Oh What A Lovely War
Joan Littlewood’s Musical Entertainment Oh What A Lovely War by Theatre Workshop, Charles Chilton, Gerry Raffles and Members of the Original Cast. Title suggested by Ted Allan.

Friday 8 – Saturday 30 September 2017
An Oldham Coliseum Theatre Production
Directed by Kevin Shaw
Designed by Foxton

Press Night: Tuesday 12 September, 7.30pm

Pack up your troubles with theatre legend Joan Littlewood’s ground breaking First World War satirical musical in the year Britain remembers the 1917 Battle of Passchendaele.

Oh What A Lovely War, performed as an end of pier show by a troupe of Pierrot entertainers, relives the First World War through song, dance and stunning visuals. First performed in 1963, the musical challenged attitudes towards the conflict by telling the story of the war from the perspective of the soldiers in the trenches. It won a Tony Award in 1965 in its first New York production on Broadway.

Oldham Coliseum Theatre’s production of Oh What A Lovely War will be performed by a talented ensemble of actor-musicians, featuring songs from the First World War including: It’s A Long Way To Tipperary, Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit-Bag, Goodbye-ee, And When They Ask and Keep The Home Fires Burning.

2017 marks the centenary of Passchendaele – The Third Battle of Ypres, which took place from July - November 1917 for control of the land south and east of the Belgian city of Ypres in West Flanders. The battle became infamous not only for the scale of casualties, but for the mud which eventually became so deep that soldiers drowned. It was one of the major engagements of the First World War with an estimated 325,000 Allied and 260,000 German casualties.

Joan Littlewood was regarded by many as one of the greatest directors in post-war Britain. She was the founder of Theatre Workshop, an improvisational company that created stage
opportunities for the working class, and discovered and nurtured writers and performers, creating a company of contributing performers. Theatre Workshop was founded in Manchester in 1945 and toured extensively around the UK until the company settled at Theatre Royal, Stratford East in 1953. To this day Littlewood continues to influence British directors and Fringe companies everywhere.

- Ends

Notes to Editor:

*Oh What A Lovely War* is sponsored by Pearson Solicitors and Financial Advisors.

*Oh What A Lovely War* runs from Friday 8 – Saturday 30 September 2017 at Oldham Coliseum Theatre.

Tickets can be booked on 0161 624 2829 or at [www.coliseum.org.uk](http://www.coliseum.org.uk)


For further press information, please contact Shelly Ramsdale on 0161 785 7012 or email shellyramsdale@coliseum.org.uk

Oldham Coliseum Theatre is a cultural and educational charity that works with over 150,000 individuals per year.

The Coliseum has a rich history in Greater Manchester dating back to 1885. It provides a wide variety of distinctive theatre performances and participatory activities for people from all communities in Oldham, Greater Manchester and beyond. It creates eight original productions each year, of which up to half are newly-commissioned work, which are presented at the Coliseum and on tour. Intrinsic to the town’s on-going regeneration, the theatre works with its local communities and young people to develop creative programmes to facilitate learning, engagement and community cohesion.

The Coliseum is actively engaged with Oldham Council and Arts Council England to deliver a new theatre in the town by 2020.

Images:

A high-resolution JPEG of the artwork for *Oh What A Lovely War* is available to download from Dropbox via: [https://www.dropbox.com/s/dqi7m5cqamlrhi2/Oh%20What%20A%20Lovely%20War.jpg?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/dqi7m5cqamlrhi2/Oh%20What%20A%20Lovely%20War.jpg?dl=0)
Rehearsal photographs will be available from Wednesday 30 August 2017

Production photographs will be available from Friday 19 September 2017

Cast:

Isobel Bates
Matt Connor
Richard J Fletcher
Jeffrey Harmer
Barbara Hockaday
Anthony Hunt
Thom Petty
Lauryn Redding
Reece Richardson
David Westbrook

Production Team:

Director - Kevin Shaw
Designer - Foxton
Musical Director - Howard Gray
Choreographer - Beverley Edmunds
Lighting Designer - Jason Taylor
Sound Designer – Lorna Munden