

APS Newsletter

May
2008

FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

I cannot believe that it is a month since I last wrote. The Rose Bowl adjudication for 'Lettice & Lovage' arrived and was accepted by all to be good. I, of course, disagreed with a few points. It is a shame that we are not able to have 'the right of reply'. The whole adjudication is up in the Clubroom.

Since the production we have had two very interesting social evenings. Those members who choose not to come to these events really miss out. Elaine will mention the evening led by Maurice Freeland which was hilarious. I will remember forever the sight of John Bowles as 'The Return of the Native'.

Elaine was unable to attend the Shakespearean Quiz held to celebrate the Bard's birthday, so is unable to fill in the bit in Last Months social events, so I'll do it - it was well attended and the members who came enjoyed themselves in their own battlefields (Crecy, Bosworth & Harfleur). The questions and answers were led by myself and Lenna Webster (Miss Framer) and the latter turned the answers into a real improvisation event. It is amazing how much you find you do know about Shakespeare when you have to. Well done everyone it was good fun.

We still need a Director for the Spring Production so come on all you budding Adrian Nobles' and Katie Mitchells'. Let us hear from you!

Our AGM is soon and the Secretary will be writing to you regarding this. Please read and think about it. We need your input.

Patricia



LAST MONTHS CLUB SOCIAL EVENTS

Maurice entertained us enormously and was aided and abetted by a number of our very able performers – Janet, Ed, Charles, John (of course), Joan and Jill. Pat stole one of my main comments regards John Bowles – I certainly won't read Thomas Hardy again without thinking of APS, however I wonder if Jill has missed her calling given her performance in 'A Street Car named Desire'! Thanks Maurice and I will try out Franglais in Canada.



SOCIAL EVENTS IN MAY

Unfortunately 'Give us a Clue' on Tue 6th May has had to be cancelled.

DATE CHANGE – 'A Bestiary of Song and Dance' led by Joan Freeland will now be held on Thursday 29th May. Please remember to change your diary as it sounds as though it will be an excellent evening of entertainment.



FUTURE EVENTS

There will be an unrehearsed play reading led by Adrian Thorpe in July; the date is to be confirmed.

Annual General Meeting The Players' AGM and Summer Party will take place at 7.30 pm on Friday 18 July. Jim and Gwyneth Schofield have very kindly agreed to host the event again at Gainsborough House.

Adrian will send out the formal notice of the meeting, and details of the party, nearer the time. But please make sure you have it in your diaries now! It's your opportunity to tell the Committee what you think

of the way they've managed the society and give them your ideas for the future.

It's also your opportunity to vote for new Committee Members and Officers and, if you like, to propose and second candidates of your own. This year there'll be vacancies for Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary and two Ordinary Committee Members. There's at least one candidate for each job but that doesn't mean there couldn't be more! You will get nomination papers with the AGM notice.



OTHER EVENTS

For our **Autumn production** (November 20th – 22nd) I am hoping to put on “The Love of Four Colonels” by Peter Ustinov – a play which is difficult to classify other than as a historical/comedy/romance/pantomime/fairy-tale. Auditions will be held in the clubhouse at 7.30 on Tuesday/Wednesday June 17th and 18th: very early, I know, but I want to give the actors plenty of time over the summer to learn their lines. There are seven major characters with roughly similar-length parts, so nobody will have an impossibly long part to learn (we can't all aspire to Fizz's standards!), and five smaller roles. Please come along and try out for a part: but if you can't make either of those dates and would still like to be considered, let me know.

Major parts

The Colonels (all middle to late middle age – say 40 to 70-ish)

Col. Desmond de S. Rinder-Sparrow: English accent. Landed gentry: a decent fellow but rather dim.

Col. Wesley Breitenspiegel: American accent. New York neurotic.

Col. Aimé Frappot: French accent. Sophisticated, cynical, world-weary.

Col. Alexander Ikonenko: Russian accent. A devout Stalinist. Humourless. A stickler for protocol.

The Immortals

(All speak at various times in English, American, French and Russian accents)

Donovan, the Good Fairy (female): Very young, very sweet, very kind.

Carabosse, the Bad Fairy (male): Very old. Very, very wicked.

The Sleeping Beauty: Every man's ideal of his perfect woman.

Smaller parts:

The Wives

Mrs. Rinder-Sparrow: English accent. Brisk and unemotional.

Mrs. Breitenspiegel: American accent. Modern, brittle and outspoken.

Mme. Frappot: French accent. Gentle and resigned.

Mme. Ikonenko: Non-speaking part (breast-feeds her baby -- discreetly).

And

The Mayor of Herzogenburg: Central European accent. A prophet of doom.

Scripts are available if anybody would like to read the play in advance: call me on (01935) 812698 or e-mail charlesnapier@hotmail.com. Also, do please let me know if you would be prepared to take on one of the many back-stage jobs. Costume is going to be particularly tricky, with several quick-changes.

Charles

Trip to the Lighthouse Theatre, Poole - a group called Theatre-Goers organise a monthly trip to local theatres, the next event is to the Lighthouse Theatre at Poole, where the farce 'Run for your Wife' by Ray Cooney is being performed. This is an Ian Dickens Production and is touring the UK. The cast includes Melvyn Hayes ('Ain't Half Hot Mum') and Barry Howard ('Hi-Di-Hi'). If you are interested in going along to the matinee performance, please contact Mr Brian Walker on 01935 816266. Last date for booking is 10th May.



WHAT HAPPENS BACKSTAGE – LIGHTING A SHOW

Lighting Technicians have to be involved right from the start – after receiving the script of the production, reading it through and looking at the lighting plot (if it is given at the back of the script!) – some rough notes are made ready for the Production Meeting. At the meeting, the set design is presented and discussed; this can then be used to produce a first draft of the lighting plan for the Director to have a look at. The first draft will take into account entry and exits of actors and what

special effects, if any, are needed. Special effects could include flames, clouds and gobos (these are filters put in front of the lights to give patterns on the stage).

When drawing up the lighting plan, you have to take into account the shape of the set, whether there are any different levels or stairs present or areas in front of the stage that have to be lit. This is because the lights have to be angled correctly on the various lighting bars to make sure the set and actors are lit to best advantage. A rule of thumb is that any stage area can be lit by just 10 lights. The lights are plugged into a dimmer rack that is then linked to the desk in the lighting gallery – things to remember are that the wattage of the lighting channel into the dimmer rack cannot be exceeded and the number of lights is limited by the number of channels there are on the desk. Once the number of lights is decided, a decision is taken as to the amount of equipment that has to be hired from companies such as Stagecraft in Salisbury or for special effects Stage Electrics in Bristol. This varies with each production and can be quite expensive.

From Get-in Day at the venue, we only have 5 days before actual production, and 3 days before the Technical Rehearsal, so time is of the essence. Rigging of the lights takes place at the various lighting bars, scaffold may have to be erected to accommodate a larger lighting set or difficult set angles, gels and gobos installed and the lighting channels set for the desk. You also have to ensure that any pre-sets such as the APS logo seen on the tabs are also included. Once rigged, the lights are now ready to play with to get the levels set, to get the mood the Director wants to achieve on stage. Setting cues and programming the lights takes place at the technical rehearsal; the cues are set and marked up in the script. Fine tuning continues during the dress rehearsals to ensure timing is correct and the Director is happy with the overall effect.

During the performances, the lighting technician talks to the stage manager by headphones and where needed prompts are given for cues so that a seamless performance takes place. After the last performance (and usually during the party) de-rigging takes place where all the lights are removed from the lighting bars and the dimmer rack unplugged. The lights are then either sent to store with APS or returned to the hire companies. Before finishing and leaving the hall, we have to leave the equipment the way it was when we first arrived at Get-in Day.

One thing – when we hire equipment, which is mainly from Stagecraft at Salisbury, we actually pick up and return the kit. It would be very useful if anyone was able to offer some help with this. The only prerequisite is, due to the amount of equipment, it is useful to have an estate car. If you are able to help, please contact either the producer of the production or Patricia our chairman.

Adrian Hole

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PRODUCE A FILM?

A small group has been formed called “The Sherborne Documentary Film Group” to produce films / DVDs that are of interest to Sherborne. The Group are currently copying and saving old cine films etc of Sherborne and are also learning how to work together as a team to produce a high technical standard of film. If you would like to join the Group or are interested in producing a film, please contact Jim Schofield on 01935 812051. A Producer will be expected to direct the whole production, undertake rehearsals prior to the filming and oversee the editing of the final film. The Documentary Film Group will provide all the technical equipment and expertise required but work under the direction of the Producer.

WARDROBE / PROPS at the CASTLE

Jakki has asked that folk contact her before taking anything up to the Castle as space is now at a premium due to the move and unfortunately we don't have room for duplicates. Please contact Jakki on 01935 389201 or drop an email to tandjax@yahoo.co.uk.

HELP WITH THE MOVE OUT OF THE CLUBROOM

With the move from the Clubroom now fixed for July, a sub-committee has been set up headed by Adrian Thorpe. If you would like to be involved with the move, it may be just offering your help on a particular day, please contact him. We do have quite an accumulation of stuff in the various rooms up at the Clubroom, so help will be needed re sorting, storing and disposing of items.

Adrian's contact details are
Phone - 01935 422141 (office), 431321 (home)
Email – adrianthorpe@tiscali.co.uk

APS MAILING LIST

For each and every production we send out mailshot leaflets, complete with a ticket order form, to all those on our mailing list. This list is revised on a regular basis, usually as a result of leaflets

returned because people have moved away or died. The mailing list is important to us, as it is probably our most effective form of advertising.

However, the time has come to make a major revision and hopefully to increase the number of people on the list. Since the last major revision in 2001, numbers have fallen from about 400 to just over 300 and we really do not want the list to fall below the 300 mark. All those who have previously contributed to the mailing list have already received lists of names and addresses for verification or revision. If anyone else has any names and addresses to add to our list, please send them to Mark Lambert -- lambert.ridge@virgin.net (or by post to Ridge Farm, King's Stag, Sturminster Newton, Dorset DT10 2AU).

Please don't just add everyone you have ever known to the list -- that's a waste of time and money -- just the people you think would be interested in coming to our productions. Thanks in advance for your help.

NEWS FORM NODA

NODA, the National Operatic and Dramatic Association, will be running their annual Summer School at Loughborough University from 2 to 9 August 2008. This intensive week of training courses in amateur theatre is available to adult society members of all ages. Details on <http://domain992762.sites.fasthosts.com/summer.asp> or from our Secretary, Adrian Thorpe - 01935 422141 (office), 431321 (home). To make it easier for students to take advantage of this, NODA has a number of bursaries which effectively halve the cost of attendance.

There is also NODA's South-West Regional Weekend at Bicton Agricultural College, East Budleigh, from 29 to 31 August 2008. Participants can choose from a variety of workshops, and take part in other events. Again, details are - or will be - available from our Secretary, Adrian.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY 2008		
Tue 6 th	'Give us a Clue' A quiz	The Club Room at 7:30pm
Thurs 8 th to Sat 10 th	Oliver Presented by Stagemakers	The Swan Theatre ² Yeovil
Thurs 15 th	Sherborne Comedy Craig Campbell	Powell Theatre ¹ Sherborne Doors open 7.30 pm show at 8.00pm
Wed 28 th	'A Bestiary of Song and Verse	The Club Room at 7:30pm
JUNE 2008		
Date to be announced	An Un-rehearsed Play Led by Adrian Thorpe	The Club Room at 7:30pm
Thurs 5 th	Sherborne Comedy Jay Sodagar Sara Benham Earl Okin	Powell Theatre ¹ Sherborne Doors open 7.30 pm show at 8.00pm
Sat 21 st	'Run for your Wife' By Ray Cooney	The Lighthouse Theatre Poole Organised by 'Theatre Goers'

1. Contact 01935 810579 or www.powelltheatre.co.uk for tickets
2. Contact Yeovil Tourist Information Centre for tickets

From the Editor, Elaine

Please remember we have had to cancel Give us a clue and the date has changed for our last event in May, A bestiary of Song and Dance – make sure you change your diaries!

Remember, if you would like any local performances advertised in the **Dates for your Diaries** section in future Newsletters, please send any details to me at elaine@grumpyhaggis.com or give me a ring -01935 817430 – if I am not there, I will call you back.

Elaine

