

# ***The Verdict***

**A Middle Ground Theatre Company Ltd production**

Tuesday 12 – Saturday 16 March 2019

At Oldham Coliseum Theatre

By Barry Reed

Adapted by Margaret May Hobbs

Designed and Directed by Michael Lunney

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Following the phenomenal success of its world premiere tour, Middle Ground Theatre Company bring their gripping and critically acclaimed courtroom sensation ***The Verdict*** to Oldham Coliseum Theatre.

Starring: Ian Kelsey, Denis Lill, Paul Opacic, Christopher Ettridge, Richard Walsh and Karen Drury.

Based on Barry Reed's 1980 novel, which also inspired the five time Oscar nominated Sidney Lumet film of the same name starring Paul Newman and James Mason, ***The Verdict*** follows Frank Galvin, a washed up veteran lawyer and an alcoholic. He is presented with one last chance to redeem himself when he is given an open-and-shut medical malpractice case that no one thinks he can win.

Up against the unforgiving medical establishment, he courageously refuses an out of court settlement, believing it is negligence that has condemned a young mother. Smelling a cover up, he instead takes the case and the entire legal system to court.

Ian Kelsey is known by millions for his regular roles in *Blue Murder*, *Emmerdale*, *Casualty*, *Down To Earth*, *Where The Heart Is*, *Doctors* and *Coronation Street*. Denis Lill is best known for playing Alan Parry (father of Casandra) in *Only Fools and Horses*, as well as regular roles in *The Royal*, *Rumpole Of The Bailey*, *The Regiment*, *Survivors* and many more.

They are joined by Paul Opacic (*Bad Girls*, *Emmerdale*, *Hollyoaks*), Christopher Ettridge (*Goodnight Sweetheart*), Richard Walsh (*London's Burning*), Karen Drury (*Brookside*), Josephine Rogers, Michael Lunney, Okon Jones, Anne Kavanagh, Holly Jackson Walters, James Morley, Jog Maher, Alexandra Fisher and Greg Fitch.

**- Ends -**-----

**Notes to Editor:**

***The Verdict*** runs from Tuesday 12 – Saturday 16 March 2019 at Oldham Coliseum Theatre.

Tickets can be booked on 0161 624 2829 or at [www.coliseum.org.uk](http://www.coliseum.org.uk)  
Link to production page: <http://www.coliseum.org.uk/plays/the-verdict/>

For further press information, please contact Shelly Ramsdale on 0161 785 7012 or [shellyramsdale@coliseum.org.uk](mailto:shellyramsdale@coliseum.org.uk)

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#### **Images:**

A high-resolution JPEG of the artwork for ***The Verdict*** is available to download from Dropbox via: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/ie9zlo61jc8lfss/The%20Verdict.jpg?dl=0>

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#### **Middle Ground Theatre Company Ltd.**

Middle Ground Theatre Company have been producing drama for the stage since 1988. Today it is one of the UK's most prolific production companies, having mounted and toured over 50 productions. Middle Ground's Artistic Director and Producer is founder member Michael Lunney.

#### **Oldham Coliseum Theatre**

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 original productions 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.