

Gerald Lomas

Drama

1956-58

I was at Bretton Hall from 1956 to 1958, Movement and Drama being my major studies. I took part in the Mystery Plays, and created the character of Adam, dressed in a body stocking with the addition of a fig leaf at the appropriate moment.

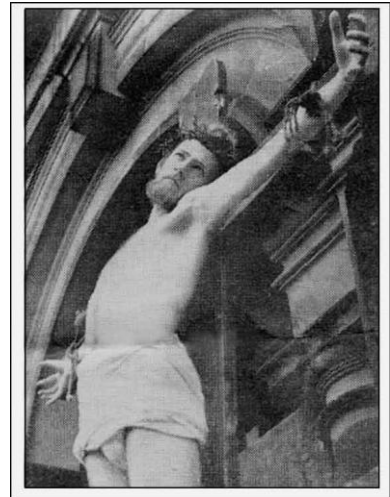
Characters in Martial Rose's Production of the Wakefield Mystery Plays at Bretton Hall in 1958.



Janet Stevenson & Gerald Lomas
(Eve) (Adam)



Michael Jackson
(God)



Donald Craig
(Jesus Christ)

Extract from the Barnsley Chronicle – July 12th, 1958

"... How well, too, did Adam and Eve portray the wonder of life and the fall into human sin..."



Full cast of the Wakefield Mystery Plays - 1958

I have memories of trips to Manchester in the company of Derek Walters who lived in Blakeley and was a Music student at Bretton Hall. He played a very convincing CAIN in the Wakefield Mystery Plays.

Our trips are memorable for their illicit nature, as we failed to sign the 'Exeat' book, and returned early on Monday mornings, to be concealed in the room of Jill Cardnell in Stable Block until it was safe for us to go to breakfast and prepare for lectures.

Parties in the cellars, some of them themed, come to mind: candle-light and nearly always gothic. One dreadful failure was the "Green" party – again organized by the outré Derek Walters – as all food and drink, as well as the décor were green. I'm sure you can imagine that little was eaten.

Some years later, at Easter, 1965, I directed the Wakefield Mystery Plays as a 'centre of interest' project, when I was the Head of Department for English at Otley Secondary School. The project involved 200+ students and a number of departments in the various branches of theatre. According to the Press this was a huge success, and the planned run of four nights had to be extended into the following week as demand for tickets exceeded all expectations.

In September the same year I took up the first of several lectureships. This one was at St. Martin's College of Education, Lancaster.

Gerry Lomas
2014