

The Aftermath of Like a Buoy, thoughts of a stage manager.

As Willy said, "Couldn't sleep, got in a muddle,I'm tired..."

I hope I didn't get in too much of a muddle but I have to confess I did have a few sleepless nights and was pretty tired by the end, but it was all well worth it.

It was truly a remarkable feat and I want to thank you all for being a patient and great cast to work with. I know there are some things I got wrong but I have learnt a great deal from the experience and will hopefully do better next time.

I want to thank the younger members of the cast especially, who conducted themselves so well throughout the whole production from the early workshops to the play itself.

There are some people who deserve a special thank you for without their hard work the show would not have been the success it was.

Toni and her helpers for the costumes, not only have they spent many hours researching costumes spanning 76 years, but also worked in Orchard barn in all weathers and trawled the charity shops for accessories to compliment the outfits.

Caroline and Bill who together with Jack spent the last days before the show adding finishing touches to the set.

I could not have fulfilled my role on top of a full time job without Caroline's support.

Larry and Michael for their lighting plot, there were 98 light changes in the play, each one programmed into the lighting board which seemed to have a mind of its own at times! Having to cover the length of the hall and move swiftly between one end and the other in the middle of the action requires careful planning and timing, I think they did a fantastic job.

The ladies and gents who manned the kitchen, and to the rest of you who turned up before and after the play to help with the rigging and de-rigging, a big thank you.

I think there are some who have caught the acting bug so maybe we will meet again soon. As for me would I do it again? Yes I am sure I would if anyone will have me.

Frances