



Fred Dyson: Oscar Dayle
 Herbert Soppitt - John Bowles
 Clara Soppitt - Ruth Rice
 Lottie Grady - Bev Taylor-Wade
 Rev Clement Mercer - Malcolm Cockburn

Rehearsals are now under way as we head towards production week March 7-14.

Still wanted please: Prompt, Props, FOH Manager, Box Office, and Business Manager. Do get in touch with me as soon as possible on (01935) 817567. Jennie

LAST MONTH'S SOCIAL EVENT

Did you know that the celebration of Christmas increased after Charlemagne was crowned Emperor on Christmas Day in 800, and that it was banned by who else but the Puritans in 1647? Well, Michael Baatz did, and a lot more besides. He treated us to an entertaining evening of anecdotes, poems and facts, like Prince Albert popularising the Christmas tree and Dickens's 'Christmas Carol', selling 6000 copies in a week and the International Order of Santas and...well, you had to be there!

BIG IDEAS POWWOW

It's time to think ahead and map out a programme of future productions. So get your Director's caps and ideas's hats on and gather at **David Smith's house (Fortune's Fold, Long Street) at 7.30 pm Thursday 16th April**. Whether you fancy directing or not, all ideas for plays and other events very welcome.



The Winslow Boy



Booking deadline for our 12th February visit to the Salisbury Theatre for **THE WINSLOW BOY** is **Monday 5 January**. Ring or email David Smith now:
01935 817439 : drysmith@btinternet.com

TIMETABLE

- 09.26:** Leave Sherborne by train
- 10.15:** Arrive Salisbury station. 10 minute stroll to the Playhouse - or taxi if preferred.
- 11.30:** 'Theatre Day' with director and cast offering an insight into the artistic and technical processes.
- 13.00:** Lunch arrangements up to you. There is a theatre restaurant, or you can go to a restaurant in town, take your own lunch or visit the chippie.
- 14.30:** Matinee performance.
- 17.48:** Leave Salisbury.
- 18.33:** Arrive Sherborne.

LOST PROPERTY?

Someone left a waistcoat behind after the Christmas Party: black with orange decorations. Any claimants contact us on 01935 431321 ... otherwise it will go to the APS costume store.

COMING SOON



You'll definitely enjoy this; a play-reading of Alan Bennett's adaptation of the 'Wind in the Willows' Led by our Chairman, Patricia Harris, the date to note is **Thursday 22 January at 7.30 pm** in Over and Nether Compton Village Hall



WHEN WE ARE MARRIED

I was really pleased that so many came to the auditions. The standard was very high, making casting quite difficult. Many thanks to everyone who

came along. The cast is as follows:

- Ruby Birtle - Ria Ryatt-Chandaman
- Gerald Forbes - Andrew Cross
- Mrs Northrop - Gilly Savage
- Nancy Holmes - Lenna Webster
- Henry Ormonroyd - Stuart McCreadie
- Alderman Joseph Helliwell - Roger Chadbourne
- Maria Helliwell - Chris Yardley
- Councillor Albert Parker - Charles Napier
- Annie Parker - Janet Vincent

Annual Dinner

will be held at The Crown Hotel, Sherborne, on Friday 27th March. There will be a choice of menus. The speaker will be Martin Cosgrif, Head of Performing Arts, Accrington & Rossendale College. Menus and other details will be available soon.



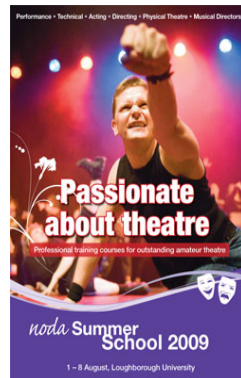
ARTSREACH WINTER PROGRAMME OUT NOW

Here's a gem from the the Artsreach winter programme. Presented by Miracle Theatre, an adaptation of Kurt Vonnegut's satire '**Cat's Cradle**'. Playing at Gillingham School (tel:

01747 833844) Wed 21 January and Melbury Osmond Village Hall (tel: 01935 83410) Sun 25 Jan, at 7.30 pm both venues, three dysfunctional children inherit a vial of Ice Nine which can freeze water at room temperature. This sets off a series of hilariously funny and improbable events, resulting in a rather low key Armageddon!

NODA Summer School 2009

The NODA Summer School will take place at Loughborough University on 1-8 August 2009. A wide range of courses will be offered and taught by their professional tutors. If you're passionate about theatre why not take up this opportunity to learn more about your preferred theatre craft or perhaps try something new? Come along and join many others from across the UK and overseas in their passion for theatre!



If that is not enough to get you excited, NODA will be offering 36 national bursaries plus 2 Barnes bursaries of £275 each available to members across the country to help offset the cost of coming to Summer School. Preference will be given to applications from first time students of any age (minimum age 18) but anyone wishing to try a completely new theatre discipline can qualify as a first time student. Bursary forms are included with the brochure or can be downloaded from the NODA website. Please complete the form and send to NODA HQ

where your form will be processed and sent on to your Regional Councillor.

The Summer School brochure is available to download on the website or contact Antonia Johnson for a copy on 0870 770 2480. Don't forget you can also apply online at www.noda.org.uk/summerschool, or from our Secretary, Adrian Thorpe - 01935 422141 (office), 431321 (home).

ARE YOU THE VOICE OF TOMORROW?

'The Voice of Tomorrow' is no ordinary showcase. It is a unique competition and training programme to give you an opportunity to show your talent to the best in the West End Musical Theatre business. So what's new in that? Well, here's the difference: A limited amount of people who fall short of the standard will be asked if they would like to participate in 'The Training' course and then re-audition.

'The Show' will run for 3 nights at The Bloomsbury Theatre in London. Not only will performers have the opportunity of performing in front their panel of top casting directors, musical directors and agents, they will also have a chance of winning some fantastic prizes including a possible fully-funded Scholarship place into the Royal Academy of Music. They have also collaborated with the team at Channel 4's talent brand, 4Talent, to offer opportunities to individuals who have, or are experiencing personal hardship.

This is an amazing opportunity for musical theatre graduates, amateurs, semi-professionals and professionals alike, or indeed anyone wanting that break into the world of Musical Theatre.

See their website for further information:

www.voiceoftomorrow.com

APS VERSUS THE EGGHEADS?



The 12 Yard team are now working on a new series of the BBC quiz show 'Eggheads' and are looking for quirky and interesting groups to apply. They think that a group from the National Operatic and Dramatic Association would be fantastic on the show and if you and your team are interested they would love you to apply.

The show is based on 5 quiz masters, who are challenged by various teams of 5 (but 6 in a team) for the prize money. For more information visit their website: www.12yard.com/eggheads.



PIRATES' CHRISTMAS PARTY

A horde of pirates, sporting all manner of piratical apparel, did descend upon the Cider House, Over Compton, Friday 12 December and thereupon did proceed to enjoy themselves enormously of the plentiful drink and good food that was there to be had. After several hours of untrammelled merriment, said to be in the spirit of the festive season, they then proceeded to offer to their generous host, Miyoko and Adrian, fulsome thanks and praise before departing into the night.



Andrew Cross and Kris Wessels in Best Pirate Outfits ➤

A GLOSSARY OF THEATRE TERMS

The Hindbrain -

The part of an actor's brain that keeps up a running subtext in the background, while the forebrain is trying to act. The hindbrain supplies a constant stream of unwanted information. Such as who is sitting in the second row tonight, a notation to seriously maim the crew member who thought it would be funny to put real Tabasco sauce in the fake Bloody Marys, or the fact that you need to do laundry on Sunday.

Stage Crew -

Group of individuals who spend their evenings coping with 50-minute stretches of total boredom interspersed with 30-second bursts of mindless panic

Message Play -

Any play which its director describes as "worthwhile", "a challenge to actors and audience alike", or "designed to make the audience think". Critics will be impressed both by the daring material and the roomy accommodations, since they're likely to have the house all to themselves.

Bedroom Farce -

Any play which requires various states of undress on stage and whose set sports a lot of doors. The lukewarm reviews, all of which feature the phrase "typical community theatre fare" in the opening paragraph, are followed paradoxically by a frantic attempt to schedule more performances to accommodate the overflow crowds.

FAMOUS NAMES OF THE STAGE

By some quirk two plays by French writer and playwright, Yasmina Reza, are being performed in our region in February. The first, 'Art', is on at The Swan. The second, her latest play, 'God of Carnage' is at the Theatre Royal, Bath. (See page 4 for details)



Daughter of Jewish parents, her mother was Hungarian, her father Iranian, Ms. Reza began her career as an actress. She won a Molière award for her first play, "Conversations after a Burial", in 1987, but it wasn't until 1994, with the premiere of 'Art' in Paris, that she received widespread recognition. The 90-minute satire, in which three male friends feud over a blank canvas, earned the playwright international acclaim, a Laurence Olivier Award and a Tony in 1998. It played for eight years in the West End.

'God of Carnage' is already one of the most successful plays in the history of the West End. When a couple of school kids get into a fight and one suffers the loss of two teeth, the combatants' enlightened parents meet to talk things over. But once the niceties are over and the drink starts flowing, it is the parents who turn into spoilt brats.

Yasmina Reza is reputed to be the most exported living playwright on the planet.

IN THIS MONTH

25th January marks 250 years since Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns, was born. Hard physical labour on the family farm took its toll and he turned his attentions towards the passions of poetry, nature, drink and women. At just 27, Burns had already become famous with poems such as To a Louse, To a Mouse and The Cotter's Saturday Night. He died in 1796 aged just 37 and was buried with full civil and military honours. A memorial edition of his poems was published to raise money for his wife and children.

| JANUARY 2009 | | |
|------------------------|---|---|
| Thurs 15th to Sat 24th | The Convict's Opera Based on The Beggar's Opera | Salisbury Playhouse Mon/Wed 7.30 pm: Thurs/Sat 8 pm |
| Sat 18th to Sat 31st | Sinbad the Sailor Arts Centre Music & Drama Group | Shaftesbury Arts Centre 7.30 pm, Friday 8 pm |
| Tues 20th to Sat 24th | Murder with Love Classic thriller | Lighthouse, Poole 7.30 pm |
| Thurs 22nd | The Wind in the Willows A play-reading led by Patricia Harris | Over with Nether Compton Village Hall 7.30 om |
| Tues 27th to Sat 31st | Our Country's Good A Stage '65 Theatre Production | Salisbury Playhouse 7.30 pm, 2.30 pm matinee Sat |
| Tues 27th to Sat 31st | Babes in the Wood Yeovil Amateur Pantomime Society | Octagon, Yeovil At 7.15 also Sat 12.45 & 4 pm |
| Thurs 15th to Sat 24th | Pinocchio Wayfarers Pantomime Society | The Brewhouse Theatre, Taunton 7.30 pm Also matinees |
| FEBRUARY 2009 | | |
| Mon 2nd to Sat 7th | ART Swan Theatre Production | Swan Theatre, Yeovil 7.30 pm |
| Tues 3rd to Sat 7th | Lord of the Flies Pilot Theatre with York Theatre Royal | The Brewhouse Theatre, Taunton 7pm, matinees Wed, Thurs, Sat 2pm |
| Tues 3rd to Sat 14th | God of Carnage Theatre Royal Bath Productions | Theatre Royal, Bath Mon-Wed 7.30 Thurs-Sat 8pm |
| Thurs 5th | Sherborne Comedy Nick Revell, James Dowde Swell | Powell Theatre, Sherborne Doors open 7.30, show at 8.30 pm |
| Thurs 12th to Sat 21st | Romeo and Juliet Bristol Old Vic Theatre School | Theatre Royal, Bristol 7.30 pm, matinees 2.30 Thurs & Sat |
| Wed 25th to Sat 28th | The Accrington Pals An IES Production | The Warehouse Theatre, Ilminster 7.45 pm |

Powell Theatre: Call 01935 810579 or www.powelltheatre.co.uk for tickets.

The Octagon: Call 24 hour Hotline 01935 412282.

The Brewhouse Theatre: Call 01823 283244 for tickets and matinee times.

Lighthouse: Call 0844 406 8666 for tickets and information.

Salisbury Playhouse: Call Box Office on 01722 320333 for times and tickets.

The Warehouse Theatre: Box Office opens 6-8 pm Mondays, 10-12 noon Fridays. Call 070502 189717.

Swan Theatre: Call Yeovil Tourist Information Centre on 01935 845946.

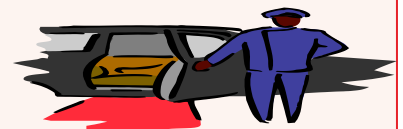
Theatre Royal, Bath: Call 01225 448844 or www.theatreroyal.org.uk for tickets and matinee times.

Shaftesbury Arts Centre: Call 01747 854321 (Mon-Sat 10.30-12.30) or www.goldhilltickets.co.uk.

Theatre Royal, Bristol: Call Box Office on 0117 987 7877 for tickets



If you would like a lift or are able to take others to any of our events in Nether Compton Village Hall, please get in touch with one of the Committee members. Lifts for Club evenings can always be had from Jennie Ward. Call her on 817567.



From Jim, your editor

If you would like any local performances advertised in the **Dates for your Diary** section in future newsletters, please send any details to me at:

jim.reville@btinternet.com or

give me a ring on (01935) 814626. If

I'm not there, I will ring you back.

COPY DEADLINE: THURSDAY 29 JANUARY

Last Word...

My playground was the theatre. I'd sit and watch my mother [Blythe Danner] pretend for a living. As a young girl, that's pretty seductive.
Gwyneth Paltrow