The Pitmen Painters
Friday 5 – Saturday 27 February 2016
An Oldham Coliseum Theatre Production
By Lee Hall
Directed by Kevin Shaw
Designed by Foxton

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Based on a true story, The Pitmen Painters is a funny, feel-good, moving tale of a group of ordinary men who achieved extraordinary things.

The Ashington Group were Northumberland miners who, in 1934 employed Robert Lyon, master of Painting at Kings College Newcastle, to teach an evening class in Art Appreciation. Lectures on the Old Masters from a posh academic were lost on the pitmen and so instead Lyon taught them to paint, with amazing results.

Lee Hall’s story tells of the hopes, dreams, determination and the camaraderie of these miners, who continued to work down the pit, day in and day out, until they retired. Celebrated throughout the art world, this is a tale about friends, who accidentally became a working class phenomenon, having the time of their lives.

Lee Hall is best known as the writer of Billy Elliot – both the hit film and the West End musical. The Pitmen Painters premiered at the Live Theatre Newcastle in 2007 with a sell-out run before embarking on a run at The National Theatre, UK tours and a transfer to Broadway.

The Ashington Group paintings can be seen at Woodhorn Museum near Ashington, Northumberland.
http://www.ashingtongroup.co.uk/

- Ends

Notes to Editor:
The Pitmen Painters runs at Oldham Coliseum Theatre from Friday 5 – Saturday 27 February 2016
Tickets can be booked on 0161 624 2829 or at www.coliseum.org.uk
Link to production page: http://www.coliseum.org.uk/plays/the-pitmen-painters/

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

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

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