Samantha Parry *Fight Choreographer*

Samantha Parry trained at the Bristol Old Vic and moved to London in 2004. She is currently mixing furthering her acting career in a few online films with becoming a published author of one Steampunk novelette with more to be published in the future. She has been fight director for numerous amateur productions back in her home town of Bristol and is very pleased to have been asked to help with *Saffron Hill*.

Janet Smith-Cantrill *Sound*

Recent productions include lighting and sound design for Golden Age Theatre Company on *The School Of Light* at the White Bear and Professional Help Productions *Much Ado About Nothing* at Camden Peoples Theatre, both with Director Linda Miller. Also stepping in last minute on *The Dead Shepherd* to create the lighting for Robert Pope and Ian Dixon Potter's play about Christopher Marlow. Whilst Chief Electrician for The Mill at Sonning Theatre sound credits include *The Heiress*, *Alphabetical Order*, *Chorus Of Disapproval*, *Same Time Next Year* and *The Sound Of Murder*. Lighting credits include *Barefoot In The Park*, *Love's A Luxury*, *That's Love*, *Run For Your Wife* and *Sugar Daddies*. Janet has also production managed, stage managed, designed numerous sets for the former Webber Douglas Academy and rigged Christmas lights around London for James Glancy Design and currently duty manages for The Theatres Trust.

Peter vanDoorn *Poster and Programme Design*

Peter is a trained actor and singer whose day job involves graphic design and building websites. Peter was delighted to be asked by Nadia, with whom he trained at The Academy Drama School, to do the design for *Saffron Hill*. www.fabulosa.co.uk

Paddy Gormley *Photography (Rehearsals)*

Paddy manages both the Tricolore and Mazzini-Garibaldi websites.
www.wordsinaction.info (teaching)
www.excitingwriting.info (writing)
www.paddygormley.info (web design)

Valeria Aloisio *Hair and Makeup*

Valeria Aloisio is from Italy but has lived in London since February 2014. She attended the Hairdresser's academy in Italy where she qualified in VTCT levels 1-2-3 NVQ diploma in Hairdressing and Barbering in September 2013. She has worked in Essensual Toni and Guy in the Holloway Road since August 2014.

Francesco Sani *Assistant*

Francisco was born in Lombardia but moved to Macerata with his family when he was five years old. He still lives in Macerata where he attends university, studying for a Bachelor's degree in Foreign Languages and Cultures. He is in London on the Erasmus student exchange programme until 22nd of November. He has travelled widely, including England, France, Scotland, Ireland, Sweden, Germany, Portugal, Spain, Austria and Czech Republic. He is very interested in Literature, particularly in theatre and took part in some performances. He is publishing a play he wrote.

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Members support each other in tracing their Italian ancestry back to Italy. If your ancestors lived in the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, N. Ireland) after moving from Italy, our website and our quarterly journal can help you research your family history." www.anglo-italianfhs.org.uk

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Backhill

A social website which aims to connect with the Anglo-Italian community of all generations: www.backhillonline.com

The Catholic Performing Arts Association (CaAPA)

Our diverse group of members, whom are comprised of actors, directors, writers, singers, musicians and other entertainers, share in a creative community where they can also grow in their spiritual values. We also aim to serve the wider community.
www.catholicassociationofperformingarts.org.uk

Thank you also to

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Accademia Apulia

Accademia Apulia comprises professionals who provide members with a network of support. The promotion of Cultural Diversity is central to the aims of Accademia Apulia. accademiapulia.org/en

Questors, Ealing's Theatre

One of the largest amateur theatres in Europe, with a membership of around 1,500, of whom around 600 are actively involved in productions. Situated in Ealing, West London, we offer our members a wide range of activities and social events, a variety of courses and workshops. Members can get involved in all aspects of production. We also have a pretty good costume department! Many of *Saffron Hill's* costumes were hired from us! questors.org.uk

The London Centre of Indian Champissage (LCIC)

The originators of The Indian Head Massage and Natural face lift massage at 494 Caledonian Road are offering a 20% discount on in-store treatments to people who quote the TRICOLORE discount offer. You can also visit them on stall U15 at the Mind, Body, Soul at Alexandra Palace from 23rd to 25th October.
www.champissageinternational.com / Twitter: @LCICChampissage

Pepato, in a new adaptation by Penny Culliford, toured London and Rome in 2008-2009. Amongst other bilingual poetry and music evenings, performances and children's entertainment sessions, a new Bolivian play at The King's Head theatre in 2010 was followed by an English/Italian commedia inspired play, *The Golden Chain/La Catena d'Oro* at the Teatro Technis theatre in 2012. Two historical re-enactments at Fishmonger's Hall (in April) and Freemason's Hall (in June 2014) followed as part of a series of events organized by The Mazzini Garibaldi Club in collaboration with the Italian Embassy, commemorating Giuseppe Garibaldi's visit to London in 1864. Saffron Hill was written to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Arandora Star tragedy. In 2016, Tricolore looks forward to exploring ideas for their second bilingual English/Italian production for children aged 4-8 years.

Tricolore would like to thank The Mazzini Garibaldi Foundation for sponsoring their production and the Associazione Parmigiani Valceno association and Club Sociale Italiano di Finchley for their very kind donations.

Website: www.tricolore.org.uk / Blog: www.saffronhillsite.wordpress.com

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Please email nadia@tricolore.org.uk to be notified about future events.



The Mazzini Garibaldi Charitable Foundation Sponsors of Saffron Hill

The Mazzini Garibaldi Foundation was set up and registered with the Charity Commission in June 2008 following the sale of the Mazzini Garibaldi Club premises at 52 Red Lion Street, London. The charitable objects of the Foundation are to assist the Italian community resident in the United Kingdom through the provision of financial support for those in need and to promote education and Italian culture. Nadia is especially grateful for the ongoing support from the Mazzini Garibaldi Club and Charitable Foundation as well as from the staff at Casa Italiana San Vincenzo Pallotti next door to St Peters Italian Church.

The Mazzini Garibaldi Club Limited dates its origins to the arrival of Giuseppe Mazzini in London and the visit of Giuseppe Garibaldi to the United Kingdom, and the Risorgimento. The Club was registered as a Friendly Society with the Italian Embassy, the Italian Consulate, St Peter's Italian Church, The Italian Hospital, The Scalabrini Centre and many Italian associations both in the United Kingdom and Italy. It has raised funds for Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, St Peter's Italian Church, the Earthquake Fund (in 1995) as well as other worthy causes.

For many years the Club was an important focal point for many Italians in London who had recently arrived into the country, and who needed help to find employment, accommodation and a social base.

The current Mazzini Garibaldi Committee is working to ensure the role of the Italian Community in London and the historical origins and traditions of the Club are not forgotten and the sense of community is retained for the continued benefit of members and friends alike. The Mazzini Garibaldi Club has through the sale of its Club premises in Red Lion Street in London assisted in the establishment of the Mazzini Garibaldi Charitable Foundation.

The Club is always interested in attracting new members.

If you would like to join the Club, please email your request to: dpini@pinifranco.com

www.mazzinigaribaldiclub.org

www.mgfoundation.com

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