



**THIS IS THE BIG ONE - AND THE WAITING IS NEARLY OVER**



The posters are going up all over town and tickets are now on sale at E B Marsh and the Abbey shop £7.50 (students children £4. Don't miss out on a great entertainment that will delight 'children' of all ages.

Oh, and don't forget the **After Show party** in the Digby Hall on Saturday 20th. Given the time, energy and hard work we've put in - we're worth it!

**PS: From 1st November parking at the Digby Hall is FREE after 6 pm.**

## PREVIOUS SOCIAL EVENTS



There we was, mindin' our own business, when this fella - him standin' up there in the photo - says his name is Maurice, says would we like to read this Pinter play 'Celebration'. I ask you, anyone ask you to read a play, just like that? What'y'd do? Good thing we did though. Never laughed so much in my life. This bloke Pinter, he's some comedian, he is.



Scattered throughout with Oscar Wilde's characteristic witty epigrams, our play-reading of 'Lady Windermere's Fan', led by David Smith, turned out to be an engaging and well-attended evening. Not only did we have the presence of the eponymous fan itself but delightful ladies in frilly hats, too. Who could ask for more!

## XMAS PARTY Fri 10 Dec

The date to note is Friday 10th December from 7.30 pm, and the place is The Cider House, Over Compton, home of our generous hosts, Adrian and Miyoko Thorpe. Cost £5 - pay at the door - includes food and your first drink. Subsequent drinks at APS prices. And the theme? This year it's **"BLUE & SILVER"** with a prize for the best outfit. Please remember to bring KFS, bowl and plate. Glasses will be provided. And now for directions. The Cider House is directly opposite Trencherman's at Over Compton. If you're not sure where that is, ring Miyoko or Adrian on 01935 431321. Parking in the courtyard for essential deliveries only - food and drink - and those with walking difficulties. Parking available along the wall outside and in St Michael's Church car park on the other side of the church.



## Christmas Tree Festival Sat 4th-Sun 12th December

Our APS-sponsored tree will join the 40 plus illuminated and decorated trees in the Cheap Street Church. This year the Festival will be supporting Sherborne Boys' School Zambia Project and Sherborne and District Ambulance for the Disabled. The Festival opens with a Dedication Service at 10 am on Saturday 4th and closes with a Carol Service at 6.30 pm on Sunday 12th



## Busman's Honeymoon

Yes, folks, the time has come to cast our spring 2011 production of **Busman's Honeymoon**. There will be a read-through at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 1st December, with auditions at 7.30 pm on Wed 8th and Thurs 9th December. And all upstairs at **The Mermaid**. It's not really that scary.



### Mr Toad's Blog

Have you seen the latest poster from that disreputable publication The River Bank Gazette? RAT, MOLE AND BADGER TAME TROUBLESOME TOAD! I've been harried the News of the WildWorld. Well, you'd expected it from them. But even the much respected Toaday programme



[Our director and cast in rehearsal] from the WBC - the Wildwood Broadcasting Corporation - called me for comment. Casting such unfounded aspersions upon me and my good friends. It's a media frenzy outside Toad Hall right now. Of course, I haven't dignified any of them with a response – best not to, it only encourages them! Come along to **The Wind in The Willows in the Digby Hall Thurs 18th to 20th November** and see for yourselves - and bring your friends and children too.



"It's nothing personal. Badger. it's just that we've been paid to cull you." [Copyright Private Eye]

Re the above cartoon. It's just a little gentle humour everyone. We're not really going to...

Now, more importantly, it's time for me to motor on, to follow the open road ahead. It has been my pleasure to share with you my musing and deliberations. If you're ever passing Toad Hall do pop in. Poop poop.

9 December

# Hamlet

by William Shakespeare  
Cineworld Yeovil



### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Unreserved apologies to Eve Simmonds who was, inexplicably, left off our list of Life Members in the membership card. We must must do better next time!

### JWVP PLAY R&J AS MODERN MUSICAL DRAMA

The Junior Wriggle Valley Players take to the stage again, presenting their first Shakespeare and first teenage show.

Their musical version of Romeo and Juliet takes place in London in 2010, where the two families, the Capulet and the Montague, are in discord. The tension is racial; the Capulet being of Hindu origin and the Montague being of Western descent. It may be a sad tale but in modern Britain today it is played out with similar consequences.

Live music from local band Popeye and the Pixies. Performances are on Fri 3rd and Sat 4th December at 7pm in



Leigh Village Hall. Tickets: Adults £6, concessions (oops, under 16) £5. Under 5s Free (but may have to sit on parents' lap) will be available from Bridge Garage, Leigh and Oak House Stores Yetminster. For more information call Caroline Hart on 01935 872471.

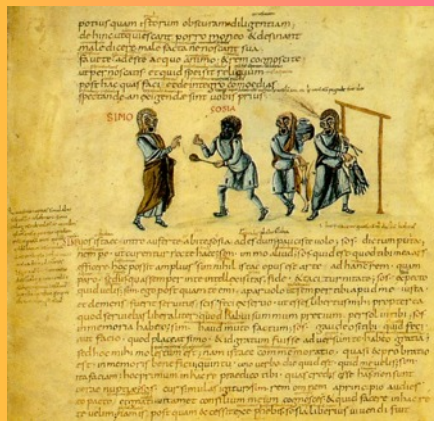
## A Brief History of Theatre - in several parts 3

In most cultural matters Rome is greatly influenced by Greece, and this is particularly true of theatre. Two Roman writers of comedy, Plautus and Terence, achieve lasting fame in the decades before and after 200 BC - Plautus for a robust form of entertainment close to farce, Terence for a more subtle comedy of manners. But neither writer invents a single plot. All are borrowed from Greek drama, and every play of Terence's is set in Athens.

The misfortune of Plautus and Terence is that their audience is very much less attentive than in Athens. And the reason is that Roman plays are presented as part of a broader event, the Roman games.



The games, held every September, are originally a harvest festival. Taking place between the Palatine and Aventine hills in Rome, in an area known as the Circus Maximus, the main events are sporting contests - chariot races or boxing matches.

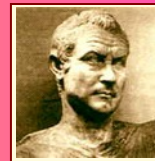


This is a page from a manuscript of Terence, written about 825 AD now in the Vatican.

Clowns soon become one of the side shows, to be joined from 240 BC by plays - enjoying much the same status. A play of Terence's, in 165, fails to attract much attention because it is going on at the same time as a rope dancer and a boxing match.

Since 264 BC gladiatorial contests have also been part of Rome's entertainments. In popular terms make-believe drama proves no match for the excitement of real

From the time of Plautus and Terence it is possible to trace in European drama the same characters, the same plots, the same old themes of a stupid husband outwitted by a young wife, the stingy father fleeced by his rascally sons, or the aged sensualist defrauded of the pleasures he has handsomely paid for. In Terence, however, the young people are somewhat superior to the prototypes in



Plautus' works have been adapted by many later playwrights. His *Amphitryo* was the basis for Giraudoux's *Amphitryon 38*. *The Menaechmus Twins* inspired, among others, Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors* and Rodgers' and Hart's *The Boys from Syracuse*. *The Pot of Gold* became Moliere's *The Miser*. *Pseudolus*, *Casina* and several other plays were combined in Stephen Sondheim's *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*.

death. The Roman circus is more famous than Roman theatre.



Plautus. The courtesans are more refined in speech and manner. The young men are not wholly libertines, but approach more nearly to the type of lover which the modern world enjoys in its fiction. The slaves are of a higher quality, and their masters more decent, often treating them as trusted domestics. The braggart soldiers are not quite such fools, but more like witty roysterers, or half-philosophers.

### FAMOUS NAMES OF THE STAGE

Alan Bennett was born in 1934 in Leeds. He co-wrote and starred in *Beyond the Fringe* (1963), along with Dudley Moore, Peter Cook and Jonathan Miller. His first stage play was *Forty Years On* (1969). Other well-known stage plays include *Kafka's Dick* (1987), *The Wind In The Willows* (1991), and *The Madness of George III* (1992).



Alan Bennett has won many prestigious awards for his writing. His prose collection *Writing Home* (1994), was followed by a sequel, *Untold Stories*, in 2005. His recent play, *The History Boys* (2004), won the 2004 Evening Standard Award for Best Play of the Year and *The Uncommon Reader* (2007), is a novella in which the Queen develops a taste for reading.

His first television play was *A Day Out*, followed by five for the

BBC, published as *Objects of Affection and Other Plays for TV* (1982), and five for LWT, published as *The Writer in Disguise* (1985). His two series of monologues, *Talking Heads 1* (1988) and *Talking Heads 2* (1998), proved him a master of television monologue, a genre he had first anticipated in *A Woman Of No Importance* (1982) - his first play starring a single actress.

His most recent play is *The Habit of Art* (2009).

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY****NOVEMBER 2010**

Fri 5th	<b>Comedy Club</b> Trevor Lock	Powell Theatre, Sherborne Doors open 7.30. Show 8.30
Tues 9th to Sat 13th	<b>GamePlan and RolePlay</b> Taunton Thespians	Tacchi-Morris, Taunton 7.30 pm Mat Sat 2 pm
Wed 10th to Sat 13th	<b>The Ghost Train</b> Classic ghost story	Mission Theatre, Bath 7.30 pm
Mon 15th to Sat 20th	<b>The Memory of Water</b> A comedy	Swan Theatre, Yeovil 7.45 pm
<i>APS</i> Thurs 18th to Sat 21st <i>event</i>	<b>THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS</b> Amateur Players of Sherborne	Digby Hall, Sherborne 7.30 pm Matinee Sat 2.30 pm
Sun 28th	<b>A Christmas Carol</b> Chapterhouse Theatre Company	The Octagon, Yeovil 2 pm and 7 pm
<b>DECEMBER 2010</b>		
Wed 1st to Sat 15 Jan 2011	<b>Swallows and Amazons</b> New musical version	Bristol Old Vic Times vary
Fri 3rd to Sat 4th	<b>Romeo and Juliet</b> Junior Wriggle Valley Players	Leigh Village Hall 7 pm. See page 2.
Mon 6th to Sat 11th	<b>Merry Wives of Windsor</b> Globe Theatre Company	Theatre Royal, Bath See page 2 for times
Thurs 9th	<b>Hamlet</b> National Theatre Live	Cineworld, Yeovil Time TBA
Thurs 9th to Sat 11th	<b>The Dracula Spectacula</b> Next Stage Youthers	Mission Theatre, Bath 7.30 pm Mat Sat 2.30 pm
Thurs 9th to Sat 18th	<b>Dear Brutus</b> Cygnet Company	New Theatre, Exeter 7.30 pm
<i>APS</i> Fri 10th <i>event</i>	<b>APS Christmas Party</b>	<b>The Cider House</b> 7.30 pm
Wed 15th to Sat 15 Jan 2011	<b>With a song in my Heart</b> A celebration of Rodgers and Hart	Salisbury Playhouse Times vary
Fri 17th to Sat 2 Jan 2011 Not 24, 25 and 31 eve Dec	<b>Peter Pan</b> Pantoni Pantomimes	Octagon, Yeovil 2.30 and 7.30 pm

**Powell Theatre:** Call 01935 810579 [www.powelltheatre.co.uk](http://www.powelltheatre.co.uk)

**New Theatre, Exeter:** Box Office 01392 277189 Credit cards 01392 211080 [www.cygnetnewtheatre.com](http://www.cygnetnewtheatre.com)

**Cineworld, Yeovil:** Call 0871 200 2000. Google Cineworld, Yeovil then select advance booking.

**Bristol Old Vic:** 0117 987 7877 [www.bristololdvic.org.uk](http://www.bristololdvic.org.uk)

**Swan Theatre:** Tourist Information Centre 01935 845946. Tickets available from Wed 13th October.

**Theatre Royal, Bath:** Box Office **01225 448844** or [www.theatreroyal.org.uk](http://www.theatreroyal.org.uk)

**Salisbury Playhouse:** Call 01722 320333 [www.salisburyplayhouse.com](http://www.salisburyplayhouse.com)

**Tacchi Morris Arts Centre:** Call 01823 414141 or [www.tacchi-morris.com](http://www.tacchi-morris.com)

**The Octagon, Yeovil:** Call Box Office 01935 283884 or [www.octagon-theatre.co.uk](http://www.octagon-theatre.co.uk)

**Mission Theatre, Bath:** Call 01225 428600 or [www.missiontheatre.co.uk](http://www.missiontheatre.co.uk)

**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](mailto: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.

**December Copy DEADLINE: Friday 26 November**

**Last Word...**

"The drama is not dead but liveth, and contains the germs of better things."

WILLIAM ARCHER, *About the Theatre*