

BA (Hons) Acting

Kenneth Robertson Senior Lecturer in Acting

Kenneth was born in Kirkintilloch, Scotland. His career has spanned the mediums of theatre, film and television, both as an actor and a director. His work has encompassed Children's Theatre, Young People's Theatre, Community Theatre, Touring Theatre, West End, Repertory theatre and Fringe Theatre.

In 1973 he joined the internationally renowned, award-winning Japanese ensemble, Red Buddha Theatre. He appeared in both of their productions, *Man From the East* and *Raindog*, which toured Europe and played to packed houses at the Roundhouse Theatre in London.

In 1975 a play was written for him. It was a documentary style drama based on the life and career of Charlie Chaplin and it played at Joan Littlewood's theatre in London. He received excellent reviews, especially for his interpretation of the character of the Tramp and his acting skills in mime, juggling, dance, song and impersonation. He was asked to play Chaplin again for the BBC's production of *The Fred Karno Tour*, directed by Ian Softley.

He then became a regular actor with the Young Vic Theatre Company under the direction of Frank Dunlop and later worked on the first production of the award-winning, international theatre company, Cheek by Jowl, playing the leading role of Giovanni in their production of *Tis' Pity She's a Whore*. He was seen in this production by the casting director of the Royal Shakespeare Company and invited to join the acting ensemble on a two year contract which was then extended to four years. During his time there he was frequently cast in Trevor Nunn's productions and it was working with, and observing Trevor Nunn's work, that inspired him to branch out into theatre directing.

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Film work has included:

Tess directed by Roman Polanski.

Flash Gordon directed by Mike Hodges.

Machines for the Suppression of Time for the Arts Council.

Nighthawks directed by Ron Peck, in which he played the lead. It premiered at The Edinburgh film Festival and was selected as the British entry for the Cannes Film Festival 1978. It was also chosen by David Robinson (Head of the National Film Theatre) as one of ten best British films for his programme on channel 4. Ken received great reviews worldwide for his performance in this film. It has been re-released by Second Run including an interview with the cast and directors/writers conducted by Mat Lucas.

Other film work includes shorts and student productions for The London Film School, Farnham Film School and The National Film School in Beaconsfield.

Television appearances have included:

BBC: *The Kremlin Farewell* directed by Tristram Powell.

Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow directed by Adrian Shergold.

Underbelly directed by Nick Renton.

The Fred Karno Tour directed by Ian Softley.

ITV: *Poirot* directed by Ros Devonish.

Emmerdale directed by Sue Dunderdale.

The Bill directed by Mike Dormer.

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Most recently he appeared as Daedalus in Mythchasers (a Pilot production for the BBC and an American Film Production Company).

Leads in TV commercials for:

Resolve, Birds Eye Steakhouse , Real Cream, The Automobile Association. Tartan Bitter, Tennents Larger, Royal Bank of Scotland, Yellow Pages (America), Dynamo (Italy).

Ken has attended workshops with Marcel Marceau, Lindsey Kemp, Stomu Yamashta (Japanese mime)

Theatre de Complicite with Simon McBurney.

The Royal Court Theatre with Max Stafford-Clark.

The Royal Court Theatre with Keith Johnstone and George Devine.

He has taught acting and directed many shows at drama schools in London including Rose Bruford College of Speech and Drama, Guildford School of Acting, The Academy of Live and Recorded Arts, London, and was Head of Acting at East 15 Acting School.

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Plays directed include:

Still Lives

A Month in the Country

The Forsyte Saga

Macbeth

A Midsummer Nights Dream

The Three Sisters

The Seagull

Oedipus

The Orestia

A Doll's House

Caucasian Chalk Circle

Live Like Pigs

The Diary of a Scoundrel

Heartbreak House

Hindle Wakes

Women of Troy

Mary Barton

Lady Windermere's Fan

Love on the Dole

La Belle et La Bete

Arts University College at Bournemouth: Graduating Showcase 2009

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