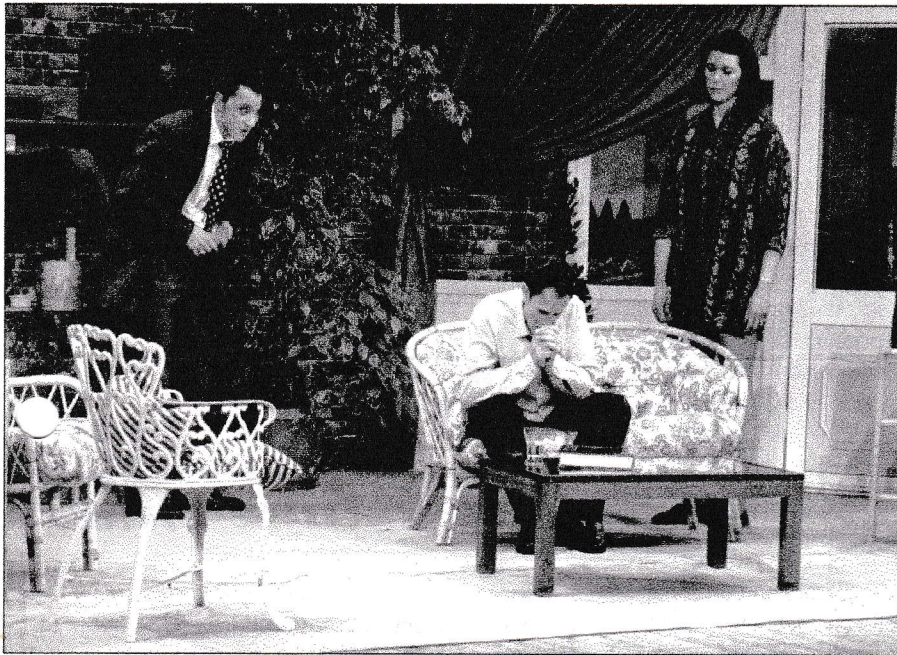
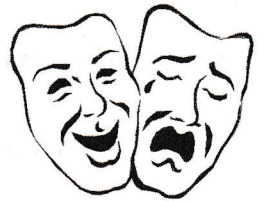


AMATEUR PLAYERS OF SHERBORNE

Newsletter

AUGUST
1995



Left: Matthew Day, Stuart McCreadie and Jessica Colson in a scene from our Spring 1995 production, Dangerous Obsession, directed by Tony Field. This tense thriller held audiences spellbound from start to finish, with all three members of the cast producing superb performances. Stuart's awesome portrayal of sheer terror was so convincing that on the Thursday evening most members of the audience believed that his all too real nose-bleed was just part of the play. Indeed one member of the audience was heard to say afterwards that he had spotted the moment when Stuart introduced the 'artificial' blood. Would that that had really been the case. Stuart was sadly unable to continue and subsequent audiences were deprived of seeing his tour de force.

The day was, of course, saved by Tony Field himself, who, book discreetly in hand, took over Stuart's role for the last two evenings. Members of the audience were given the chance to have their entrance fee returned, but no one who saw Tony's masterly performance asked for their money back!

Dear Member,

As I write, the sun is blazing down (yes, really) and November seems mercifully far away, but it will not be long before the Players' 1995-96 season begins and so here, to inform and perhaps even entertain you, is the first Newsletter.

The Committee is, as usual, busy putting together the programme for the season, and the first thing to tell you is that the opening night is on **Friday 8th September**. As has become the tradition, our Chairman will provide the entertainment and there will be a little wine to drink. If you know of anyone who might like to join the Players do encourage them to come along.

Subscriptions --£8.00 Adults, £1.00 Young Students--are, as usual, due on or before the opening evening. Please make sure that the Treasurer and the Membership Secretary stay happy bunnies by paying promptly!

The first of this season's main productions will be Oliver Goldsmith's *She Stoops to Conquer*, directed by **Geoff Lewis**. Production week begins on Saturday 25th November, with performances in the Digby Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 30th November, Friday 1st December and Saturday 2nd December. Auditions will take place in the Clubroom on **Monday 21st and Wednesday 23rd August**. A brief synopsis of the plot and a list of characters can be found on page 3 of this Newsletter.

The meeting held on July 19th to inaugurate the new entertainment group was gratifyingly well-attended. There was an enthusiastic response to the idea of putting together a number of cabaret-style items (songs, sketches, short plays, etc) from which to compile entertainment programmes for local clubs and institutions. Please send your ideas or material to Margaret Field (Nethercoombe House, Marston Rd, Sherborne) by the end of August. The next meeting of this group will be on **Wednesday 13th September**. Do come if you can.



Officers and Committee 1995-1996

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JOY SAUNDERS

Chairman
MARGARET FIELD
01935-815427

Hon. Secretary
ANTHONY STEPHENS
01935-77567

Hon. Treasurer
TONY FIELD
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MARK LAMBERT
01258-817270

Committee Members
JESSICA COLSON JAKKI GREGORY
TONY MANNS COLIN MAYES
KIERAN MILLAR JANET VINCENT
LINDA WOODS

.....continued on page 2

Upstage Left

The results of last Summer's survey of members were interesting, if not totally revealing, owing to, let's face it, a somewhat weak response. To date I have had 31 replies--out of a potential 96! I believe a professional market researcher might regard 32% as a high response, but then I am not a professional market researcher.

Some statistics will appear in the next Newsletter. Meanwhile, a big thank you to all those who took the trouble to fill in the form and return it to me. And to those who haven't yet done so--why not?! It's not often that you get the chance to make comments about this organization-- without having to stand up in public at the AGM to do so. Ah well. But please don't say you weren't given the chance. If anyone still has a survey form and would like to complete it, they are welcome to do so. I have plenty of spares.

Gerald Pitman made one particularly pertinent comment. He is of the opinion, and I agree with him, that the APS need to be more outward looking. At present we tend to be rather introspective, paying little regard to what other groups are doing. But let's face it, amateur drama is not an especially popular form of entertainment, however much we ourselves enjoy it, and we all need as much support as we can get. Not to

mention what we can learn by watching others.

To this end, I have made contact with other groups and hope to include a regular 'What's On' panel in the Newsletter. There are amateur groups in Yeovil, Tintinhull, Halstock, Milborne Port, Stalbridge, Shaftesbury, Buckland Newton, Sturminster Newton, Shillingstone, Iwerne Minster, Dorchester and Blandford to name but a few (let me know of any others). Please do support some of these groups if you can--much of what they put on is excellent and if we support them, they will, we hope, support us!

Gerald also suggested that the APS should organize trips to local theatres and halls--and I see from an earlier survey that this is not a new idea. It is probably fair to say that those members who own cars would probably find it just as easy to get to a local venue under their own steam. However, some of our members do not have access to cars and might appreciate an informal scheme whereby they could be sure of getting a lift to and from a local theatre.

At the same time, one or two members have suggested that we organize trips further afield to such places as Bath, Bristol, Taunton, Bournemouth and Chichester.

What do you think? Is there anyone who would like to take part in or organize such schemes? Let us know.

M.L.

Prompt Corner

Dates for your diary

Monday 21 & Wednesday 23 Aug
Auditions for *She Stoops to Conquer*.

Friday 8 Sept.
Opening Night

Wednesday 13 Sept.
Entertainment Group meeting

Wednesday 20 Sept. (provisional)
BADs present Act 1 of *The Sneeze*

Thursday 30th Nov. - Saturday 1 Dec
Performances of *She Stoops to Conquer*

Watch this space for reminders of APS events.

Backstage chat

Letters to the editor. This is your opportunity to make comments and suggestions. Please write to me on any subject that you consider relevant to the APS or of interest to other members.

As this is the first of these new style Newsletters, there are, naturally, no letters to publish. So on this occasion, this space is being used merely to suggest a few ground rules.

Obviously, space will not allow large numbers of letters to be included. I shall endeavour to print the most interesting ones and some letters may be held over. So please keep your letters short and to the point. Long, rambling epistles will have to be either heavily attacked by the editor's axe or omitted.

Criticisms of productions, entertainments, or of how APS is being run, will be acceptable, as long as they remain within reasonable bounds. Criticism involving particular people will be shown, before publication, to those concerned, who will be given the opportunity to reply in the same Newsletter.

Please do sign your letters clearly. I shall not feel able to print anonymous letters or those with indecipherable signatures.

I have no doubt that many of you will have useful ideas, and these will be passed on to the committee, in all probability before publication. So let's have your thoughts, suggestions and, yes, even criticisms.

Newsletters will continue to appear in (approximately) August, October, December, February and April. Last copy date for the October Newsletter is 30th September, please.

The second club evening is, provisionally, on **Wednesday 20th September**. BADs will present Act 1 of *The Sneeze* by Anton Chekov. BADs first presented this series of six very funny short plays in Buckland Newton al fresco in June and now offer them to the Players over two separate evenings. Act II will be presented in January.

As you can see, the Editor of the Newsletter has changed. First, I should like to say, on behalf of us all, a heartfelt thank you to my predecessor, **Andrew Cross**. I now appreciate the scale of the task he has performed so well over the last few years.

Along with the change of Editor, of course, there are changes in style; we all have our own eccentricities. If you have any comments to make or brickbats to throw, please direct them at me--no one else is responsible for the changes. If there is a general howl of disapproval I shall make suitable modifications in future.

This new style Newsletter, is intended not only to keep you informed of what is going on but also to give you the opportunity of airing your views, suggestions and criticisms. Hence the letters section (Backstage chat'), in which members can make brief points and the 'comment' column ('Upstage Left'), for which anyone can submit material that they feel requires more 'in depth' treatment. I do reserve the right to edit copy and I cannot, of course, guarantee that everything submitted will be published, but I will do my best to see that interesting, even controversial, ideas get an airing. So if you feel you have something to say--about APS or about theatre in general--please do send it to me.

SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER

by
Oliver Goldsmith

AUDITIONS
Monday 21st &
Wednesday 23rd August
7.30 p.m. in the clubroom

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO AUDITION FOR
A PART BUT CANNOT ATTEND ON
EITHER OF THESE DATES, TELEPHONE
GEOFF LEWIS ON 01300-345521

PERIOD
18th Century

PLOT ANALYSIS

Mr Hardcastle and Mr Charles Marlow have arranged a match between Miss Kate Hardcastle and young Marlow. Accordingly, Marlow and his friend Hastings, travel to visit the Hardcastles. Losing their way, they arrive at a tavern, where Hardcastle's clownish stepson, Lumpkin, directs them to a neighbouring inn, which is in reality the Hardcastles' house. The fun of the play arises from the resulting misunderstanding, when Marlow treats Hardcastle as the landlord of the supposed inn and makes violent love to Kate whom he takes for one of the servants. This contrasts with his bashful attitude when presented to her in real character. The arrival of Sir Charles Marlow clears up the misconception and all ends well, including a subsidiary love affair between Hastings and Kate's cousin, Constance Neville, whom Mrs Hardcastle had destined for Tony Lumpkin.



CHARACTERS

Mr Hardcastle
courteous, amiable; 50s-60s

Tony Lumpkin
his stepson; loud, boorish,
clownish; about 21

Marlow
inhibited (though loses his inhibitions in certain scenes); young

Hastings
ardent; young

Mrs Hardcastle
affected, mercenary; 55-60

Kate Hardcastle
sprightly, lively; young

Constance Neville
Kate's cousin; young

Landlord

Roger & Diggory
Hardcastle's servants, clumsy

WHAT'S ON

OCTAGON THEATRE
Tel: 01935-22884

Fri 1st Sept, 7.30
& Sat 2nd Sept, 2.30 & 7.30
Lionel Bart's **Oliver**
The Octagon Summer School, 'build a musical in a week' production. Tickets £3.50.
Always excellent value to see what amazing results can be achieved by just a week's hard work by amateurs.

Monday 4th & Tuesday 5th September
Ray Cooney's comedy
Run for Your Wife
Returning by "popular demand".
Tickets £7.50 (Concessions £6.50)

Wednesday 6th September
The Complete History of the World (abridged) presented by
The Reduced Shakespeare Company
Tickets £9.50 & £10.50.
Promises to be an amusing romp through history.!

THE BREWHOUSE, TAUNTON
Tel: 01823 283224
Production workshop of
The Threepenny Opera
Workshop costs £65 and lasts from Monday 14th August to Friday 1st September, with performances at 7.45 p.m. on the last two nights. Anyone over 14 welcome as actors, musicians or production staff--bookings close Monday 7th August.
A little expensive and long way to go, but for those who are keen.....

THE PORTMAN HALL SHILLINGSTONE
Saturday 7th October
Rohan McCullough in Vera Brittain's
Testament of Youth. A solo performance of Vera Brittain's autobiography centred on the First World War. An Artsreach production.