

Press Release - Peter Macqueen –

‘Old Herbaceous’

Peter Macqueen throws a warming comfort blanket round his audience with his touching and gentle portrayal of veteran gardener, in Reginald Arkell’s story of a man looking back over his life and over English rural social history.

Pottering amongst the seeds and cuttings at the back of his ramshackle greenhouse in the garden of a Gloucestershire manor house is Herbert Pinnegar. Now in his twilight years he is full of memories and tales of a bygone era. In between potting up and potting on, he recounts his journey from orphan boy to legendary head gardener 'Old Herbaceous' and tells of his friendship with the lady of the house, Mrs. Charteris.

Old Herbaceous, is at times charming, crotchety, stubborn and given to flashes of humour... He’s full of little knowing chuckles as he casts his mind back nostalgically.

Sown with seeds of gardening wisdom, this charming one man show is a love story – a humorous portrayal of a single-minded yet gentle man with a passion for plants.

Not just for gardeners, this is an endearing story set in an old greenhouse in the gardens of a Gloucestershire manor house where you imagine perfect lawns and well tended borders. It centres on the enduring relationship between gardener Herbert Pinnegar and Lady Charteris of the Manor House, an unexpected love story. As Pinnegar tells his stories his hands are always working, potting plants, eating oranges (garden tip included) and drinking tea but it doesn’t detract from what he says – in fact it makes it more real, it makes the audience part of his world.

“It’s Downton Abbey with gardening tips – what more could the modern theatregoer ask for?” -

Whitehaven News

“I challenge you not to be moved by this enchanting story of ‘just a gardener’. I’d take some tissues too.” - **ITV Border.com**

Venue details

Date Saturday 28th March 2015

Time 7.30pm

Venue Broadbent Theatre

Cost £9.00 (full price) £8.00 concessions

Tickets available from – box office 01673 885500 or online www.broadbenttheatre.org