



ALL SYSTEMS GO FOR SPRING PLAY

It's been fully cast (see below), fully backstaged, rehearsals well under way and set-building started (see opposite). It's now hands up to help out with volunteers for Front of House. Call Sylvia Smith on 01935 817439.

Here is the cast list:

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Barnstable | Malcolm Smith |
| Henry Poole | Malcolm Cockburn |
| Nora Barnstable | Chris Yardley |
| Mother | Ruth Rice |
| Roger | Zac Graham |
| Selena, his wife | Sophy Welch |
| Poppy | Jane Pitts |
| George Stubbs | Kevin Yates |

About the play: A Ghost on Tiptoe is a comedy written in 1974 to celebrate the relaxation of the Lord Chamberlain's censorship of stage and screen. It was co-authored by actor Robert Morley, for whom the role of the main character, Barnstable, was written and Rosemary Anne Sisson who wrote 'Upstairs, Downstairs' episodes.

Barnstable hilariously turns the lives of his family and friends upside down as, believing himself at death's door, he suddenly discovers how to live. A great lesson, but we might not all want to go to the lengths Barnstable embraces with such unforeseen consequences.

It was easy to imagine the redoubtable Mr Morley in the role - and, in the light of modern drama, equally difficult to imagine how the Lord Chamberlain could have been offended!



SET SATURDAYS

With barely a couple of months to go before the production opens in the Digby Hall, it's all hands on deck creating the set. If you can spare a couple of hours on a Saturday afternoon - from 2.30 pm - up at The Stables that would be very much appreciated. No experience required!

Grand Theatrical Quiz

On no account miss what will undoubtedly be a hugely enjoyable and brain-stimulating evening when Charles hosts another Grand Theatrical Quiz.



Last year there were questions on recent APS productions, the death of Captain Hook and the identity of the earliest known actor (he was Thespian, in the 6th century BC).

This year there will be more general knowledge, local knowledge and current affairs questions, together with rounds on leading characters, biography, stage directions and famous lines - and by popular request, another music round with accompaniment by Roy Dinshaw on the piano. Nothing too difficult, and only the *tiniest minimum* of Shakespeare questions. We'll compete in teams of 5-6 - you can make up a team in advance or join one when you arrive. Bring guests if you wish.

There'll be prizes for the winners, and the bar will be open downstairs. Upstairs at the Mermaid, Wednesday February 24th at 7.30 pm.

You've gotta be in it to win it!

COMPETITION FOR NEW ARTS CENTRE

A competition has been launched to find a logo for the proposed new Sherborne Community Arts Centre.



Members of the newly-formed Sherborne Community Arts Centre Trust want help to find a design for a symbol representing the centre to be built on land to the south of Paddock Gardens in Newland.

Town councillor Jane Smith, who sits on the trust as deputy mayor of Sherborne, said an

architect is due to be appointed and concept sketches for the design of the building could appear within the next six weeks.

Artwork entered may be hand-drawn and coloured or produced by computer. The finished size of the logo should be 15cm square. Principal colour should be royal blue, but the use of two colours is acceptable.

The competition closes on March 1. Entries will be judged by a panel of three trustees. The Mayor of Sherborne will present prizes £150 for the winner and £50 for the runner-up.

Entries should be submitted to SCACT Logo Competition, The Manor House, Newland, Sherborne DT9 3JL.

NODA 2010 SUMMER SCHOOL

Once again NODA is inviting adults of all ages (minimum age 18) and experience to join their Summer School for a week of unrivalled, intensive training for amateur theatre practitioners. They are offering training in a diverse range of performance and backstage skills where you will be able to develop your confidence and abilities as you benefit from the experience of highly regarded professional tutors.

It runs from Saturday 31 July to Saturday 7 August at Loughborough University.

NODA will be offering 36 national bursaries of £275 each. Each NODA region has the opportunity of awarding various regional bursaries.

The NODA Summer School brochure is available as an ebook and a downloadable PDF file at www.noda.org. A copy of the brochure is also available from our Secretary, Adrian Thorpe - 01935 422141 (office) 01935 431321(home).



GHOSTS IN SHAFTESBURY

Miss Havisham's Ghosts, based on Dickens' *Great Expectations*, plays for one night only at Shaftesbury Arts Centre on

Saturday 20th February and starting at 8 pm. It features Trish Knight-Webb in her first one woman show.

The character of Miss Havisham has long held a fascination for her since first reading *Great Expectations* and then seeing the unforgettable Martita Hunt in David Lean's 1945 film version.

Call /Jenny Parker on 01747 854321.

CORRECTION...

HEDDA GABLER AT THEATRE ROYAL BATH

Tues 23 Feb - Sat 6 March

Not at Salisbury Playhouse as incorrectly listed in last month's Dates for your Diary.



Thrilling, enigmatic, destructive, Hedda Gabler is one of theatre's most irresistible heroines.

Returning from her honeymoon and already bored with her marriage, Hedda finds herself caught between the brilliant but dissolute Eilert Loevborg and the clutches of the predatory Judge Brack. As a shocking path of destruction unfolds, there can be only one outcome.

It's on Monday to Wednesday 7.30 pm, Thursday to Saturday: 8.00 pm. Matinees: Thursday 25th Feb, Wednesday 3rd March and Saturdays 27th Feb, 6th March 2.30 pm. Box Office: 01225 448844 or online at:

<http://www.theatreroyal.org.uk>

SUPERSTITION MOUNTAIN IN HALSTOCK



The Gunwallow brothers are in trouble. Slim's scrapyard has gone belly-up. Dwayne owes money to some bad people.

Mark's in love with dodgy Tina from down the pub. And their dad's just popped his clogs and left them on the brink of bankruptcy. But there's one last glimmer of hope... a legendary gold mine lost somewhere in the depths of the Arizona desert. Trouble is, no one who's ever found **Superstition Mountain** has lived to tell the tale... Blending the spirit of a Hollywood blockbuster with epic music, innovative film and powerful performances from three real Cornish brothers, **Superstition Mountain** is a dark comedy adventure exploring the intimate bonds and savage divides of brotherly love.

It's on at 8 pm Saturday 6th March in Halstock Village Hall. Tel: 01935 83347.

SHERBORNE BOYS DO THE SHREW

Shakespeare's famous tale of the Battle of the Sexes is being performed by Sherborne Boys **Wed 17 to Fri 19 March at 7.30 pm the Powell Theatre**

Written in the form of a play-within-a-play, it is a boisterous and farcical comedy that barely stops for breath.

Tickets free from Reception on left in the archway entrance to the school.

They will also be performing two plays in February: **They Don't All Own Aston Martins** by Willis Hall at 8 pm on Thurs 4th and Fri 5th and **The Musicians** by Patrick Marber at 8 pm on Thurs 25th and Fri 26th.

Tickets free from Reception as above.



Here is the news... Keep up-to-date between newsletters at <http://www.aps-sherborne.co.uk>

How William Terris Met His Death at the Hands of a Madman at the Stage Door of the Adelphi

On the 16th of December, 1897, a gaunt, sallow complexioned man wearing a long cape made enquiries to the keeper of the stage entrance at the Adelphi Theatre in London as to the whereabouts of William Terriss, who was due to appear there that night in an English version of William Gillette's drama "Secret Service." William Terris, whose real name was Lewin, was the resident leading man at the Adelphi, father of actress Ellaline Terriss, and one of the best known and most loved actors in England at that time.



The man enquiring after him was Richard Arthur Prince, aka Archer, a failed actor and former superintendent of the Adelphi where his wife still worked as a dresser. Consequently, he was well known on the premises where his erratic and unpredictable behaviour had earned him the nickname of "Mad Archer". On this occasion he was so obnoxious that Harry Nichols, one of the principal performers at the theatre, was obliged to intervene, remonstrating with Archer and ordering him to leave the premises. Archer muttered "not yet" but

did in fact leave the building as instructed.

A little time later a cab pulled up outside the Adelphi stage door on Maiden Lane, which was reserved for principal members of the cast. It's passengers being William Terriss and his friend, Mr. J. B. Graves, who was a surveyor. Mr Terriss then alighted from the cab and made his way to the entrance where he was met and joined in conversation by Gilbert Tate, the theatrical manager. As he was taking the key from his pocket to gain entrance to the building, another figure darted out of the shadows of a neighbouring shop doorway. It was 'Mad' Archer, and without warning he plunged a knife twice into Mr. Terriss' back. As Mr. Terriss dropped his glove and turned to face his assailant, Archer plunged the knife into his chest, almost bearing him to the ground with the force of the blow. The bystanders, who had taken the first two blows as nothing more than hearty slaps on the back as a friend might give, then realised what was occurring and rushed forward to restrain Archer before he could strike again.

Read the next thrilling episode in your March APS newsletter



CANDLES: Actors usually dislike three candles on the stage or in a dressing-room.

The Origin: Costumes and fresh paint are quick to catch fire. But there may be another, stranger origin for this superstition. There is a very old superstition stating that if three, and only three, candles are lit in a room, the one closest to the shortest candle will be the first to either marry . . . or die. To some, either is as hazardous.

CATS: Actors say it is very ill-omened to kick a cat. It is lucky, however, to have one in the theatre. But if one runs across the stage during a performance, some misfortune will follow.

The Origin: Cats have always been considered to contain magical powers. This superstition dates way back to ancient Egyptians, who considered them Gods. Therefore, having a cat live in your theatre is much like having a god in your home. Later cats were said to contain the soul of a vampire or be used as the Familiar for witches.

To be continued...

What's in a name?

Here's another bunch of stars whose birth names were found not 'fit for purpose'. And some, like Tula Ellice Finklea (pictured below) perhaps very much in need of a name makeover.

Nicholas Cage - Nicholas Coppola
Michael Caine - Maurice Micklewhite

Rory Calhoun - Francis Timony Durgin

Truman Capote - Truman Streckfus Persons

Diahann Carroll - Carol Diahann Johnson

Cyd Charisse - Tula Ellice Finklea

Chubby Checker - Ernest Evans

Cher - Cherilyn Sarkisian

Patsy Cline - Virginia Patterson Hensley

Lee J. Cobb - Leo Jacoby

Claudette Colbert - Lily Chauchoin

Mike Connors - Krekor "Kirk" Ohanian

Robert Conrad - Conrad Robert Falk

Alice Cooper - Vincent Damon Furnier

Elvis Costello - Declan McManus

Lou Costello - Louis Francis Cristillo

Joan Crawford - Lucille Le Sueur

Michael Crawford - Michael Dumble-Smith

Bing Crosby - Harry Lillis Crosby





Tom Cruise - Thomas Mapother IV

Tony Curtis - Bernard Schwartz



To be continued...

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**FEBRUARY 2010**

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Mon 1st to Sat 6th | The Vertical Hour By David Hare | The Swan, Yeovil 7.45 pm |
| Mon 1st to Sat 6th | My Wonderful Day Written & directed Alan Ayckbourn | Salisbury Playhouse Times: Check Box Office or website |
| Wed 3rd to Fri 5th | Little Shop of Horrors Musical | The Octagon Yeovil 7.30 pm |
| Wed 10th to Sat 13th | Arabian Nights Pantomime | The Exchange Sturminster Newton 7.30 pm Matinee Sat 2.30 pm |
| Thurs 11th to Sat 13th | September in the Rain Two-hander by John Godber | Mission Theatre, Bath 7.30 pm |
| Thurs 11st to Sat 20th | The Country Wife Restoration Comedy | Bristol Old Vic 7.30 pm Mats Thurs & Sat 2.30 pm |
| Saturday 20th | Miss Havisham's Ghosts Performed by Trish Knight-Webb | Shaftesbury Arts Centre 8 pm (See page 2) |
| Tues 23rd Feb to Sat 6th March | Hedda Gabler Henrik Ibsen | Theatre Royal, Bath Times: Check Box Office or website |
| Wednesday 24th February  | Theatre Quiz Led by Charles Napier |  Upstairs at The Mermaid 7.30 pm |
| MARCH 2010 | | |
| Thurs 4th to Sat 6th | The Glass Menagerie Shared Experience Production | Theatre Royal, Bath Times: Check Box Office or website |
| Thurs 4th to Sat 6th | The Tempest Firebird Theatre | Bristol Old Vic 7.30 pm Matinee Thurs 2 pm |
| Sat 6th | Superstition Mountain O-region | Halstock Village Hall 8 pm (see Page 2) |
| Tues 9th to Sat 13th | Cold Comfort Farm Taunton Thespians | Tacchi-Morris, Taunton 7.30 pm Matinee sat 2.30 pm |
| Mon 15th to Sat 20th | Haunted by Edna O'Brien prior to West End | Theatre Royal, Bath Mon/Wed 7.30 Thurs/Sat 8 pm |
| Wed 17th to Fri 19th | Taming of the Shrew Sherborne Boys School | Powell Theatre, Sherborne 7.30 pm (See page 2) |
| Tues 23rd to Sat 27th | Much Ado About Nothing Encore Theatre Club | Bridport Arts Centre 7.30 pm |
| Thurs 25th to Sat 27th |  A Ghost on Tiptoe Amateur Players of Sherborne |  Digby Hall, Sherborne 7.30 pm |

Mission Theatre: Call Box Office 01225 428600. More info www.missiontheatre.co.uk

Bristol Old Vic: Call Box Office 0117 987 7877. Info www.bristololdvic.org.uk

The Swan: Bookings for The Vertical Hour. Call 01935 845946

Theatre Royal, Bath: Call Box Office 01225 448844 or www.theatreroyal.org.uk

The Octagon, Yeovil: Call Box Office 01935 283884 or www.octagon-theatre.co.uk

Bridport Arts Centre: Call Box office 01308 424204. More info www.bridport-arts.com

Salisbury Playhouse: Box Office 01722 320 333 or www.salisburyplayhouse.com

The Exchange Sturminster Newton: Box Office 01258 475137 www.stur-exchange.co.uk

Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre: Box Office 01823 414141 (10-4pm & 6.30-7.30 pm www.tacchi-morris.com)

Shaftesbury Arts Centre: Call Jenny Parker 01747 854321.

NB: As Diary Dates are compiled in advance, do check with the venue for any programme changes.



If you would like any local performances advertised in the **Dates for your Diary** section please send any details to me at: jim.reville@btinternet.com or give me a ring on (01935) 814626. If I'm not there, leave your message and I will ring you back.

March COPY DEADLINE: Thurs 25 February

Last Word...

Acting is a question of absorbing other people's personalities and adding some of your own experience.

Paul Newman