

**Friday 31st May, Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd June:
'OUR FRAGILE HOME' – A Festival of Ideas**

Discussion, debate and special events devised jointly by **Gareth Machin**, Artistic Director of Wiltshire Creative and **Rebecca Johnson**, long time anti-nuclear peace campaigner and co-founder of **ICAN** (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) which initiated the **Nuclear Ban Treaty**, and received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017.

(In the sections below, there is a brief description of each event that we attended and a comment *in italics* hopefully just giving a personal flavour of the experience)

I think we should acknowledge how fortunate we are in Salisbury to have had such an extraordinary series of events organised on our doorstep! To all those involved in the Salisbury International Arts Festival, we send our gratitude and thanks!

Friday 31st May at 5.00pm, Rehearsal Room at Salisbury Playhouse:

Dr Rebecca Johnson in conversation with **Ambassador Alexander Kmentt** (TBC) who played a key role in organising the Vienna International Conference on Humanitarian Impacts of Nuclear Weapons that set the scene for the UN to hold negotiations in 2016/17, and **Dr Patricia Lewis**, Research Director of International Security at Chatham House and co-author of the Chatham House Report: 'Too Close for Comfort: Cases of Near Nuclear Use and Options for Policy'. They were joined by **Kat Ewing**, a school student in Salisbury, who is involved with Strike for Climate in Salisbury.

A really interesting discussion which provided insight into the process within the UN that eventually enabled the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to be agreed. Snippets of information that might be of interest included the thought that the discharge of just one Trident submarine's weapons on 6 Russian cities would be sufficient to induce a nuclear winter. Kat mentioned that whilst she had been taught something about climate change at school, she has been taught nothing about nuclear weapons.

Saturday 1st June 11am **Divided - Tim Marshall** who is a journalist and writer, previously diplomatic editor and foreign correspondent for Sky News.

He described the wall/barriers of the world - now constructed in some 63 countries, the first originating as soon as hunter-gathering started to fade. The review of these divisions and the enormity of these constructions was shocking. Negative and some

*positive aspects of them were discussed. Many of these separations were unknown to the audience. He is the author of “**Divided: Why we are living in the age of walls**”. His talk could only touch on this subject and one was left reflecting on the conflicts and human suffering represented by these huge man made structures.*

Saturday 1st June at 1.00 pm, Rehearsal Room, Salisbury Playhouse:

‘FROM GREENHAM TO THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE’

Dr Rebecca Johnson reflects on her career- from five years opposing Cruise missiles at Greenham Common illustrated with photos, songs, and excerpts from the documentary film, ‘Carry Greenham Home’, to working with diplomats to ban nuclear testing and form ICAN, culminating in being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts instigating the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

*This was a very personal story of Rebecca Johnson’s unwavering involvement with nuclear protest and her gradual embracing of the diplomatic and political areas that enabled the new UN Treaty to be agreed. In the discussions, a school boy from Downton reinforced what Kat had said the previous day about the complete absence of information about nuclear weapons provided via school. During the event, I met Antony Owen who is a poet based in Coventry. He presented Salisbury CND with a copy of his poems entitled *The Nagasaki Elder*. He has contact with peace groups in Hiroshima and I mentioned our candle float to him. As a result of our subsequent correspondence, he has sent information to his contact in Hiroshima about our activities and we hope to receive some message that we could use as part of this year’s Candle Float.*

Saturday 1st June at 2.30pm:

‘IN MY LIFETIME’ – film

Archive footage and interviews from Europe, Japan, and US to illustrate the history of the nuclear era.

In one lifetime a nuclear-armed world emerged and with it the potential for global destruction on a scale never before possible. Directed by former ABC network news executive producer Robert E. Frye, the film provides a comprehensive look at the full scope and impact of the nuclear age from its beginnings to the present day. It describes international efforts by citizens, scientists and political leaders to reduce or eliminate the nuclear threat. Archival footage and contemporary interviews are woven together into a compelling narrative. This film provides a very clear summary of how we have arrived at the current situation we face and may trigger thoughts about how we could use this film as part of an educational package, within local schools. We were encouraged to get in contact with the filmmaker and when we did

so, he proved to be very friendly and helpful in making the material available for others to see.

Saturday 1st June at 5.00pm:

‘THE NUCLEAR REQUIEM’ – a meditation

A journey taken with the nuclear bomb in our lives during its 70th anniversary.

This is another film by Robert E. Frye. It represents an update from “In My Lifetime”. Throughout the film an original piano composition by Alain Kremski provides a meditative background score to the informed commentary. The film includes President Obama’s historic 2016 visit to Hiroshima, the first such visit by an American President. In his speech he suggests we must “look directly into the eye of history and ask what we must do differently to curb such suffering again”. Hiroshima should be a memory that “allows us to fight complacency” and “fuels our imagination.”

Sunday 2nd June, 2pm:

‘DR STRANGELOVE’ – film 1964

Satire on the fragile nature of an insane military world bristling with nuclear weapons on constant alert.

A film that cleverly balances humour with total horror and is all the more remarkable for the extent to which it portrays events which would subsequently prove to be all too possible. The film was accompanied by an introductory lecture by Peter Kramer, Senior Lecturer in Film Studies, UEA. He provided many fascinating insights which some of us would have missed without his guidance!

Monday 3rd June, 7.30pm:

‘COLD WAR CRISES-THE UNKNOWN ACCIDENTS AND FAILURES THAT BROUGHT THE WORLD TO THE BRINK OF NUCLEAR DISASTER’ – talk by Taylor Downing:

A talk to inform us how close we have come to Armageddon by accident.

*The Cold War was a dangerous time. We now know that the most dangerous moments were not when we were all aware that world leaders stood on the brink, as during the Cuban Missile Crisis of October 1962. Over the decades, there were many accidents and miscalculations that came within a whisker of disaster. Taylor Downing is an entertaining speaker and his book “**The World at the Brink - 1983**” was published in*

2018 and makes fascinating reading. It reveals the extent to which World War 3 so nearly happened in 1983, based on much research drawing on information that has only come to light relatively recently. The human frailties that so often contribute to these near disasters are very reminiscent of the world portrayed in Dr. Strangelove!

*Prepared by Peter and Carry Gloyns,
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