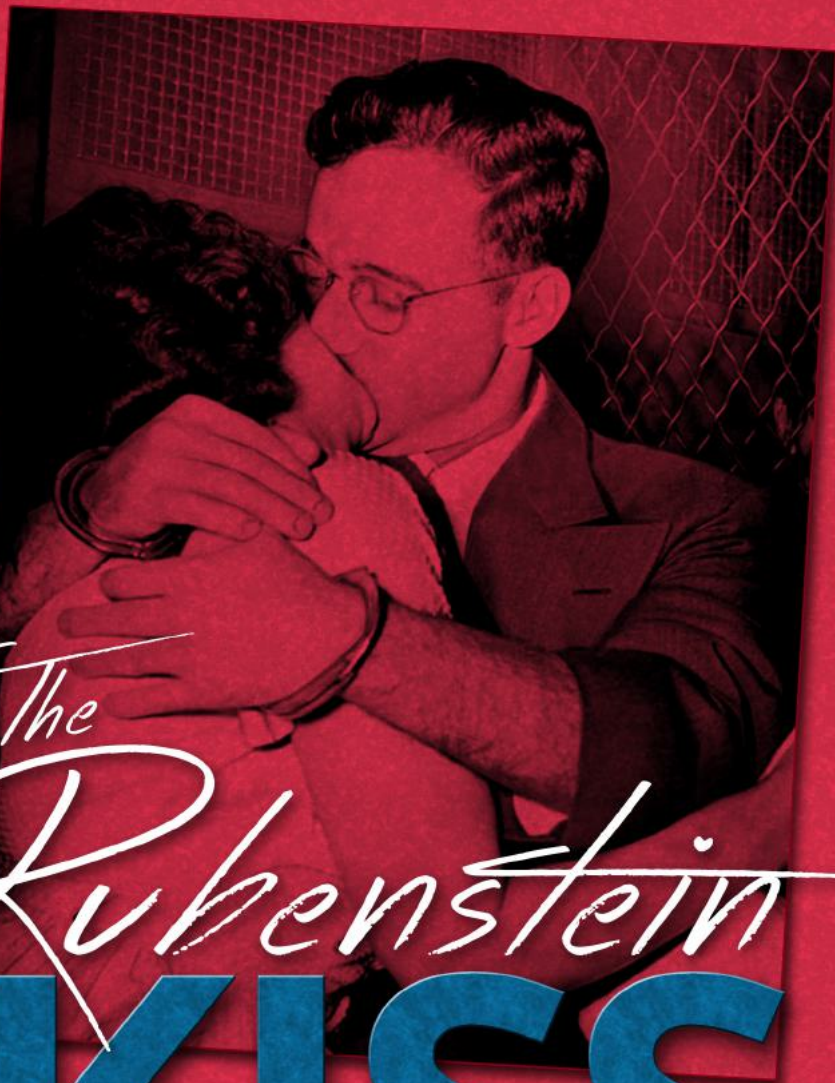


A mixture of intimate tenderness and
the harsh reality of its consequences



The
Rubenstein
KISS

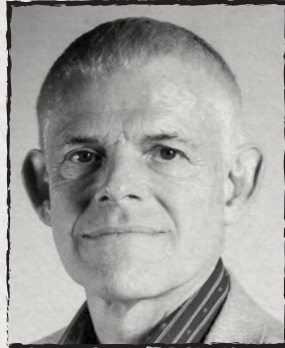
by James Phillips
Directed by Jack Wood

6th – 14th February 2015



Welcome to the Barn

Welcome to this production of *The Rubenstein Kiss* which is the 6th play in our season following hard on the heels of *The Ladykillers* which ended on 24th January – only two weeks ago! As you may imagine each play takes a lot of organising, not just in rehearsal, but in regularly preparing the stage to meet each production's requirement. We are fortunate in having a fabulous scenic crew who work tirelessly in building and painting our sets, striking them after each production, and building another one. This is a huge task and they are doing a great job – if there's a Barn member (or prospective Barn member?) out there who would like to join them in this important task please contact Robert Gill – his contact details are in the Barn News.



For those of you who may not have visited us before The Barn Theatre Club was founded in 1969 and in addition to maintaining our fabulous grade 2 listed building we run a drama company! It is our mission to provide theatrical entertainment – currently 11 plays (including a production from our Youth Theatre) – in the season which extends from September to July. In addition to this we host the *Youth Drama Festival* in March and, new to this season, we welcome *The Welwyn Drama Festival* in May as they are moving from their previous venue which was the Hawthorne Theatre at Campus West.

Our membership is around 600, but by no means are we all involved in stage work. We need to maintain the building, build scenery (as stated earlier), make/repair costumes, staff front of house during a production. The list is endless. Perhaps you would like to join? – you would be made most welcome. You can pick up a membership leaflet from the foyer or go online. It's a great Club to meet people and to be part of a team that entertains the local, and perhaps not so local, community.

Our next stage event is the *WGC Youth Drama Festival*. The Festival runs from 2nd to 7th March and attracts around 250 young people from Hertfordshire and its adjoining counties, competing for the cups awarded for junior and senior sections. The next Barn presentation is *Playhouse Creatures* from 20th – 28th March and details can be found later in this programme.

I hope you enjoy this performance of *The Rubenstein Kiss*.

Nigel Rive
CHAIRMAN

By any other name

Some names enter the public consciousness and become forever linked with specific individuals because of specific news stories that appal the world: the Krays, the Wests, Burgess and Maclean, to name a few. In the US, Rosenberg is one such name: the surname of the married couple Julius and Ethel who in 1951 were convicted of, and later executed for, espionage.

In James Phillips' masterful play the names have been changed, not to 'protect the innocent', clearly, but to allow the author dramatic licence – to fictionalise and restructure what is essentially a true story, and to add universality. In fact, the only wholly fictitious character in the play is Paul Cranmer. The result is no less shocking, and interested audience members can find numerous accounts online to add flesh to the play's bones, including the version of events seen through the eyes of Ethel's brother David Greenglass (David in the play) who died just last year.

In searching, you may well come across another piece in the Rosenberg jigsaw that is also part of the story's iconic status, and the one that gives this play its title. On the day the couple were arraigned in 1950, still in handcuffs and still in the back of a prison van, a press photographer captured the passionate and unrestrained kiss that followed their months of isolation and would, obviously, never be repeated in the three years before their execution.



The photo, far better known and more iconic in the US than on these shores, is a momentary study in devotion – of two people to each other, and of two people to a cause. The power it has gained, from both hindsight and from the information that emerged long after the Rosenbergs' activities, is remarkable and makes it the perfect starting point for this enthralling study of human strength and weakness.

Clive Weatherley

We wish to extend our huge thanks and appreciation to our local business supporters.

Sainsbury's **The Howard Centre**
Welwyn Garden City Shopping

The Rubenstein Kiss

By James Phillips

In 1953, Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were executed, by electrocution, in Sing Sing prison, near New York. They had been found guilty of espionage, specifically, passing details of the atomic bomb to a foreign power – Russia – in time of war (the Second World War). They were the first civilians in the USA ever to be executed for this crime.

Ethel's brother, David Greenglass, also involved in the espionage, denounced his brother-in-law and sister, and received a 15-year jail sentence, of which he served 10 years.

This play is based on these facts.

The Cast

Anna LeviGeorgina Bennett
Matthew Maddison.....George A. P. Andrews
David GirshfeldRob Graham
Esther Rubenstein.....Belinda Gee
Jakob Rubenstein.....Bob Thomson
Rachel Liebermann.....Hazel Halliday
Paul CranmerSimon Parr

Directed by Jack Wood

The Production Team

Set DesignChris Janes
Lighting DesignJohn Cude
Sound DesignJames Rowles
Stage Manager.....Darren Barsby
ASM Cara Evans
Wardrobe..... Lynn Rana, Fiona Carter
Properties.....Sheila Grimmant, Barbara Foster
Set Construction..... Norman Merry and the Barn set builders
Rehearsal PromptChristina Jolly
Production ManagerJoan Bird

In addition to thanking the amazing talent who build every one of the Barn's fantastic sets, we'd like to recognise and extend our thanks to the most wonderful team of front-of-house and back-office volunteers who provide a host of fundamental services and facilities for all of our productions. We really couldn't do it without you!

The play takes place in and near New York, at various times between 1942 and 1975

Part One

- Scene 1: An art gallery, 1975
- Scene 2: The Rubensteins' apartment, 1942
- Scene 3: Matthew Maddison's apartment, 1975
- Scene 4: The Rubensteins' apartment, 1945
- Scene 5: Matthew Maddison's apartment, 1975
- Scene 6: The Girshfelds' apartment, 1950

Interval of fifteen minutes

Part Two

- Scene 1: Anna Levi's apartment, 1975
- Scene 2: An FBI interview room, 1951, and the Girshfelds' suburban house, 1975
- Scene 3: An interview room in Sing Sing Prison, 1953
- Scene 4: Matthew Maddison's apartment, 1975
- Scene 5: Matthew's apartment, 1975; the Sing Sing Death Room, 1953; and the Rubensteins' apartment, 1942



Ethel Rosenberg



Julius Rosenberg



A timeline of infamy

Key events in the lives of the Rosenbergs

- 1936 Julius Rosenberg and Ethel Greenglass meet at a Young Communist League event
- 1939 Julius and Ethel are married
- 1940 Julius joins the US Army Signal Corps
- December 1942 Julius provides the Soviets with diagrams for a proximity fuse
- 1945 Julius is fired from the US Signal Corps when his previous membership of the Communist Party is discovered
- Late 1946 The counter-intelligence programme Venona has its first breakthrough
- March 1950 Julius warns Ethel to flee the country
- May 1950 The Rosenbergs visit a photographer to obtain passport photos
- 16th June 1950 Julius is first interviewed by the FBI
- 30th June 1950 Julius is arrested while shaving
- 11th August 1950 Ethel is arrested
- 29th March 1951 A jury finds the Rosenbergs guilty of conspiracy to commit espionage
- 5th April 1951 The Rosenbergs are sentenced to death
- 19th June 1953 The Rosenbergs are executed for espionage
- 1960 The proximity fuse allows the Soviets to shoot down a U-2 plane
- 1990 Khrushchev's memoirs are published suggesting that the Rosenbergs helped Soviets acquire the A-bomb



David Greenglass arrested

A Paris rally in support of the Rosenbergs

Coming soon...

April De Angelis'

Playhouse Creatures

Bawdy, bloody and beautiful!

An earthy account of the lives of some of the first English actresses that's deliciously funny yet honest and gritty too.

20th – 28th March



This play is a historical drama: a comedy, but with some very dark twists. We glimpse into the real lives of some of the pioneer English actresses who fought hard for their roles, yet spent most of their time beating off the advances of some rather unsavoury men. It's a play that deals with modern issues seen through the eyes of 17th century women.

1st
March

SINGERS AT THE BARN

If you love live entertainment, come along and join us in the Club Room on the first Sunday of each month and enjoy at least fifteen individual acts as they sing or play their wide range of music especially for you.

2nd – 7th
March

YOUTH Drama Festival

A wonderful week of entertaining, dramatic competition that attracts around 250 young people from Hertfordshire and its adjoining counties. They compete for various awards for junior and senior sections.

There are two or three short (one-act) plays each night.

17th – 25th
April

LOVE LOVE LOVE

Five decades of love, family and betrayal – a poignant insight into what makes us all tick

"Dazzling" - The Observer

"An exciting evening... horribly true" - Daily Mail

Check out the **NEW £25 Meal Deal** with the Pig & Truffle

WWW.BARNTHEATRE.CO.UK