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production

84 Charing Cross Road... Downham

STAGE Two Downham are presenting "84 Charing Cross Road" for their Autumn production this year.

Based on the book by Helene Hanff, it was later made into a stage play about the 20-year correspondence between the author and Frank Doel, chief buyer of Marks and Co. Antiquarian Booksellers.

The warm, compassionate and very human exchange of letters is here skilfully and lovingly adapted for the stage. The evening promises fun, happiness, a little sadness and a lot of goodwill.

The talented cast, led by Paul McGowan as Frank Doel and Suesi Windle as Helene Hanff, also includes Megan Hirst, Andrea Cawley, Eddie Bootle, Kim Croydon, Elizabeth Wrigley, Isaac Trammer and Rachel Scott. If you haven't been to a Stage Two production, now is your chance. Visit the lovely village of Downham, perhaps have a meal in a local hostelry and then treat yourself to an enjoyable evening of amateur theatre in the village hall.

The first performance will be on Wednesday November 23rd and the play will run until Saturday the 26th at Downham Village Hall, commencing at 7.30 p.m. - nightly.

Tickets are £6 and available from Clitheroe Information Centre, in Church Walk, or from Fran Osborne on 01200 423301.

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A touching tale, well told



The cast of Stage Two Downham's production of 84 Charing Cross Road.

REVIEW: "84 Charing Cross Road", performed by Stage Two Downham.

THE play, "84, Charing Cross Road", based on the book by Helene Hanff about the correspondence between her and Frank Doel, of Marks & Co., between the years 1949 and the late 1960s, was presented this week by Stage Two at Downham village hall.

We were there on the evening of their last performance and if this was of the same standard, as seen throughout the week, then everyone who attended must have had a very enjoyable evening. The difficult task of directing this touching story, told through the letters of Helene Hanff and Frank Doel, as they get to know one another and become dear friends, was in the hands of Fran Osborne, who must be

congratulated on bringing out all the emotion and gentle humour contained in this play. The setting, in two different locations on one small stage, was achieved admirably with a detailed and convincing bookstore on one side and a wonderfully untidy apartment on the other. Gerry Purchase and all who assisted him in creating this deserve to be very pleased. As for the actors in this production, what can be said, other than congratulations? As Helene Hanff and Frank Doel, Suesi Windle and Paul McGowan brought the two characters to life again with all the fun and sensitivity needed to make them real. Their roles were huge and so sympathetically played. No member of this cast, which included Stage Two regulars Andrea Cawley, Liz Wrigley, Eddie Bootle, Kim Croydon, Rachel Scott, and the two newcomers, Megan Hirst and Isaac Trammer, should have any doubts. Every production needs the technical side, such as sound effects and lighting, to make it work and it certainly did. Well done everyone.

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Tickets in DOWNHAM VILLAGE HALL £6 from
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Book by Helen Hanff
Adapted by James Roose-Evans
Presented by Stage Two
Downham