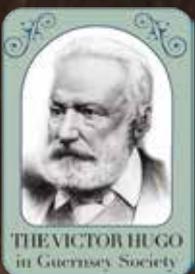


Victor Hugo

IN GUERNSEY



PROGRAMME

INTERNATIONAL WEEKEND CONFERENCE 22-24 JUNE 2018



Supported by the
Guernsey
Arts
Commission



Georges Victor-Hugo

Georges Victor-Hugo (1868-1925) was the son of Victor Hugo's eldest son, Charles, and the young Alice Lehaene, an orphan who had been under the guardianship of family friend and political activist Jules Simon.

Hugo doted on Georges and his sister Jeanne and after the tragic and unexpected death of their father at the age of only 44 Hugo became their guardian and played a large part in their upbringing. They are the subject of his immensely popular poetry collection, *L'Art d'être grand-père* (1877).

Left independently wealthy by his grandfather, Georges was a genial man and a talented artist, who was fond of Guernsey and spent summer holidays here. In 1902 he published a charming memoir of Victor Hugo, *My grandfather* (*Mon grand-père*, Paris: Calmann-Lévy), which was republished in 1931 with a selection of his paintings as illustrations.

At the outbreak of WWI he signed up immediately and after a controversial stint in the Censor's Office asked to be transferred to the front, where his teenaged son Jean was also serving. In 1915 Georges was awarded the Croix de Guerre for his brave conduct at the front. In 1916 his war drawings were published in *L'Illustration*, where they were made much of.

He died aged 57 in 1925. His war drawings were forgotten until the present century when interest in his art in general has grown.

This self-portrait is in the collection of the Candie Museum in Guernsey and is at present on display at the Priaulx Library. [DAB.]



The Victor Hugo in Guernsey Society

Victor Hugo wrote many of his greatest works on the island of Guernsey, a small British dependency 20 miles off the coast of France. Hugo was in exile, but despite his grief for his family and his homeland he was inspired by the beauty of the rocky landscape and seas that surrounded him to produce magnificent novels – including *Les Misérables*, and *Travailleurs de la mer* – artworks, poetry, and theatre.

It was the 150th anniversary of *Travailleurs* in 2016 that inspired Gregory Stevens Cox and Roy Bisson to found 'The Victor Hugo In Guernsey Society' and with the help of friends from Guernsey and France, organise a celebratory week-long Festival. There were exhibitions, performances, lectures, stamps, tours and visits with Islanders and guests spreading the word about Hugo's creative exile in our island.

Since then, the Society has organised visits, lectures, exhibitions and new publications - all stimulating world-wide interest among children and adults in Victor Hugo. In spring 2017 twenty Islanders visited Paris - including Place des Vosges, La Bibliothèque Nationale, and Le Sénat where private collections were opened to members.

The Victor Hugo In Guernsey Society thanks its many supporters and members and encourages you to visit its website where you can learn, participate and join in!

www.victorhugoinguernsey.gg



Welcome from The Victor Hugo In Guernsey Society

The Victor Hugo in Guernsey Society exists to promote and celebrate Victor Hugo and his link with the island of Guernsey.

Welcome then to our 2018 Victor Hugo in Guernsey Conference, where we will learn at the feet of an international group of experts more about this great author, poet, political activist and artist, who chose to make his home here in Guernsey, and gain yet more understanding of why we should be so proud of his connection with the island. We will see one of his plays in English for the first time, view some of the art he produced during his exile, and tour the island from which he drew so much inspiration.

Victor Hugo was a 19th-century giant, a hub of idealism, his progressive ideas radiating outwards across the world. Love him or loathe him, you could not ignore him. He excelled in everything he did, from poetry to art, and showed an extraordinary ability to synthesise the old and the new. His works are lucid with a modernity that makes them easily relatable. His political ideas still resonate.

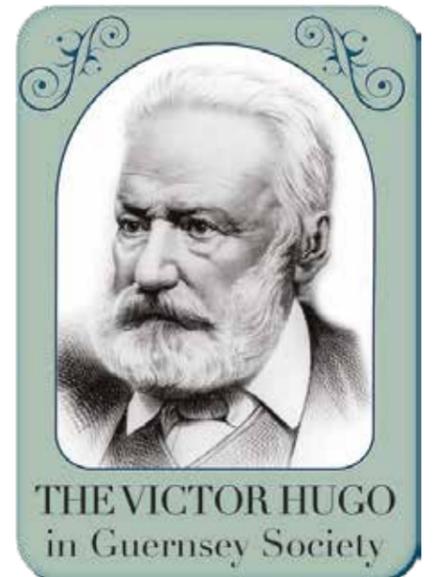
Pierre Larousse said in his *Great Universal Dictionary*: 'Victor Hugo repaid his exile in the Channel Islands in the currency of genius.' From the millions of readers of *Les Misérables* to the lovers of the musical, from those who are entranced by his art and moved by his poetry, to the thousands who queue outside Guernsey's Hauteville House every summer, he goes on giving today.

So, in the Hugolian spirit of peace and brotherhood, on behalf of The Victor Hugo in Guernsey Society I wish you all a most enjoyable weekend.

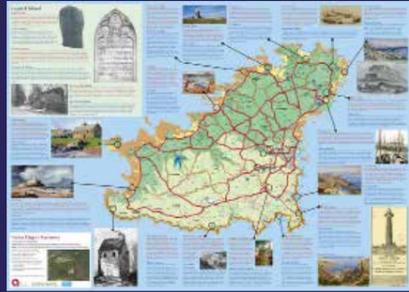
Sincerely,

Dinah Bott.
Chairman

Grand Dict Univ T17 Suppl 2 1866-77 re L'Archipel de la Manche :
'Victor Hugo a payé en monnaie de génie l'hospitalité jadis reçu dans ces îles de la Manche.'



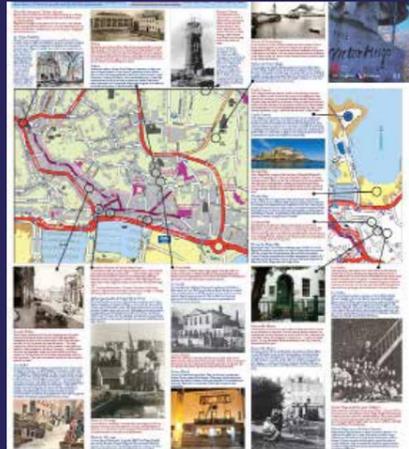
Conference Programme Friday 22 June 2018



Pre-Conference tours

Morning, 09.00 – 12.00. **Victor Hugo's Guernsey.**

An island coach tour with an accredited Hugo tour guide which will start at the Liberation monument, drive up the East coast, passing the Vale Castle to Houmet Paradis. Then on to L'Ancrese, before driving down the west coast to the Hanois Lighthouse and the Haunted House. Passing Sausmarez Manor on the return to Havelet Bay and St. Peter Port. Includes a Free Victor Hugo's Guernsey Map.



Afternoon, 14.00 - 16.00. **Victor Hugo's St. Peter Port.**

A walking tour with an accredited Hugo tour guide that will begin at the Tourist Information Office and take in the Harbour Quay and Town Church. The tour will include The Mignot Plateau before descending to the Market and central Town. The Greffe and The Old Prison site featured in Hugo's life and the walk will finish in Candie Gardens at the stone statue of the poet. Includes a Free Victor Hugo's Guernsey Map.

A Free exhibition "**Hauteville House & the Hugo Family**" will be open at the Priaulx Library. 10.00 – 17.00

5.30 pm **Conference opening Vin d'Honneur** at

The Candie Museum & Art Gallery.

This will be on the opening day of an exhibition,

Hugo-Visions of Exile of Victor Hugo's art drawn from

Maison Hugo at Place des Vosges and La Bibliothèque Nationale.

M. Gérard Audinet, Director of Maisons Hugo Paris and Guernsey an expert on Hugo's art will talk about the works on view.

By invitation only.

Supported by BNP Paribas.

7.30 pm **Conference Dinner** at Les Cotils Centre.

Harry Bound Room. Supported by Rickety Bridge Winery

A 3-course dinner, primarily for Conference delegates and Society members.

After dinner there will be an illustrated talk:

The Statue of Victor Hugo in Candie Gardens by the Society Honorary President Gérard Pouchain.



The statue of Victor Hugo in Candie Gardens

Jean Boucher's statue, praised unanimously by the critics when it was shown at the 1908 Salon of French Artists, was due to be erected in Lisbon. It was however inaugurated on the 7 July 1914 in Guernsey, with magnificent festivities celebrating the Entente Cordiale.

La Voix de Guernesey The Voice of Guernsey

150 years ago, the Bichard publishing house, in St Peter Port, printed *La Voix de Guernesey* by Victor Hugo. Written in the aftermath of Garibaldi's shocking defeat against the Pope (Pius IX) and the Emperor (Napoleon III) at the the Battle of Mentana, this almost forgotten poem pursues several objectives simultaneously and would prove to be most influential.

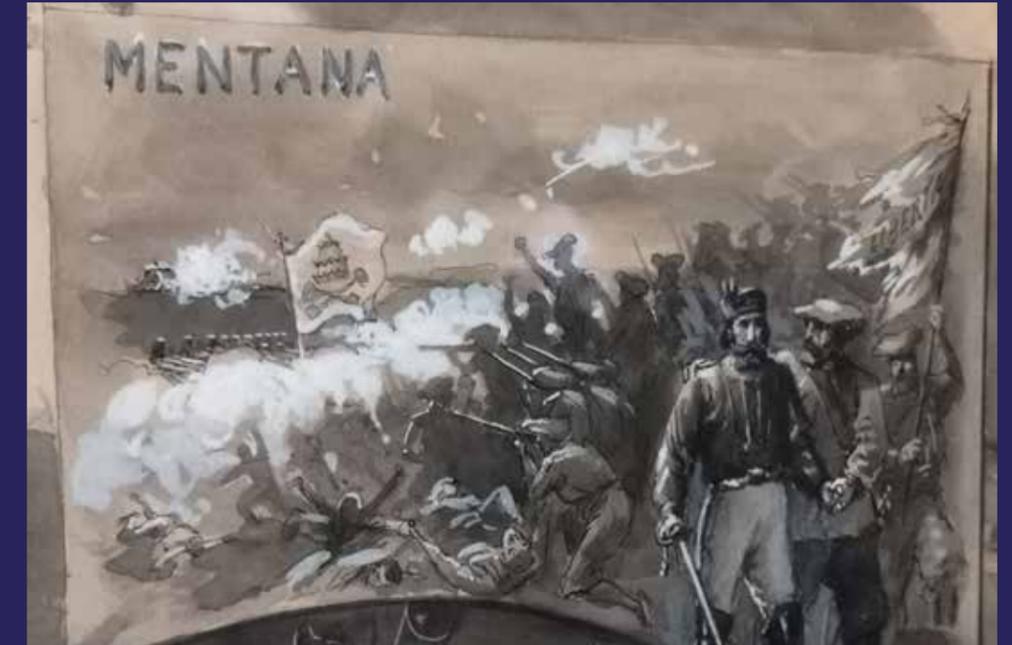
Conference Programme Saturday 23 June 2018

Seminar sessions,

Day 1 At Les Cotils Centre, Harry Bound Room

09.00 **Registration**, coffee or tea.

09.30 **La Voix de Guernesey (The voice of Guernsey)**. Jean-Marc Hovasse



10.30 Coffee or tea

11.00 **Victor Hugo's Stellar Poetry**. Karen Quandt

Hugo's enduring celebrity owes no small debt to his poems' dramatizations of astronomical phenomena. This paper argues, however, that his turn to astronomy as a science that informs his art is intimately connected to his evolving understanding of his surrounding natural environment - particularly that of Guernsey - as reflections of remote constellations or galaxies.

Looking at the influence of a "constellation" of celebrity astronomers (Bailly, Humboldt, Arago, Herschel) that aimed to educate through a more poetic language and a more accessible model of the universe, as well as his experiences of the natural landscape at Guernsey, I view Hugo's stars as performing a gravitational pull that attracts the most delicate flower or the merest grain of sand.

I demonstrate how Hugo's science-informed poetry creates an egalitarian cosmos in which the evocative power of the star is, in fact, a reminder of the earthly elements of nature at work all around us: "la nuit fait des distributions d'essence stellaire aux fleurs endormies" (Les Misérables, IV.3.III).

12.00 Book launch and presentation by Gregory Stevens Cox MBE

13.00 Finger buffet lunch

14.00 **The Theatre in Freedom, or The Power of the weak**. Florence Naugrette

15.00 Coffee or tea

The Theatre in Freedom, The Power of the weak

Victor Hugo wrote a set of unconventional and diverse types of plays, ranging from short monologues to lengthy melodramas, from the symbolist fantasies to social farces; these plays have one aspect in common: their heroes are the weak who, by means of their ingenuity and their outrage, alter their destiny and the world with their paradoxical power.

Hugo's sketch of Gavroche



Conference Programme Saturday 23 June 2018, continued

“L’Homme veut être eau courante,” or The Shape of Water According to Victor Hugo

Seas, rivers, and the water cycle itself embodied the ebb and flow that Hugo sensed in the world’s natural order. By looking at both the philosophical and artistic importance of water in his work, this talk explores the fluidity of Hugo’s Romantic imagination and its dissolving effects on his poetics.

Hugo’s sketch of St. Peter Port breakwater under construction

15.30 **The Shape of Water According to Victor Hugo.** Bradley Stephens



16.30 Seminars end.

18.00 **Pre-performance Barbecue**

2 course buffet supper in the grounds of Les Cotils.

19.10 Delegate & Speaker Transport from Les Cotils to
The Princess Royal Centre for the Performing Arts



World Première of *The Intervention* in English

At The Princess Royal Centre for the Performing Arts

19.30 **Introduction to *The Intervention*** by Florence Naugrette

19.45 **Songs from *Les Misérables*** by

The Guernsey Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Club.



JOHN FITZGERALD

20.15 Interval

20.45 ***The Intervention* in English**

21.30 Ends

22.00 Delegate & Speaker Transport back to St. Peter Port
Supported by Connie & Charles Wilkinson & C5 Alliance

Conference Programme Sunday 24 June 2018

Seminar sessions, Day 2

09.30 **The starlight of *Les Misérables*.** Fiona Cox

10.30 Coffee or tea

11.00 **Photographs of Victor Hugo in exile, 1852 - 1870.** J-M Gomis



The starlight of *Les Misérables*/ *Les Misérables* à la lumière des étoiles

What are the implications of the presence or absence of stars in the course of *Les Misérables*? Starlight acquires an ethical dimension, as the contemplation or disappearance of the stars accompanies the moral conflicts of various characters.

While such moments echo comparable epiphanies or disasters more broadly within Hugo’s oeuvre, such as *Les Contemplations*, this metaphysical dimension also serves to illuminate Hugo’s epic vision.

As Hugo expands the boundaries of the epic genre he pays homage to his literary ancestors, while also ensuring a literary apotheosis for writers of genius.

Photographs of Victor Hugo in exile, 1852 - 1870

The first known photographs of Victor Hugo were taken during his exile in Jersey and Guernsey. This photographic adventure lasted about ten years and gave birth to nearly 400 photographs (portraits and landscapes) taken by Charles Hugo and François-Victor Hugo (Victor Hugo’s sons) and by Auguste Vacquerie. It was decided to publish these photographs in a book entitled *Jersey And The Channel Islands...*

12.00 **Update on Hauteville House** by Gérard Audinet

13.00 Finger buffet lunch

14.00 **Question & Answer session** with all speakers.

15.00 Farewell speech by Society Chairman Dinah Bott

The conference will conclude by 15.15

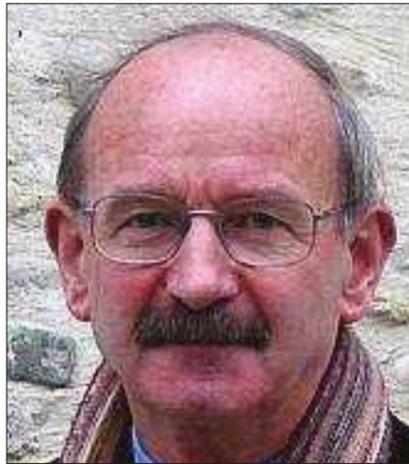




Speakers

Gérard Audinet

M Gérard Audinet, Director of the Maison Victor Hugo in Paris and Hauteville House in Guernsey for City of Paris - Paris Public Institution Museums since 2010. Previously, Curator, Museum of Modern Art of the City of Paris July 1991 - August 2010



Gérard Pouchain

Honorary Président of The Victor Hugo in Guernsey Society

Gérard Pouchain is professor and associate researcher at the University of Rouen, Vice-President of the Victor Hugo Society of Friends, and a Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur. He is the acclaimed author of *In the Footsteps of Victor Hugo in the Channel Islands*, which explores the caricatures of Victor Hugo and how the world press viewed Victor Hugo during his exile.

He is also the biographer of Juliette Drouet and the author of several books on nineteenth-century authors and film synopses of Victor Hugo, Maupassant and Maurice Leblanc.



Jean-Marc Hovasse

Jean-Marc Hovasse is the Director of research at the CNRS, head of the Autobiography and Correspondence team at the Institute of Modern Texts and Manuscripts, and chaired the International Society of Artistic, Literary and Scientific Genetics.

The first volume of his biography of Victor Hugo *Before the exile, 1802-1851*, earned him the CNRS bronze medal and the second *During Exile I, 1851-1864*, was selected among the twenty best books of the year 2008 by the weekly Point; the third is in preparation.



Karen Quandt

Dr. Karen Quandt, Byron K. Trippet Assistant Professor of French, primarily researches 19th-century French poetry, with a focus on the intersections between visual art and poetry as well as on landscape representation and environmental themes. She has published a number of articles and chapters on Victor Hugo, which examine the representation of nature, the influence of natural history, or the role of the garden in Hugo's poetry as well as in *Les Misérables*. Dr Quandt holds a Ph.D. in French from Princeton University and a M.A. in French and B.A. in Art History from the University of Notre Dame.

Speakers

Florence Naugrette

Florence Naugrette is a Professor of French literature, history and theory of theatre at the Paris-Sorbonne University.

Her past posts include the University of Rouen, University Paris III, and Stanford University. She directs the electronic edition of the Letters of Juliette Drouet to Victor Hugo. The website features over 6,000 of Juliette's letters and will eventually publish Juliette's entire epistolary diary from 1833 -1883.

More information at: <http://www.juliettedrouet.org/>



Bradley Stephens

Honorary Vice-President of The Victor Hugo in Guernsey Society

Dr. Bradley Stephens is Senior Lecturer / Associate Professor in French at the University of Bristol and holds a PhD from the University of Cambridge. His teaching and research focuses on French literature and philosophy from the nineteenth century to the present day, with a particular interest in Victor Hugo's career and its influence. He has published widely in these fields, including his recent co-edited book *Les Misérables and its Afterlives: Between Page, Stage, and Screen*, and he is currently finalising a new English biography of Hugo for Reaktion Books' 'Critical Lives' series.



Fiona Cox

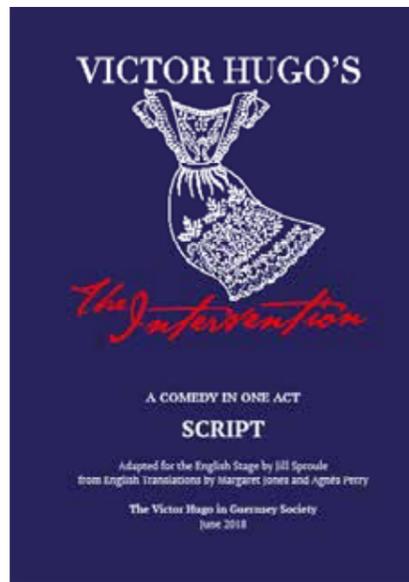
Dr Fiona Cox is a Senior Lecturer in French at the University of Exeter. She has published widely on Hugo's reworking of the classical tradition, with an especial emphasis on his transformation of epic conventions which foreshadow the preoccupations and anxieties of the modern novel in his hands. She is the author of three monographs on the reception of classical literature in modern and contemporary literature, and is Series Editor (with Robin Howells) of the Peter Lang series French Studies of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries.



Jean-Marc Gomis

Jean-Marc Gomis produces the fortnightly newsletter, 'Hugo: A Sales Report,' published on the website of the Groupe Hugo. A specialist in photographs of Victor Hugo, he is the author, in collaboration with Gérard Pouchain, of the catalogue for the Victor Hugo, portraits photographiques, portraits-charge exhibition, which took place at Maison Vacquerie – Musée Victor Hugo at Villequier in May-September 2012. He is in the process of preparing a major work of reference on Victor Hugo and photography for publication in 2018.





The Intervention & Guernsey

Victor Hugo found time and inspiration in Guernsey to create many things: poetry, novels, political pamphlets, drawings of striking modernity, interior decoration of the most extraordinary kind. He had at one time planned to build a theatre in his garden at Hauteville House to stage another and less well-known part of his exile output—the Théâtre en Liberté.

Theatre in 19th-century France reached a wide and diverse audience. In the 1830s Hugo had used historical drama to comment upon the political situation. While in exile in Guernsey he began to write plays of a somewhat different kind that reflected and responded critically to contemporary French theatrical style, which itself tended towards the lighter genres favoured by the regime. Elements of this, Hugo's 'Second theatrical period' are innovative and surprisingly modern. He found it unacceptable that in France he was subject to unofficial censorship, and thus in principle did not want these pieces to be produced there. Although he would have been quite prepared for them to be put on elsewhere, this never in the end came to pass, and the plays were not performed or published until after his death.

The Victor Hugo in Guernsey Society has chosen one of the most accessible of these plays, *The Intervention*, to present in English for the first time at their Conference in June 2018. Help in understanding the background to the play was provided by Florence Naugrette of the Paris-Sorbonne University, whose edition of the play with its accompanying notes published by Folioplus (Paris: Editions Gallimard, 2012) we recommend for further reading, and who kindly agreed to introduce the play on its first English performance in Guernsey. Two members of the Society, one a native English speaker, one a native French speaker, translated Hugo's text, and their translations were then adapted into a script. All these materials will be made available in an online archive.

Hugo as always crafts a work that despite being intensely personal still carries a universal message. This short one-act play with its five scenes, each of which can be thought of as a stand-alone playlet, its four characters, each with a distinct personality, and its straightforward social commentary means that it is very suitable for schoolchildren from the age of about thirteen: it even has some singing and dancing. It also lends itself to more subtle interpretation and its socio-historical, theatrical and literary aspects can be studied in the later school years. Its being written in Guernsey and its autobiographical aspects only add to its interest. The Victor Hugo in Guernsey Society intends to produce materials for schools based on the play, making the script freely available, and to create an online archive to include a film of the première and other associated materials which will be free to access.

Dinah Bott, Chairman



Summary of the Plot

Life in a Paris garret is hard for Edmond and Marcinelle, artisans who work to provide luxuries - lace work and painted fans - for the rich. They love each other, but they are struggling to make ends meet and contact with these finely dressed clients is a cause of anxiety to both. Edmond is a proud revolutionary who rails against handsomely-dressed dandies, but Marcinelle knows him better than that: he is jealous. Marcinelle defends herself: she is innocent and honest. It turns out that they are both right about the other but wrong about themselves.

Whilst Marcinelle goes out to deliver her work, Eurydice, an actress and courtesan, comes into their humble home to collect her lace shawl. Mesmerised by her charms, Edmond hears his wife returning and he makes off in fright. By the time he returns, Marcinelle has fallen under the spell of Eurydice's lover, Baron Gerprivac.

The young couple quarrel bitterly and agree to part, but there is a last minute twist, an intervention ...

Jill Sproule, Director

Victor Hugo's 'Theatre In Exile' An introduction by Florence Naugrette

The theatre Victor Hugo wrote during his exile was imaginative and fanciful. He interacted in a satirical way with contemporary Parisian productions, with which his friends kept him up to date.

Very diverse in form (from a brief poetical monologue to a large-scale prose melodrama via a symbolist 'fairy-play' and socially-relevant vaudeville), these plays, which would be later collected together as 'Theatre in freedom' (the title itself cocks a snook at exile) have a common theme which aligns them with another work written during the same period, *La Légende des Siècles*: both feature as heroes society's powerless – children, beggars, workers, old people, prostitutes, witches, exiles, forest spirits – who, thanks to their intelligence, their sincerity, their indignation, and the energy of their despair, find the power, paradoxically, to change their future and that of the world.



The first presentation on the English stage on 23rd June 2018 at The Princess Royal Centre for Performing Arts, Guernsey, by The Victor Hugo in Guernsey Society

Cast and crew:

Characters

Edmond Gombert Michael Sullivan
 Marcinelle Gombert Lydia Pugh
 Mademoiselle Eurydice Martine Wallbridge
 Baron de Gerprivac Chris Oliver
 James, a young footman Marcus Meredith

Production

Directed & adapted for the stage Jill Sproule
 Producer and Designer Chris Oliver
 Stage Manager Emma Hodge
 Properties Fleur Rowe
 Costumes Jill Sproule
 Set Production & Crew Stuart Horsepool
 Andrew Gethin-Jones
 Lighting Samantha Le Noury
 Sound Russell Kellaway
 Music composed and performed by
 Michael Sproule

The production team would also like to thank:

Dave Hodge, Sound effects and projection.
 Clare Milner, Props.
 Margaret Jones, Agnès Perry, translators.
 Jenny Falla, Alpha Wearing, Costume.
 Guernsey Amateur Dramatic & Operatic Club for rehearsal space.
 Pierre Bisson, Videographer & Photographer.
 John Fitzgerald, Photographer (Les Misérables).
 Chloe Mellor, aged two years.

EST
1797

RICKETY BRIDGE

W I N E R Y



Rickety Bridge is an historic Franschhoek wine estate, founded in 1797 by the widow Paulina de Villiers, and set in lush vineyards shadowed by the majestic Dassenberg and Wemmershoek Mountains. Cross the 'rickety bridge' into a haven in the vines and revel in this multi-faceted offering of fine wine, delectable cuisine and luxury accommodation.

Today Rickety Bridge is home to a modern boutique winery producing world class wines, a bistro style restaurant, romantic wedding and function venue and a luxurious 4 star guest house set in the original Cape Dutch Manor House.

Its flagship wines, the Paulina's Reserve range, proudly bear the name of the original owner of the property. These are complimented by the Rickety Bridge classic range, and both have received numerous accolades and awards in recent years in recognition of the quality produced by young winemaker Wynand Grobler.

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