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HBLT

Messenger

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

NOV/DEC 2010

A View From The Chair



Heritage Open Days: The talk and slide show given by Mike Bundock, Curator of the Herne Bay Victorian Society on 10th September was a great success. It was an extremely interesting evening with an added bonus of a full house! We also received several visitors on the Saturday for the open day. Many thanks to those who gave up their time to help.

Tickets for our Christmas Draw are now on sale and there is an added prize of a Balloon Ride for four on top of the £200 first prize. Tickets are £1 each and can be obtained from Pat Dixon. The "Draw"2 takes place on Thursday 16th, December, 7.30pm in the

Green Room.

For those who didn't manage to see "A View from the Bridge" by Arthur Miller you missed an excellent production. Many congratulations to Christine Russell and the cast for all the hard work that went into this play. Our next production of course, is the Pantomime 'Dick Whittington' which I am told tickets are already selling. Don't miss out!

Finally, we have had complaints made through Canterbury City Council concerning lights being left on at the Theatre. We need to get on with our neighbours so please ensure that the responsible person checks that all lights, inside and out are switched off before they leave. Many thanks.



Tony Jose

Website - www.hernebaylittletheatre.com



Craft Fair

HBLT craft club held their first anniversary craft exhibition on Saturday 23rd October. It was hugely successful! The green room was packed almost constantly all day, and the club raised lots of lovely funds for our theatre! A stunning array of needlework and crafts were on display. It also introduced lots of new people to the theatre. Congratulations to Freda and all her team on a fabulous effort on our behalf.



Sharon Acton

Reviews

Congratulations to Christine Russell and her cast “**A View From a Bridge**” by Arthur Miller. It was a *tour de force* of acting from the entire cast. The set looked authentic and the costumes were perfect for the period. The subtle lighting and appropriate music added to the atmosphere of 1950’s America. Well done to all.

*A good review
from the critics is
just a stay of
execution!*
Dustin Hoffman



Social Events

Saturday 23rd October (10:00-4:00 p.m.) - an exhibition of patchwork and crafts to celebrate the first anniversary of HBLT patchwork and craft group. **Free Entry.** There will be refreshments, a raffle and an opportunity to get some early Christmas shopping!

Early November - fundraising quiz with a twist! **Around the World in 80 minutes!** Get your teams at the ready (tables of 8). Watch the website for further details or contact Sharon Acton.

Thursday 16th December (7:30 p.m.) - Christmas Social – mulled wine and mince pies. The Christmas Prize Draw will be drawn during the evening and we hope it will be a celebrity prize draw but watch this space! Everybody is welcome. Our legendary mulled wine will be hot and for those of you wishing for something different, the bar will be open.

As these events are always popular please phone to state your interest/reserve your place.

Sharon Acton

Treasury



“A View From A Bridge”

Income: £2,084.00

Expenses: £1,189.57

Profit: £ 894.43

(Interim figures only)

Subscriptions

Subscriptions for 2010/2011 were due on 1st April.

If you have not paid yet please can you do so as soon as possible.

*"If you want
to feel rich
just count
everything
you have that
money can't
buy"*

Pat Dixon

AGM

Following the AGM the Board responsibilities are as follows:

Chair: Tony Jose

Company Secretary/Minuting Secretary: Philip Robinson

Treasurer/Membership/Box Office Manager: Pat Dixon

Drama, Publicity/Publicity Officer/Press Releases: Christine Ramsey

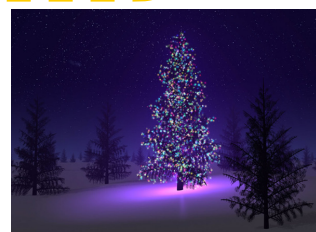
Health & Safety: Alan Ralphs, **Publicity:** Paul Lloyd

Housekeeping/Social Secretary/Lettings/LTG Rep: Sharon Acton

Front of House Manager: Jenny Manners

Theatre Manager: David Dixon (co-opted)

Drama Committee: Christine Ramsey (Chair), David Manners, Alan Ralphs, Jane Pottle & Jenny Manners



Health & Safety Policy

**Accidents Big
Or Small,
Avoid Them
All**

In the last Newsletter I briefly described the overall content of our Health & Safety Policy.

It now seems like a good idea to me to describe in a bit more detail the individual sections in the Policy; and I think that one section per Newsletter will be quite enough for all of us.

So here we go:-

RISK ASSESSMENTS

This section is the longest in the Policy and has been put together by looking at all the activities which happen in the theatre (and outside, when we venture into the countryside to perform) in order to produce and perform a play or a social event.

From this we have listed the various risks which can occur and put them under general location or descriptive headings. (e.g. – Electrical Safety; Stage Areas; Front of House etc.).

We have tried to use a sensible approach and have included only the more common risks, together with the action that the club has already taken to minimise that risk, and the actions to be taken by the Responsible Person running the activity.

Responsible Persons are expected to read through these Risk Assessments and to understand the risks relevant to the activities in which they are involved before they start out on their play rehearsals, set builds or social events etc.

If the Responsible Person feels that there might be some new risk within their planned activity then please contact either Gary Pottle or myself, so that an assessment can be discussed.

Responsible Persons include play director, stage manager, lighting/sound managers, set builder, front of house manager, social event organiser and private hirer.

Most of these risks are already well known to us, and in the past a responsible approach towards safety has usually been taken by members; all we have done now is to put it down on paper to concentrate minds that safety, and safe methods of working, are important to all in the theatre.

The important thing for all of us to remember is that we must act responsibly and work in a safe manner at all times in the theatre; if we don't, then it might affect not only ourselves, but the safety of all our friends.

Alan Ralphs



Films at the Theatre



Playmaker**S**Film

Playmakers Film

We are pleased to announce that our latest film 'Look at Life – Meals on Wheels' won the best comedy at the Kent Film Festival. We were very pleased with this result as it's the first competition the film had been entered in. We will be showing it along with the others we have made, hopefully just after Christmas.

We have just finished a light hearted short film for the 2Days Later competition, as the competition title suggests, the film had to be shot and edited in 2 days, which is a bit of a challenge!

There are a number of projects in the pipeline which we hope to start shortly. We are always looking for new ideas and help.

Playmakers Cinema – Films at the Theatre

The cinema is now up and running and has attracted several bookings, we've had two film premieres from local film makers, the first from Russell Gomm and the second from club members Andrew Kent and Beth Williams. Both premieres were well attended and both received good press coverage. Andrew Kent's and Beth Williams' film 'Marty's Project' was a very slick and ambitious project, the film, just short of an hour, is a light hearted comedy drama about a film director reluctantly returning to his past success with a science fiction series, who gets talked into resurrecting the show.

Seeing as the film was made with no budget, it just goes to show what is possible with limited resources and hard work; some of playmakers members appear as extras in the film and the theatre also plays a part.

The theatre has also been hired by 'People United' who have been putting on various events in Herne Bay over the year. We were also involved in filming some of the events.

Film Nights

There will be a season of films showing at the theatre on Friday nights throughout November. The programme has not been finalised yet, but the first film to be shown on Friday 5th November 2010 will be '**Brief Encounter**'. Tickets are £4.00 and the film starts at 7:30pm

I am also trying to plan a Norman Wisdom film weekend towards the end of November, please visit the club website for details of all films.

If you would like to be added to the film emailing list then please email philip@pbr.org.uk

If you are interested in helping with the planning, programming and running of the cinema, then we would be very interested in hearing from you.

Philip Robinson



Drama News

It was extremely sad to hear of the death of Eileen Fothergill. Eileen had been a member of Herne Bay Little Theatre for many years and was usually to be found backstage working with props. Eileen was wonderful at finding the right prop for productions and had amassed a large collection of those items which are so necessary for period plays. However, Eileen was also incredibly kind and supportive of the Youth group at the theatre and gave generously of her time – even taking a part in one production where someone had to withdraw. Many of the young people, who are now young adults, will remember her with great affection, as do many other members of The Little Theatre.

Christine Ramsay

**What is drama
but life with
the dull bits
cut out.**

**Alfred
Hitchcock**

2nd, 3rd, 4th, 7th to 11th December 2010

"Dick Whittington"

written by Alan Frayn and directed by Tony Jose

Performances start at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are £5.50 (children) and £7.50 (adults).
Matinee Performances take place on Saturday 4th and 11th December.

14th to 19th February 2011

"Living Together"

Written by Alan Ayckbourn and directed by David Manners.

Performances start at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are £7.50.



Auditions

The Ghost Train by Arnold Ridley

11th to 16th April 2011

Directed by Christine Ramsay

Arnold Ridley OBE (1896-1984), the British playwright and actor, is probably best remembered as author of the play *The Ghost Train*, and for his roles of Private Godfrey in *Dad's Army* and Doughy Hood in the radio soap *The Archers*.

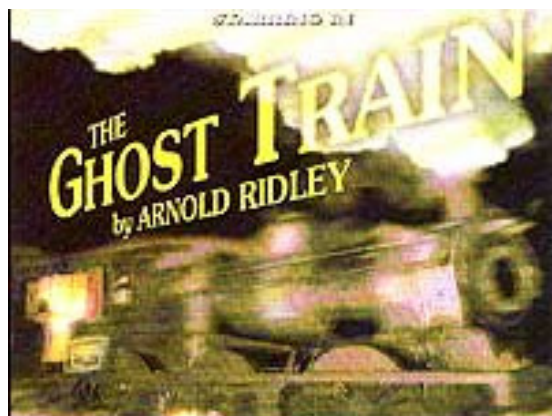


Born in Bath in 1896 and educated at Bristol University, Ridley seemed destined to become a stage actor, making his first appearance in a production of *Prunella* at Bristol's Theatre Royal in 1914, but, following injuries received during the First World War, he was forced to put his acting career on hold and instead turned to playwriting.

Ridley's most famous play is *The Ghost Train*. The first performance of the play was at Brighton's Theatre Royal in 1925. In an article published in 1933 he revealed how the terrifying sound effects of the ghostly train were created: "The effect itself was perfectly simple, being merely a judicious mixture of thunder sheets, compressed air, a garden roller, and pieces of sandpaper and wire brushes combined with a kettle-drum!"

The plot introduces a group of passengers who are stranded at a small Cornish wayside station after they have missed their connection because a very silly young man has accidentally pulled the emergency cord on their train. Despite the Stationmaster's weird stories of a Ghost Train, they decide to ignore his warnings and stay the night in the waiting room. Soon they regret this decision as ghostly and not so ghostly apparitions materialise.....

THE CAST, in order of their appearance, descriptions of Playing Age serve as a guide only and can be found overleaf.



Auditions — Ghost Train contd.

**Words create
lies pain can
be trusted!**

Saul Hodgkin: (The Station Master – assists the stranded passengers to the Station Waiting Room & delivers the eerie story of the Ghost Train) Age 50 to 70

Richard Winthrop: (Passenger & a rather bad tempered upper middle class gentleman who is unhappy with the stupid antics of the culprit who stopped the train leaving them stranded. His marriage to Elsie is at breaking point) Playing Age 30 to 50.

Elsie Winthrop: (Passenger & Richards wife. She is prepared to criticise her husband for his attitude and won't put up with him. She won't let the ghost story frighten her either!) Age 25 to 40.

Charles Murdoch: (Passenger & Newlywed, simple & honest. Puts on a brave face in view of the fact that their honeymoon is being spooked by ghostly stories) Age 25 to 40.

Peggy Murdoch: (Passenger & Newlywed, again similar character to that of her husband Charles & does not make too much of a fuss over the honeymoon delay, even though slightly nervous of the surrounding events) Playing Age 20 to 30.

Miss Bourne: (Passenger. Middle aged spinster, a little eccentric with a parrot in a cage. Has some very witty lines & a long rest on stage!) Age 50 to 65.

Teddie Deakin: (Passenger & the upper class fool who is responsible for stranding the passengers at the ghostly station) Age 25 to 40.

Julia Price: (Unexpected visitor to the station (in Act 2) in a distressed state whilst trying to escape the clutches of her Brother & the Doctor.) Age 20 to 40.

Herbert Price: (Suspicious character in pursuit of his sister Julia) Age 35 to 60.

Dr Sterland: (Price's accomplice in the pursuit of Julia) Age 50 to 65.

Jackson: (Policeman, only a few lines & appears towards the end of Play) Age 30 to 60.

Policeman: (Non-speaking role at the end of the Play. Could be played by a member of the crew) any Playing age.

**The audition will be held on Sunday 19th December at 2.30 pm
Scripts will be available soon**



Auditions

The audition for "Living Together" by Alan Ayckbourn (to be performed 14th to 19th February 2011) will be held on Sunday, 21st November 2010 at 3pm in the Green Room.

Reading copies are available in an envelope in the kitchen. Please sign out if you borrow a copy.



Christmas Quiz

1. Which English actor starred in "The Muppet Christmas Carol"?
2. Where was it always Winter but never Christmas?
3. According to Folklore a windy Christmas means what?
4. Which book begins "Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without any presents"?
5. Which song was a UK Christmas No. 1 for Michael Jackson in 1995?
6. What famous comedian died at Christmas 1977?
7. What Dr Seuss character steals Christmas?
8. While experimenting with speeding up a tape, David Seville created three voice characters and released a Christmas song in 1958. Which nutty group was this?
9. What is the birthstone colour of someone born on Christmas day?
10. The last descendant of what musical family died on Christmas day 1845?



1. Michael Caine, 2. Narnia, 3. Good Fortune, 4. Little Women, 5. Earth Song, 6. Charlie Chaplin, 7. Grinch, 8. Chipmunks, 9. Turquoise, 10. Bach



Easy Christmas Cake



Herne Bay Little Theatre

Registered Address:

44 Bullers Avenue

Herne Bay

Kent CT6 8UH

Company Number: 01798526

Charity Number: 289287

Tel: 01227 366004

You will need:

Loaf tin 20 x 13cm (8 x 5 inches)

Ingredients:

100g (4oz) margarine

1 large egg

1 tablespoon of pear and apple spread or thick honey

150g (6oz) self-raising wholemeal flour

225g (8oz) mincemeat

Orange juice

Preheat the oven to 160°C/325°F/gas mark 3

1. Grease the loaf tin with a little margarine. Put the margarine, egg and pear and apple spread (or honey) in a bowl and mix them together until they are light and creamy.
2. Sift the flour into the bowl, and mix it in gently. Add the mincemeat and mix well. Then add enough orange juice to make a soft mixture.
3. Put the mixture into the tin, smoothing the top with the spoon. Bake for 40 minutes, until it is golden brown.
4. Leave the cake in the tin for five minutes, and then turn it out onto a wire rack to cool.

To decorate:

100g (4oz) icing sugar

1-2 tablespoons orange juice

Sieve the icing sugar into a bowl, and mix in enough orange juice to make a thick paste. Spoon the mixture over the cake, letting it run down the sides.

Top Tip

Tie a wide ribbon
around your cake and
add festive
decorations

Disclaimer

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