

NOISES OFF

APS newsletter May 2012



Our autumn production this year will be in the week of November 18 – 24, and will be 'The Winter's Tale', one of Shakespeare's later plays. It may seem early to start planning for it, but it is not an easy piece, and I would like to have it cast in good time so that the actors can start getting familiar with their lines over the summer. Apart from the leading role, Leontes, the parts are not too arduous to learn. Most of the major characters speak in blank verse (which isn't as difficult as it sounds), but the three broad comedy characters (the two Shepherds and Autolycus) speak in prose, as do most of the smaller parts.

Auditions will be held at the Clubhouse in Marston Road on Tuesday, June 12th, starting at 7.30. I don't intend to hold a complete read-through of the play, since I don't think it is fair to ask people to read Shakespeare – particularly late Shakespeare – unseen. Instead I would like to hold a combined workshop and audition, at which I will explain the background and the plot of the play, and will ask people who are interested to read some selected scenes (see "audition pieces" below). We may read these more than once so that everybody gets a chance to try out for parts they are interested in. Naturally I hope as many people as possible will want to audition, but please feel free to come along just for the workshop element if you wish (you may

Please note: Auditions will be held in the Clubhouse, Marston Road on Tuesday 12 June starting at 7.30 pm

find, by the end of the evening, that you would like to try out for a part after all).

If anyone wants to read the play in advance, please bear in mind that I have cut it by nearly 25% (the full text is quite long). I can e-mail you our acting version if you wish. I have also combined some of the smaller roles.

There are audition pieces I would like people to read. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like a copy or have any questions about them or about the characters.

A note about ages:

The second act of "The Winter's Tale" takes place fifteen years after the first. Perdita and Florizel, don't appear until Act II and are both teenagers; Mopsa, Dorcas (both young) and

Autolycus (adult) are also only on in Act II; poor little Mamillius (7 or 8 years old) and Antigonus (adult) are dead by the interval. All the other characters need to age fifteen years between Acts I and II. Apart from that, there is no particular age indicated – although Hermione is pregnant at the start of the play; and the young shepherd can't be too young, since he is old enough in Act One to dig a grave (and then has to age 15 years).

Charles

Contact Charles on
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charlesnapier@
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exit, pursued by a bear.

The Characters:

Major parts: Men: Leontes, King of Sicily (503 lines)
Polyxenes, King of Bohemia (172 lines)
Camillo, Courtier to Leontes (190 lines)
Antigonus, Courtier to Leontes (76 lines)
Rogero, Courtier to Leontes (43 lines)
Florizel, Son of King Polyxenes (147 lines)
Autolycus, a Rogue (135 lines, some sung)
Old Shepherd (85 lines)
Young Shepherd (77 lines)

Women: Hermione, Leontes' Queen (165 lines)
Paulina, Hermione's friend and Antigonus' wife (218 lines)
Perdita, daughter of Leontes and Hermione (81 lines)

Smaller parts: Men: Cleomenes, Courtier to Leontes (23 lines)
Dion, Courtier to Leontes (21 lines)
A Lord (35 lines)
A Gaoler (9 lines)
An Officer of the Court (18 lines)
A Mariner (7 lines)
A Gentleman (41 lines)
Mamillius, Leontes' infant son (9 lines)

Women: Emilia (Hermione's waiting-woman) (15 lines)
Dorcas (A shepherdess) (5 lines. Dances)
Mopsa (A shepherdess) (2 lines. Dances)

Programme of events 2011-2012 season

Friday 18 May:

Annual Dinner at Castle Gardens. See below. **Last booking date is Friday 4 May.**

Wednesday 20 June:

Poetry evening *Life and Death on Mount Helicon* led by Maurice Freeland. In Paddock Gardens (weather permitting) Otherwise in our Club Room.

Friday 20 July:

AGM and Summer Party. Nether Compton Village Hall.

All events at 7.30 pm in our Club Room at The Old Chapel unless indicated otherwise.



Annual Dinner Friday 18 May

Our Annual Dinner will be held on the evening of **Friday 18th May** in the Arcadian ambience of the Butterfly House at Castle Gardens.

The time: **7 for 7.30 pm**. The cost: £17.50 for three courses or £14.50 for two courses. A menu choices form is either attached, for those receiving their newsletter by post, or available to print off from the Members Page of our website.

Please forward the completed form, together with your cheque, made payable to Amateur Players of Sherborne, to Gilly Savage, Mytern House, Thornford DT9 6QN Tel: 01935 872098 or email her at: gillysavage@hotmail.com

Do please book as soon as possible and **at the very latest by Friday 4 May.**

Preferred dress is smart. Wine and other drinks can be bought.



noda Summer School

4th-11th August 2012 - Scarman Conference Centre, Warwick University

How does an intensive week of fun and practical theatrical workshops, with professional tutors at the top of their game, in hotel class accommodation, with great food and even better company sound?

If you are passionate about amateur theatre and looking to boost your existing skills and confidence, learn something completely new, or simply spend a week doing something you love, NODA Summer School 2012 is the place for you.

There is still some financial support available for this course so visit our website at noda.org.uk or contact Membership Services on 01733 374790 for more information.

There are also some places still available on the following:
Full week courses: Acting Skills, Greek Theatre, Musical Directors, Musical Theatre in rehearsal (Andrew Lloyd Webber), RSC Shakespeare.
Short courses: Mime, Physical Theatre, Lighting Design, Sound Design.

Life and Death on Mount Helicon

Paddock Gardens 7.30 pm on Wednesday 20 June

Come along and enjoy an evening devoted to poetry.

Mount Helicon, a mountain in south-east Greece in Boeotia was believed by the ancient Greeks to be the source of poetic inspiration and home to the muses.

The evening begins with a selection of poems personal to Maurice Freeland, some sombre, others light-hearted.

After the interval the floor is yours. Please bring your favourite poem for reading to the rest of us. And a picnic if you wish.

In the event of bad weather we will transfer to the Club Room.

A RIGHT ROYAL READING!

A packed Club Room with two Queens on their 'thrones' divided by more than the breadth of the room. At stake one Crown. Robert Bolt's *Vivat! Vivat Regina!* gave us an immensely rewarding evening of historical drama, tension and humour. Thanks to Charles for a play-reading hit.

Summer Party and AGM 2012

Our AGM - and Summer Party - will take place at **7.30 pm on Friday 20 July** in Nether Compton Village Hall..

This is your chance to let your committee know what you think of how they have managed our society over the year, and also to air your views and ideas for the future.

This year we need to elect a new President, Secretary and two Committee Members.

Nomination papers will be sent out with the formal notice of the AGM approximately three weeks beforehand by email and by post to those without email.

Please bring a bottle - alcoholic or otherwise - for second drink onwards.

Please also bring with you cutlery, plate (for main course) and bowl (for pudding) and take them home afterwards. Plastic cups will be provided.

Do contact a committee member if you need a lift to Nether Compton.

Arts SCENE

A selection of what's on around and about

DELIVER US FROM EVIL

The Civic Players' next production at the Swan Theatre, Yeovil, *Deliver us from Evil*, is a thriller. It will run from Tuesday 5th to Friday 8th June at 7.45 pm.

There is a new Rector at Wychcombe Magna who is slowly gaining acceptance with the the locals. Then the unthinkable happens - there is a murder at the Rectory and it becomes apparent that not all is as it seems in the village.



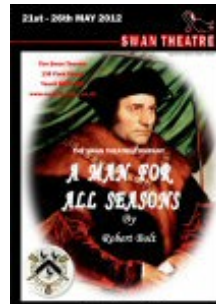
StageTalk the monthly TV programme dedicated to amateur theatre groups is on at **5 pm Sunday 6 May**. Catch it on Showcase TV Sky Channel 201, Freesat 403. It's also available online at www.stagetalk.tv

A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS AT THE SWAN

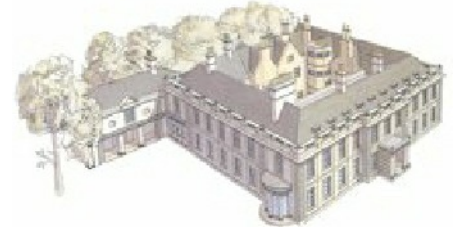
The Swan Theatre Company will be performing Robert Bolt's **A Man for all Seasons** from Monday 21 to Saturday 26 May.

This play, although about the historical events sparked off by Henry VIII's decision to divorce Catherine of Aragon, is also a great psychological drama. It focuses on the point at which a clever and sophisticated man is no longer able to compromise. Thomas More was no willing martyr, but was finally forced to recognise something within himself, to deny which would have made life valueless.

Doors open 7:15pm, show starts 7:45pm and finishes 10.00 pm.



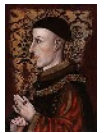
OPEN AIR SHAKESPEARE AT POLTIMORE HOUSE



Poltimore House, is just off the B3181 4 miles north of Exeter just south of the village of Poltimore. between Pinhoe and Broadclyst.

Henry V - Sat 16 June

at 7 pm. To unite in common cause a kingdom torn by civil strife, England's new monarch decides to enforce his claim to the throne of France. But after his invasion's initial success, he finds himself facing a vastly superior French force on the fields of Agincourt, and with it, the ultimate test of his leadership.



As You Like It - Thurs 28 to Sat 30 June at 7 pm.

Shakespeare's delightful romantic comedy is brought to life in a zesty new production.

Banished by Duke Frederick, Rosalind and Celia disguise themselves and escape to the Forest of Arden. Romantic adventures ensue as they meet a love-lorn shepherd, a love-struck shepherdess as well as a melancholy lord and finally find true love with Orlando and Oliver.

The Winter's Tale - Fri 20 & Sat 21 July at 7 pm.

It includes everything needed for magical outdoor theatre; a statue that comes to life, a lost princess, a sheep-shearing festival, a roguish clown and a happy ending.



In inclement conditions all performances will take place in the Chapel.

Call 01392 248938 or www.poltimore.org/events

At cineworld Yeovil



With Benedict Cumberbatch as the Monster

Thursday 14 June at 6.30 pm
Sunday 17 June at 4 pm

Tickets now on sale: £10, Senior and Students £8. Save 10% by booking online. Call 0871 200 2000 or Google Cineworld, Yeovil

With Jonny Lee Miller as the Monster

Thursday 21 June at 6.30 pm
Sunday 24 June at 4 pm

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY 2012

Wed 1 to Sat 26	Epsom Downs Howard Brenton play	Salisbury Playhouse Times vary see website
Sun 6	Much Ado About Nothing Courage Performers	Merlin Theatre, Frome 7.30 pm
Tues 8 to Sat 12	The Winslow Boy Next Stage Theatre company	Mission Theatre, Bath 7.30 pm
Tues 12	Pinter Double Bill The Dumb Waiter & The Lover	Bridport Arts Centre 8 pm
Mon 14	Hamlet Blue Apple Theatre	Tacchi-Morris, Taunton 7.30 pm
Sat 19	Equus London Classic Theatre	Bridport Arts Centre 8 pm
Mon 14 to Sat 19	Third Week in August Peter Gordon play	Studio Theatre, Salisbury 7.30 pm
Thurs 17 to Sat 19	Hi-de-Hi! SNADS	Sturminster Newton Exchange 7.30 pm
Mon 12 to Sat 26	A Man For All Seasons Robert Bolt	The Swan, Yeovil 7.45 pm
Tues 22 to Fri 25	All My Sons Ilminster Entertainments Society	The Warehouse, Ilminster 7.30 pm

JUNE 2012

Fri 1	Cold Comfort Farm Bristol Old Vic Theatre School	Bridport Arts Centre 7.30 pm
Thurs 7	Comedy Club Matt Price	Powell Theatre, Sherborne 8.30 pm Doors open 7.30 pm
Sat 16	Henry V RSC Open Stages	Poltimore House, nr Exeter 7 pm ends 9 pm. See page 3
<i>APS event</i> Wed 20	Life and Death on Mount Helicon Led by Maurice Freeland	Paddock Gardens, Sherborne 7.30 pm See page 2
Thurs 21 to Fri 22	Othello Rum Doxy Theatre	Mission Theatre, Bath 7.30 pm
Thurs 28 to Sat 30	As You Like It Cygnet Theatre Company	Poltimore House, Exeter 7 pm See page 3

Powell Theatre: Call 01935 810579 www.powelltheatre.co.uk

Bridport Arts Centre : Box Office 01308 424204 www.bridport-arts.com

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

Studio Theatre: Call 01722 334956 www.studiotheatre.org.uk

Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre: Box Office 01823 414141 www.tacchi-morris.com

Salisbury Playhouse: Box Office call 01722 320333 www.salisburyplayhouse.com

Merlin Theatre: Box Office 01373 465949 www.merlintheatre.co.uk

Mission Theatre: Call 01225 428600 www.missiontheatre.co.uk

Warehouse Theatre: Box Office 07943 779880 www.thewarehousetheatre.org.uk

Swan Theatre: Box Office 01935 462781 www.swan-theatre.co.uk



If you would like any local performances mentioned in the newsletter please send details to me at:

jim.reville@btinternet.com or call me on 01935 814626. Please leave your

message if I'm not available and I'll ring you back.

June Copy Deadline: Friday 25 May

Last Word...

It took me three long and often painful years to discover what I had known all those years ago - the joy of becoming someone else.

Simon Callow