

Herne Bay Little Theatre Newsletter

JANUARY 2010

Letter from the Chair



A very happy, if cold, New Year to you all! Whilst the extreme weather conditions have required us to postpone some things, I am reminded how fortunate we are in performing our Christmas production in December and not January. We usually miss the worst of the weather but for those struggling to put on Panto now, whether amateur or professional, this snow must be devastating – both financially and artistically. My heart goes out to them. Our Mulled Wine and Mince Pies Social before Christmas was also hit by biting cold weather, which affected numbers but was thoroughly enjoyed by those of us who made it – and our thanks go to Sharon, Hugh and Eloise for the work they put in under particularly trying conditions.

In December I had a couple of business meetings in London and, as is my custom now, if the meeting finishes early enough, I try and catch a West End show before catching a late train home. I saw “The Shawshank Redemption” now unfortunately finished its run, and “The War Horse”. This is a National Theatre production though it is on at the New London Theatre (I was lucky enough to get the last returned ticket for that performance although there were many more queuing). Both plays were absolutely excellent and Madame Editor asked me to write a review of either or both. Unfortunately I didn’t have time right then and I don’t remember enough detail now to do them justice but I do think it would be brilliant if any members go and see a performance, amateur or professional, if they would like to write a short review for the newsletter, especially if it is something still running that you might either recommend (or not!). It would also be very helpful if you see any other entries in the KDA festival to let us know what you think. Clare will give a guideline for length. The newsletter has traditionally been mainly Board members passing on info, which is fine, but it would be so much nicer to have contributions from lots of members.

Finally, I said I would have details of a Spring Draw in this newsletter but it has taken longer to renew our Lotteries License with the Council than I had envisaged. It will happen but will be yet another short postponement but I cannot blame the snow for this!

Judy

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth Theatre

I’m pleased to say that the Youth Theatre have managed to successfully cast their next production ‘After the Storm’, albeit with a little tweaking to get the right fit, and rehearsals are now underway.

Production dates are 15th—17th April.

The cast is as follows:

TUCKER	Steph Jones
GRACE	Lisa MacDonald
JACK	Toby Mercer
EVA	Jessie Kingshott
MAC	Kim Roberts
IVY	Paige Browning
MEGAN	Sophie Foad
CHARLIE	Shanon Woolls
HOLLY	Rhiannon Kupperblatt-Wilson

TABLE MANNERS

Rehearsals were stalled due to the snow, so unfortunately we’ve had to move the dates of this production to the **22nd - 27th February**. Please amend the dates in your diary, and on any posters that you display for us.

FIRE ALARM!

Our new Fire Alarm System was fitted at the theatre in time for the Panto so would anyone who works Front of House, or as a Production Assistant or Stage Manager for any of the plays at the theatre please take the time to acquaint themselves with its operation. Details are in the ‘kiosk’ area en route to the lighting box. Thank you!



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DRAMA NEWS

The programme for 2011 is currently be discussed and we intend to revert to a former pattern of programming that would have benefits for the club and also for our audiences.

The programme suggested would be as follows:

February – Comedy

April – Festival play

End of April – Youth Theatre

June – Farce/Agatha Christie or similar

End July – Straight play

2nd. week August – Youth Theatre

October – Mystery or serious play

December – Pantomime

The drama sub-committee's recent discussion for plays has produced a considerable list, a sample of which includes: Matthew White, Thomas Hardy (adaptation) of *Far from the Madding Crowd*; Agatha Christie's *The Verdict*, or *Then There Were None*, or *The Unexpected Guest*; T S Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral*; Ira Levine's *Death Trap*; J B Priestly's *Dangerous Corner*, or *When We Are Married*,

or *Time and the Conways*; Noel Coward's *Hay Fever*, or *The Vortex*, or *Private Lives*; Lionel Bart's *Fings Ain't What They Used To Be*; Alan Ayckbourn's *Living Together*; Federico Garcia Lorca's *Blood Wedding* and Brian Friel's *Dancing at Lughnasa*.

Would all directors interested in the 2011 programme make themselves known together with their own suggestions under the categories as outlined above. The productions will be selected from however long the list is and submitted to the board for approval by the 15th of February.

ONE ACT PLAYS: It is intended to organise an evening of two 'one act' plays to be combined with a social occasion and would ask any directors interested to approach the board with their submissions. To perform on a level playing field all plays should be presented under the same conditions, for example, using 'blacks' and with a minimal cast.

PANTOMIME 2010: Various pantomimes are currently being discussed and the 'winner' will be announced shortly.

Tony Jose

REVIEWS

'Robin Hood - The Panto'

If You Go Down to the Woods Today... "With an all new script from Christine Ramsay and under the able direction of Tony Jose the band of merry men and women Playmakers gave a fun night out for all the family with this year's annual pantomime "Robin Hood". Breaking with tradition slightly this year, principal boy was indeed a boy and Calum Syers handled both the audience and romance equally well. Maid Marian was a plucky independent woman played by newcomer Daisy Fleckney. Robins

fellow outlaws had the best musical moment of the night, although those with a sensitive disposition maybe should have been warned to overt their eyes during the "Men in Tights" number! Swapping his usual tights for leather Alan Ralphs gave us his creepy Richard III Sheriff that provided enough "evil" to have everyone booing and hissing at him all night. Dick Langridge took the role of Dame and gave lots of comic cheek to the audience. Prince John was played completely for laughs and aided by his

fellow goons Paul Bergman, Shelagh Scarborough and Pat Dixon did an excellent job. The rest of the cast was made up by panto regulars who provided singing and dancing support with their usual enthusiasm. With bright sets, lovely costumes and a large supporting cast behind the scenes and front of house, once again the Playmakers proved that great teamwork result in great shows."

Marc Hamilton

Submitting Reviews

If you've been to the West End recently, or to see another production, particularly one that has entered into the Kent Drama Festival, we'd love to hear from you! Or indeed, if you'd like to submit a review for one of our own productions, we'd also be very happy to receive those too! In the event that I get a lot of mail one month, I may not be able to publish everything sent in but until that becomes an issue, I will endeavour to do so! Please try to keep any reviews 200-300 words in length, and make sure to include when and where you saw it, the full title, and your own name so we can credit your for it.

With thanks, *Editor*

UPCOMING EVENTS

A Murder Is Announced:

Due to adverse weather conditions, the murder mystery fundraiser that was planned for the 9th of January has been postponed to Saturday the 30th of January. Although it was booked up previously, it is possible that one or two tickets may become available if some people are unable to make the revised date, so do contact Sharon for availability if you're interested.

Wine and Wisdom:

We're running a wine and wisdom quiz night on Saturday the 6th of March. There will be eight people to a table, and these always book up fast so please contact Sharon a.s.a.p. on the phone number above to reserve your place.

Advanced Notice:

We've got another social fundraiser planned for Saturday 15th May. Get your ration books at the ready - we're having an

end-of-the-war party! A themed evening of entertainment. More details will follow in the next newsletter - in the meantime, please keep this date free!

Editor



AUDITIONS

'When the Reaper Calls

A comedy thriller by Peter Colley

Sunday 14th February, 2.30pm

Victor and Harlan are two philosophy professors who have been friends, rivals and inveterate pranksters since their student days, but things have changed. Victor has turned into a wild hedonist in keeping with his belief that "when you're dead, you're dead", while Harlan has become a dull stoic leading a strict unemotional existence in preparation for the afterlife. They are on holiday with their long-suffering wives in the Canadian wilderness, and Victor has devised a prank which he believes will prove the falseness of Harlan's philosophy and shake him out of his passionless state - but the prank goes horribly wrong. After a heated argument a shot is fired, and one of the professors lies dead. This is far from the end however, it is just the beginning of a nightmare.....or is it?

Characters include: 2 males 30's to 50's, 2 females 30's to 50's and 1 male or female (age between 20 and 60)

Production dates are 7th - 12th June 2010.

NEXT PRODUCTION

Box Office for this production is now open, please note that the dates have now *changed* to the **22nd - 27th February!** Tickets are £7.50.

HERNE BAY LITTLE THEATRE
PLAYMAKERS
presents

TABLE MANNERS
by Alan Ayckbourn

Monday 22nd to Saturday 27th February 2010
at 7.30pm

To book call our Box Office on 01227 366004

Herne Bay Little Theatre - 44 Bullers Avenue, Herne Bay
Registered charity no: 289287 Credit & Debit Cards Accepted
WWW.HERNEBAYLITTLETHEATRE.COM

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 30th January	Revised date for the Murder Mystery Evening, 7.30pm
Saturday 6th February	Coffee Morning 10.30am – 12pm.
Sunday 14th February	Audition for ‘When the Reaper Calls’ by Peter Colley, 2.30pm.
Monday 22nd – Saturday 27th February	‘Table Manners’ by Alan Ayckbourn, starting at 7.30pm each night.
Saturday 6th March	Coffee Morning 10.30am – 12pm.
Saturday 6th March	Wine and Wisdom fundraiser evening in the Greenroom, 7.30pm.
Monday 22nd – Saturday 27th March	‘Strictly Murder’ by Brian Clemens, starting at 7.30pm each night.
Saturday 3rd April	Coffee Morning 10.30am – 12pm.
Thursday 15th – Saturday 17th April	Playmakers Youth Theatre presents ‘After the Storm’ starting at 7.30pm each night.
Saturday 1st May	Coffee Morning 10.30am—12pm.
Saturday 15th May	End-of-the-War party – themed fundraiser evening. More details to follow.

At the West End this Winter...

‘The Misanthrope’ opened at the Comedy Theatre just before Christmas, and is running until 13th March. If Keira Knightley’s (‘Pirates of the Caribbean’) stage debut isn’t enough to get you over to see this, the RSC’s Damian Lewis (‘Band of Brothers’, ‘The Forsyte Saga’) certainly should be! This production is a modern-day adaptation of Moliere’s 17th Century French classic – catch it while you can!

Meanwhile, if you’ve been following the steady rise to fame of local celebrity Gemma Arterton, (‘James Bond: Quantum of Solace’), you might be pleased to know that she’s appearing at the Garrick Theatre alongside Rupert Friend (‘The Young Victoria’), and Laurence Olivier award-winner Tamzin Greig (‘Green Wing’) in **‘The Little Dog Laughed’** which makes it’s West End debut on Wednesday 20th January straight from Broadway, and runs until Saturday 10th April.

If you missed Ian McKellan in **‘Waiting for Godot’** last season, you should be pleased to know that it’s back with new additions to the cast, principally the RSC’s brilliant Roger Rees replacing Patrick Stewart as Vladimir. This one opens on Thursday 21st of January back at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket and runs for 11 weeks only!

Finally, Andrew Lloyd Webber’s much anticipated new musical **‘Love Never Dies’**, a sequel to the brilliant **‘Phantom of the Opera’** has already made over £8 million in advance ticket sales, and opens for previews at the Adelphi Theatre from 20th February, so get in fast if you want to see this!

Welcome!

It is my pleasure to welcome Brian and Kathleen Bailey, and Christine Dolby as associates, and Sophie Foad, Paige Browning, and Rhiannon Kupperblatt-Wilson to our youth theatre! Also, just a gentle reminder to all current members, subs for this year are due by the 1st of April. Thank you! *Mark Ravenwood*

Remember Doug Little?

Christine and Sid Russell travelled out to Perth before Christmas and met up with Doug Little, who some of you may remember as a long-standing member of HBLT before he emigrated to Australia 6 years ago to be with family.

“I received a charming email from Doug and Ursula saying they would love to see us, and they picked us up from our hotel and drove us all round Perth and the surrounding beautiful areas, and we lunched at a hotel at Scarborough Beach before going to their home for tea. It was great to see them again, and their lovely home, and catch up on all the memories of Herne Bay Little Theatre. It was lovely to see them both and a great start to our holiday. Doug and Ursula sent their good wishes to all HBLT members who knew them.” – *Christine Russell*

Get Involved!

If you have something you would like to submit for the next newsletter, please send it to Clare by Saturday 20th February! Thank you!