

# THE PLAY

## The Audition

Jack Rees is finally going it alone. After successfully overcoming an entirely Welsh childhood and making a name for himself in the theatre, Jack is presenting his one-man show. The trials and triumphs of an actor's career are mingled with improvisations on reality that show everyday life making more demands on Jack's talents than any Shakespearean role.

Wickedly funny, passionate and vulnerable, Jack gives his own inimitable commentary on performances and pantomimes, agents and of course auditions. In the process his marriage, his family and his mother's unexpected sense of humour are also revealed by the same keen wit. Jack acts, sings and talks his way from a "drizzle grey" Welsh town to the National Theatre, from a pub roof in Coventry to a provincial pantomime and on into an increasingly unmanageable life. Tragically comic and lovingly lyrical, *The Audition* explores one man's life his loves, his fears, his passions and his work. Jack has come a long way to be here tonight, now we can share a little of his journey in this exciting new piece of theatre specially created for actor Mike Hayward.

### ***HOW IT CAME TO BE!***

I met Alison through some mutual friends she asked if I could help her with voice projection as she is often called upon to give talks based on her novels and short stories. I flippantly remarked, "I'll do that if you write me a one man show ". I did this in ignorance of what a brilliant writer she is I hope you agree and that the show might stimulate you into getting hold of some of her novels e.g. "Looking for the Possible Dance" and "So I am Glad".

We went for a long walk and I outlined some of the major incidents and turning points in my life. Three weeks later the First Act fell through the letter box I was staggered a month later the Second Act after I had convinced myself the first could not be bettered but it was! I believe the piece is about 30% of my life (however a mate once remarked it was more like 110%) coupled with Alison's vivid imagination and depth of soul. I took the piece to Borderline Theatre Company, Ayr. They immediately recognised its potential and John Murtagh along with Alison directed it. They also managed to get me a last minute slot at the Edinburgh Festival where we won the prestigious Fringe First Award. There have been over 60 performances to date September '95 at the most diverse venues including 20 in India and 2 in Sri Lanka.

Sometimes when appropriate I give an after show talk on some of the issues raised by the subtext: this often develops into an intriguing discussion on the human condition taking a cursory glance at anger/ fear/ paranoia, compulsive behaviour and the built in self destruct button some of us have together with the effects of this behaviour on those around us.