

NOISES OFF

LOOKING BACK.....LOOKING FORWARD

Our first newsletter of 2018 gives us a chance to wish all members a rather belated "Happy New Year", as well as the opportunity to look forward to what promises to be a very exciting year in the ongoing story of the APS. Since the last edition, we have enjoyed two excellent social occasions, and are already well into preparations for no than fewer than three theatrical ventures. I hope you enjoy reading these updates.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

The dark, cold pre-Christmas days were greatly cheered on December 9th by those lucky enough to attend the APS Christmas Party, in the Chapel, nicely warmed and decorated for the occasion, and brightened by some truly magnificent Christmas jumpers!

Before the festivities got under way, Roy made a presentation to Jim Reville, stalwart of the Players, long-standing committee member, editor of "Noises Off" and membership secretary. As Roy rightly said, the APS owes a huge debt of gratitude to Jim. Many thanks, Jim. The committee is already finding what a hard act you are to follow!

Roy and Linda had laid on a magnificent spread, and organised an impressive programme of Christmas-themed (mostly!) performances by our own members. It's amazing how many versions, parodies and tributes have been spawned by that old Victorian favourite, "The Night Before Christmas" - we seemed to have worked our way through most of them by the end of the evening! A great time was had by all, and thanks go to Roy and Linda for their hard work in organising the evening.



“WHISTLEBLOWER”

As we reported in the last “Noises Off”, Adrian Harding’s debut play was taken on by the Swan Theatre, Yeovil, for their January performance. While not primarily an APS venture, we were, of course, very proud of Adrian’s achievement, not least because two APS actors, Richard Culham and Jane Williams, had starring roles. The play was very warmly received by packed houses, playing over six nights, and was similarly well regarded by the online reviewer who attended. Many congratulations, to Adrian, Richard and Jane.



Photo by Pauline Dagnall

GILLY’S FAMOUS FILM QUIZ!

The end of January is always an important time in APS’s annual calendar of events and Friday 26th 2018 was no exception when Gilly Savage hosted her celebrated Film Quiz and Fish and Chip Supper. With Gilly as Quizzer-in-chief, assisted by Helen Smith keeping an eye on the scores, the event produced a record turnout of members together with a number of new faces whom we were delighted to welcome. The competition as always was intense and as usual fiendishly enjoyable, testing members’ movie knowledge to the limit. Extra brain food when it was needed was provided by an excellent feast of fish and chips.



A MIDSUMMER-NIGHT'S DREAM



As you may already know, our summer production of 'The Dream' is being staged in The Chapel between 18th and 23rd June. As an introduction to the play, there will be a reading on **Wednesday 28th February at 7.30** in The Chapel. It is open to anyone who is interested. You do not have to be an seasoned Shakespearean to take part; you don't even have to be an actor, and it could offer an ideal opportunity for anyone who is perhaps unfamiliar with the play to experience what is one of Shakespeare's most delightful and enchanting comedies. So come along and enter the magical world of Oberon, Titania, Bottom and Puck.

It must be stressed that **THIS IS NOT AN AUDITION** – auditions will be announced at a later date.

John Crabtree

"DISPLACED"

"Displaced" is a gentle but moving and heart-warming story, written by Jan Pain from our dear friends, the Scribblers. It concerns a family being forced to move from their long-term home in the village of Tyneham in 1943, as the whole south Dorset valley is requisitioned by the army for D-Day trials and manoeuvres. The family make a great sacrifice to help the national war effort, but at what personal cost to themselves?

This APS production is aimed at those wishing to make minimal commitment over a short period of time for maximum acting enjoyment. In common with our recent very successful rehearsed readings, this will be dramatised by the cast, and is intended to entertain a small and select invited audience. There will be **no need to learn lines off by heart** (unless you really want to!).

All parts are of a similar size, and there are no "major lead" or "minor supporting" roles. Each part is equally as important as the other.

Let me know if you wish to take part in the first informal reading, and I will be happy to let you have a copy of the script.

The first general reading to introduce "Displaced" will take place in the Chapel Theatre on **February 13th at 7.30pm.**

If you are selected to be part of the cast, the public performance will take place at **4.00pm** on the afternoon of **Sunday February 25th.**

Adrian Harding



Displaced

By Jan Pain

"LONDON SUITE"

Performance dates Wed 14th March – Fri 16th March

Director Sylvie Lord 07875 127032

Rehearsals are underway for “London Suite” by Neil Simon - a collection of four light-hearted plays that all take place in a suite in a plush London Hotel.

Settling Accounts shows Brian, a successful novelist, and Billy, his manager, whom Brian has caught in the act of running away with all his money.

Going Home features a mother and daughter (Sharon and Lauren) on a shopping trip; Lauren convinces her mother to go on a date with an elderly man, even though Sharon is strongly against it.

Diana and Sidney are a divorced couple: she is an actress, he is living with his lover. Now he claims he needs money from her to help pay the medical bills for his partner, who is dying.

The Man on the Floor A couple are in London for Wimbledon; their plans are put on hold when Anne loses the tickets, Mark’s back gives out, and they are asked to move because they have been put in Kevin Costner’s suite.

John, Adrian and Kelvin have been working hard on Sundays to build a stage and the Chapel is beginning to look like a proper little theatre.

“It is really exciting to be directing the first play to be put on in the Chapel,” said Sylvie Lord, Director. “And, although it’s very early days, I’m really impressed with what I’ve seen so far in rehearsals.”

Performances will take place between 14th and 16th March. Watch out for news of how to book your seat.

Rehearsal photographs:



THE ARCHIVES

Records of the long and distinguished history of the APS have been preserved for posterity on our website (www.aps-sherborne.co.uk). The section "Past Productions" lists every production since 1934, with links to many fascinating photographs. Recently, in the "News and Events" section, another archive has been created, containing the great majority of APS newsletters since 1980 - once again, fascinating to dip into now and again. A small number of newsletters have not been found, particularly around 1985, 1989-90 and 2005-6. If any long-standing members of the Players happen to have preserved copies of these priceless documents, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact either Mark Lambert or Martin Williams (details in "Contact Us" on the website).

KEY DATES COMING UP!

Tuesday 13th February *Displaced* (First reading) (7.30)

Sunday 25th February *Displaced* (4.00)

Wednesday 28th February *A Midsummer Night's Dream* Meeting (7.30)

Weds 14th - Friday 16th March *London Suite* (7.30)

Friday 23rd March - Easter event (tbc)

Friday 8th June - Quiz Night (tbc)

Mon 18th - Saturday 23rd June - *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (7.30)

Friday 23rd July - AGM and Summer Party (tbc)

