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Athlone Literary Festival

24-26 September 2010



Press Release

ATHLONE LITERARY FESTIVAL 2010

TERENCE FRISBY school workshops, launch of Festival, reading and personal story



Friday 24th September,

9.30am – 3.00pm School workshops in various secondary schools

7.30pm launch of festival - Prince of Wales Hotel

8.00pm Oh! What a Glorious thing is War - Prince of Wales Hotel

The Athlone Literary Festival are delighted to bring from Devon UK, the well known and entertaining author Terence Frisby to Athlone. Terence, is best known as an actor and

playwright. His most famous play and film is *There's A Girl In My Soup*, London's longest-running comedy and a worldwide smash hit featuring Goldie Hawn and Peter Sellers.

His most recent book, *Kisses on a Postcard* published by Bloomsbury was launched in paperback in May of this year and coincided with the seventieth anniversary of Dunkirk. The book is about Terry's childhood as an evacuee in WWII, and is an account of that war, and of the community where he lived, seen through the eyes of a displaced boy, as the world destroys itself round him. It is, above all, a tribute to the extraordinary couple who gave him and his brother a rich childhood while suffering their own tragedy. It includes examinations of pacifist views propounded in the middle of a war being fought for our survival; it questions the role of authority and God and subverts the sexual morality of the day. All these basic ideas will be explored in the Friday night forum in the Prince of Wales Hotel, 24th September at 8pm.

The book has developed a life of its own which has surprised even the author and publisher. Since the launch of the hardback there have been three reprints. The Daily Telegraph gave it an enthusiastic review on publication. Then, out of the blue, Internet book sites and bloggers took it to their hearts and have given it unanimous five-star reviews. It was top of *Lovereading's* Christmas list and is *Random Jotting's* Book of the Year.

Terence, an excellent performer, has spoken at many book and theatrical events with previous plays and publications. After reading an extract of *Kisses on the Aled Jones* programme on Radio 2 in April, he was asked back to the show in response to audience reaction. If you want to hear him in recent interviews, you can listen to one with Robert Elms on BBC Radio London and to another with Judy Spiers on Radio Devon. You can access all interviews, reviews and much other information via the website www.kissesonapostcard.com

This story lives in three mediums. It started as a Radio 4 play, winning the Giles Cooper award and was repeated no less than ten times by the BBC. The Drama Dept described it as 'The most popular play for a generation.' Following that it was successfully tried out as a stage musical at the Queen's Theatre, Barnstaple. BBC Radio Devon said quite simply that it was 'the best production I have ever seen at the Queen's Theatre.' It is currently being set up for the West End.

The Athlone Literary Festival promises audiences they will learn all about the creative process from play, to musical, to book.

To book email literaryathlone@gmail.com or ring 086 367 1039 or write to Athlone Literary Festival, NIB Building Northgate Street Athlone, Co Westmeath.

Check out the Athlone Literary website www.athloneliteraryfestival.com

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Notes to the Editor

- Contact Terence directly on 020 7736 2450 and terence.frisby@btinternet.com

- Photo attached