

NOISES OFF

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear APS member,

It is with great excitement that we can confirm that we now have official agreement for the change of use of the chapel. This means that we can now perform productions that we can charge the public to come and see. A proper theatre, albeit with some final work to complete the green room, extra toilet etc.

We have had a great start to the season, outlined in this newsletter. One great disappointment, however, was that we had to cancel the autumn production of "She Stoops to Conquer", due to casting

difficulties. This was done with a heavy heart and I want to take the opportunity to thank all of the people who worked so hard before cancellation was necessary - Alan Morris - director, John Crabtree - stage designer, and all the cast and crew involved. I hope you will all be able to participate in many future, exciting productions in the Chapel.

I hope to see many of you at our Christmas party, future events and productions.

Have a lovely Christmas and all the best for 2018.

Bev Taylor-Wade

DONATION FROM SHERBORNE SUMMER FESTIVAL

It seems a long time since June, but we had a nice reminder last week, when Lady Wingfield Digby presented APS with a cheque for £250, a donation from the proceeds of the Sherborne Summer Festival, organised by the former Mayor of Sherborne. Avril Griffiths and John Crabtree were more than happy to accept the gift on our behalf!



We benefit from Sherborne Summer Festival to the tune of £250

"OPENING NIGHT" - FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 29TH

A couple of dozen people gathered at the chapel on September 29th to celebrate the start of a new APS season and to learn about what was going to be on the events programme for the coming year. The tables groaned with the weight of food and drink, and the room was filled with chatter and laughter from the enthusiastic gathering, which included some new faces willing to play their part. Adrian and Richard took on the role of co-MCs as the Two Ronnies, introducing "a packed programme tonight", punctuated



with dreadful, groan-inducing jokes and puns!

The full programme is shown elsewhere in this newsletter but some of the highlights which emerged on the opening night follow:



Roy and Georgia agreed to work with Malcolm to bring together a joint evening of poetry and prose with the Scribblers on 25 October. As both groups concentrate on the creative arts it seems right to combine their joint talents in an evening of entertainment

talents in an evening of entertainment to suit everyone.

Sylvie introduced the November rehearsed reading of "Love, Loss and What I Wore" which requires an entirely female cast. It was clear that there would be no shortage of willing participants for this.

Roy and Linda will take charge of organising the APS Christmas Evening, which will follow the tradition of members delivering their favourite Party Pieces, but this time there will be a fancy-dress theme - "Red and Green".

"Displaced", the short story written by Scribbler, Jan Payne, will be dramatized and performed by APS members as a one-act play in February.

Our Easter entertainment will be a celebration of the festival, in poetry, prose and song, curated by Eve.

Sylvie has agreed to take on director's duties once again for a Spring performance of Neil Simon's "London Suite". All members who would like to take part in this production are invited to make themselves known to Sylvie.

We plan to have an evening of musical entertainment in April, and would like a willing volunteer to compile an entertaining programme of songs and tunes to take place in the Chapel.

Our first Chapel performance to an paying audience will be "A Midsummer Night's Dream" to be directed by John. He described his vision of a production to echo the original Shakespearian performance

by the Lord Chamberlain's Men, with many in the cast doubling-up the multiple roles. But on this occasion, women will be allowed to take the female roles!

Our final highlight of the current season will be an outdoor early evening performance in Paddock Gardens in June, much in line with our 2016 Shakespeare quatercentenary celebration in



2016. We debated possible themes, and the one which attracted unanimous support was "A Literary Celebration of the Garden". We are hoping that Gilly will take on the duty of compiling an entertaining programme of scenes, poems and prose from the vast range of material addressing this popular theme.

The whole evening showed how, individually, we are all shy and reticent about our ideas and abilities, but collectively, we are all delighted to take on tasks, work together and achieve the aim of entertaining our audience, but mostly ourselves.

Adrian Harding

"LOVE, LOSS, AND WHAT I WORE"

A rehearsed reading in the Chapel on Wednesday November 8th

The play is written by Nora and Delia Ephron (who wrote the screenplay for "When Harry Met Sally" and "Sleepless in Seattle"). It is a series of monologues and ensemble pieces about women, clothes and memories - including all the important subjects such as mothers, prom dresses, buying bras and why we like to wear black!

It was such a pleasure to direct these wonderfully talented ladies. I'd not seen most of them in action so, if you were there, you'll know why I felt so lucky. And when I saw them at rehearsal in their black costumes all glamorous and sparkly I knew it was going to be great on the night.

Thank you to all seven actors, to John and Adrian for lights and set. Please can we make sure that more people feel they can get involved in these events in future? It's fun!

Sylvie Lord



"L.L & WW"

As I took my seat for "Love, Loss and What I Wore" it was with a sense of relief that I looked around and realised I was not the only male member of the audience for a play whose very title suggested "Keep away, chaps, this isn't for you". Nevertheless, it was hard to imagine themes less appealing to a masculine perspective than the relative benefits of black as a dress colour, or the horrors of attending the Junior Prom in the same shade of powder blue as one's date.

An hour later, after a magnificent performance by seven talented APS ladies, I was completely converted, won over by the cleverness, wit and ingenuity of this series of monologues and vignettes. Nora Ephron had summed up the content as "not about fashion...it is about what clothes really are to us, those moments when we are trying to

find our identity though them". The fact that the various stories told are all based on real experiences meant there was a directness about them which genuinely created a "tapestry of the collective female psyche", (as one critic of the Off-Broadway production noted.)

It really was a tapestry, too, ranging from, for example, the acute embarrassment of mothers' involvement in the purchase of first bras, teenage romances, and wardrobe malfunctions, through some much darker themes, to the comedy of "I hate my handbag".

This performance was ideally suited to the APS performance space in the Chapel, and I'm really grateful to Sylvie and the performers for a lovely evening. What a shame that there were many more seats that could have been filled.

Statler and Waldorf

BREAKING NEWS: SPRING PRODUCTION ANNOUNCED!

"London Suite" - by Neil Simon - is a series of four one-act plays. All of the action takes place in a London hotel overlooking Hyde Park. You may remember the film from the mid-1990s.

We need three to six women and three to six men of various ages - there is opportunity to double up some parts. Read throughs and auditions will be early in January, so watch out for more news or just let Sylvie know now if you are interested on sylvie.lord27@googlemail.com

Sylvie Lord

2017/18 PERFORMANCE SEASON AND PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Friday 8th December
Christmas Party

Friday 26th January
Quiz Night with Fish and Chips - Bring a friend

Sunday 25th February
“Displaced” a one act play about Tyneham, with afternoon tea

Wednesday 28th February
First read-through of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” - all welcome

w/c 12th March
Spring Production: **“London Suite”** by Neil Simon

Friday 23rd March
“Easter” a celebration of poems, prose and songs

Late April
An evening of **Musical entertainment**

Friday 8th June
General Knowledge Quiz night

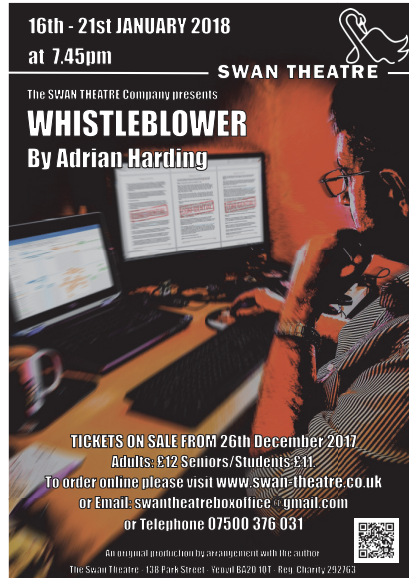
Early June
Open Air performance in Paddock Gardens

Mid-June
“A Midsummer Night’s Dream” by William Shakespeare, directed by John Crabtree

Friday 13th July
Summer Party and AGM

News of an exciting new production from the pen of a talented, young, up-and-coming local playwright!

“Whistleblower” is a whodunit murder! It is a story of trust and it is right to be honest and when it is 2014, and a UK company is defence contract from a If the company can't secure this bankrupt. The management team company has to win the business only finalise the deal by making decision-maker. How does the the business it needs to survive, international business code of secrets are under wraps at the the company has blown the Office. With the future of the beleaguered management team would have done this, and why?



with a twist - there is no mistrust, a story about when is necessary to deceive. It is finalising a tender to win a threatened African Republic. contract, it may well go has decided that the to secure its future, but it can an illegal payment to the key company ensure that it wins whilst hiding its breach of the ethics? And what other company? Someone inside whistle to the Serious Fraud company in the balance, the are asking themselves, who

....and finally, don't forget.....

The Red & Green CHRISTMAS PARTY

Friday 8 December 7.30pm at the Clubhouse

An evening of fun, music and laughter

We are looking for all those talented thespians who would like to do a turn. Interested?

Let Roy and Linda Catchpole know what you would like to do

by Thursday 30 November on lin.catch@virgin.net or 01963 250040

Light-hearted, comedy, musical, festive (or not), in costume or fancy dress with a red and green theme..

Come and join the fun!