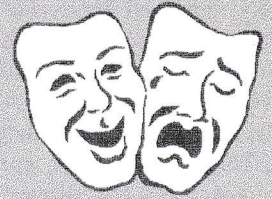


NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 1998



Great news! A month or so ago we learned that Jennie Ward had received a richly deserved nomination for Best Supporting Performance for her portrayal of the wonderfully scatty but well-meaning Lady Hunstanton in *A Woman of No Importance* last autumn. This nomination actually came as no great surprise to me, as I found Jennie's exquisitely observed character a delight and an education to watch.

The award ceremony was held in Bristol on October 14th. Jenny, Joy Saunders, Ann Russell and I attended and although Jenny did not win the award we all had a very good time. The occasion was fairly typical of its

type, with various introductory speeches, the presentation of the awards, screams (occasionally deafening) of joy from supporters and 'thank you' speeches of varying length and interest from the winners, after which we were served with a very passable supper. And we did not come away completely empty-handed, as Joy won a 'rose bowl'—well, a vase—in the raffle!

Change of Treasurer

When writing about events at the AGM in the last Newsletter, I totally forgot to mention the fact that we have a new Treasurer. For some time now this office has been undertaken by Tony Field. In fact he has been our Treasurer continuously for the past 5 years and prior to that a period of 3 years from 1987-90. During his time in office our finances have been painstakingly looked after and Tony has overseen a marked increase in our reserve funds. Thank you, Tony for all your hard work. The society is greatly indebted to you for doing this job so well for such a long period of time.

Tony has been replaced by Jessica Colson, who very nobly volunteered to take on the office and was duly elected at the AGM. We wish you all the best, Jessica, and hope that you don't find the task too arduous.

The New Season

We have, as you will see, had to change our plans for the autumn production, but in spite of this the new season has got off to a good start. The opening night was attended by 47 people and the fork supper went down well, as did the highly amusing entertainment arranged by Colin Mayes, aided and abetted by Kathy Messinger, Chris Jessiman, Mark and Jo Freestone and Joan Freeland.

A couple of weeks later we were treated to an entertaining show organised by Chris Jessiman, assisted by Steve Evans, Stuart McCreadie and David Smith, with Hrolf Trump providing lighting and sound effects. SRP, we learned, stood (loosely) for Spike Milligan, The Two Ronnies and Monty Python and Chris and his team performed a variety of well-known sketches, loosely linked by a 'plot' that involved Neddy Seagoon's hitherto unknown brother, Tony Seagoon. The audience fell about—one or two had tears streaming down their cheeks I noticed. A hilarious evening.

In view of her commitment to the current

APS Membership 1998-99

(as at October 20th 1998)

Jessie Abbott	Elsie Lombard
Des Armour	Stuart McCreadie
Michael Baatz	Amanda McEvoy
Graham Baker	Daisy Mangnall
Barbara Beak	Gill Manns
Tony Birks-Hay	Tony Manns
Jessica Colson	Colin Mayes
Andrew Cross	Kathy Messinger
Robert Doling	Kieran Millar
Steve Evans	Joan Miller
Sandy Evans	Dod Pearson
Tony Field	Ann Russell
Margaret Field	Jim Schofield
Sheila Ford	Jill Service
Suzanne Ford	Bob Service
Sue Francis	David Smith
Joan Freeland	Sylvia Smith
Jo Freestone	Eve Snell
Mark Freestone	Joan Snelling
Pauline Gardner	Anthony Stephens
Tony Gregory	Mytyl Stephens
Jakki Gregory	Patricia Stewart
Freda Hance	Peter Thomas
Jean Harrap	Iris Trump
Marilyn Hawkins	Vivian Vale
Peter Hawkins	Jennie Ward
Jason Hepple	Anthea Watson
Rebecca Hill	
Yvonne Hill	Life members
Jill Hudson	Jack Dodge
Meg Hulme	Mary Micklewright
Chris Jessiman	Margery Morgan
Catharine Jessiman	Gerald Pitman
Louise Lambert	Pam Richardson
Madeline Lambert	Joy Saunders
Mark Lambert	Hrolf Trump
Tamsin Lambert	Meg Whittingdale

production Jessica decided to do an unrehearsed play reading instead of a rehearsed one. She chose *Angel's in Love* by Hugh Mills (the author of our autumn production; see over), a play that was performed by The Players in 1972, with Gerald Pitman and Jennie Ward in two of the leading roles. Hugh Mills only wrote two plays and apart from the common theme of murder they are like chalk and cheese. In this comedy Cedric, formerly Little Lord Fauntleroy, is taught the facts of life and eventually comes into his inheritance as a result of the murder of his grandfather. A dozen or so of us had a great time reading it and we were most impressed that Jennie could still recite by heart the verses of 'Papa's letter'.

Prompt Corner

At the Crown Inn, 7.30 p.m.
unless otherwise indicated

Wednesday 4th November
Auditions for DDL play
Going to Sleep

Thursday 5th November
Autumn Poetry
Hosted by Colin Mayes
Bring your favourite seasonal poetry

Friday 28th November
Production moves into Digby Hall
Mon. 30th Nov – Wed 2nd Dec
Technical and Dress Rehearsals
Thursday 3rd December
Coffee Morning, Digby Hall
Thur 3rd – Sat 5th December
Performances of
The House By The Lake
Sunday 6th December
Strike and return set

Friday 18th December
Christmas Party
Hosted by Patricia and Ian Stewart at
Silver Birches, The Avenue, Sherborne.
Bring a bottle and £2.00 for supper.

Wednesday 13th January
Give Us A Clue
Conducted by Meg Whittingdale

Friday 29th January
Annual APS Dinner

Autumn Production

Sadly, it proved impossible to complete the casting of *Salad Days*. The missing young man mentioned in the August Newsletter never appeared and so, at short notice, a new play was chosen, auditioned and cast; viz. Hugh Mills's other work *The House By The Lake*. This is a 'thriller' in the sense that there is murder afoot, but it is in no way a 'whodunnit' as the audience is soon made fully aware of who is plotting to murder whom and how it is to be achieved. The play is a psychological thriller; a study of the motives and actions of a disparate group of characters, the relationships between them and the circumstances that lead to the plotting, execution and eventual exposure of the murder.

Jennie Ward is directing and Tony Manns is Stage Manager. Chris Jessiman is starting to create the set and will welcome offers of help to prepare the flats and/or move them into the Digby Hall on Sat 28th November; so do telephone him on 01963-362196. Tony Stephens is running Front of House, so why not contact him (01935-477567) and offer to help before he contacts you!

Production week begins on Saturday 28th, when the set will be moved into the Digby Hall (please come and help if you can). There will be the usual technical and dress rehearsals during the first part of the week, and performances on Thursday 3rd, Fri-

Drama Workshop

Saturday 31st October, 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. Piddletrenthide Memorial Hall

Theatre skills, improvisation, speech, movement, mime and more in a fun, practical workshop led by Chris Harris, a professional comic entertainer, writer and director currently performing his one-man show *Kemp's Jig* at various venues in West Dorset. Cost £10. Pre-enrolment is essential. Tel. Jan Garner 01300 348460



Jessica Colson, Mark Lambert and David Smith in *The House by The Lake*
Publicity photo by Des Armour.

Other Future Events

Auditions for our DDL entry will be on Wednesday November 4th (see below). On Thursday November 5th the Autumn poetry evening will, in the unavoidable absence of the Fields, be hosted by Colin Mayes. Don't forget the coffee morning at the Digby Hall on Thursday 3rd December. I believe Monica Parsons (01963 250424) is organising this event and will appreciate all the help she can get. Please come and support her or offer to help.

The production will be followed by the Christmas party, for which year Patricia and Ian Stewart have very kindly offered the use of their home (Silver Birches, The Avenue). Entertainment is being arranged by Jakki Gregory and Jill Hudson. Please bring a bottle or two to aid the festivities, but supper will be provided. Jessica Colson has kindly volunteered to do the catering and to offset her expenses, there will be a small charge of £2.00 per person.

After Christmas, on January 14th, there will be another edition of our perennial favourite 'Give us a Clue', conducted as always by Meg Whittingdale, followed by the APS dinner on Friday 29th January.

The House by the Lake

Cast

Colonel Forbes	Tony Field
Stella Holt	Jessica Colson
Janet Holt	Amanda McEvoy
Brenda	Elsie Lombard
Maurice Holt	Mark Lambert
Colin Holt	David Smith
Iris Holt	Suzanne Ford
Mr Howard	Peter Thomas
Nurse Thomson	Stephanie Green

Directed by
Jennie Ward

day 4th and Saturday 5th December (there will not be a matinée). Tickets are £5.00 (£2.00 for students) and Tony Manns (01935-474206) is running the box office.

As usual we will be striking the set starting at about 9.00 or 9.30 on Sunday 6th December. The more people who come the quicker and easier the task.

Membership

The number of paid up members currently stands at 72—a list is given overleaf. I am pleased to report that so far this season we have 10 new members, some of whom have already demonstrated a considerable degree of talent. We now have a few more professionally trained actors; excellent news!

Mark Lambert

Dorset Drama League Festival

Our 1999 DDL entry has been specially written for us by Jason Hepple who will be directing. The play, provisionally entitled *Going to Sleep*, is set at the wake of a man who was universally disliked, and thus those present have only turned up out of courtesy. Auditions will be held at The Crown on Wednesday 4th November at 7.30 p.m.

The personae dramatis are as follows:

Ruby (60s-70s)

Sally (20s-30s)

Robin (early 20s)

Father Joseph (Catholic Priest, probably Irish, 50s but age is flexible)

O'Neil (35-45, divorced, alcoholic, on the way down)

Lady singer (age not material, but ideally a soprano; must be able to sing unaccompanied)