

NOISES OFF

"BETRAYAL" – TICKETS ON SALE

Tickets for *Betrayal* will go on sale on Monday November 7th. You are urged to buy your tickets as early as possible - we nearly always sell out, and the best seats get snapped up within a few hours. As usual, tickets should be bought online, preferably through the APS website (www.aps-sherborne.co.uk), or, if necessary, through the Box Office on 07786 070093.

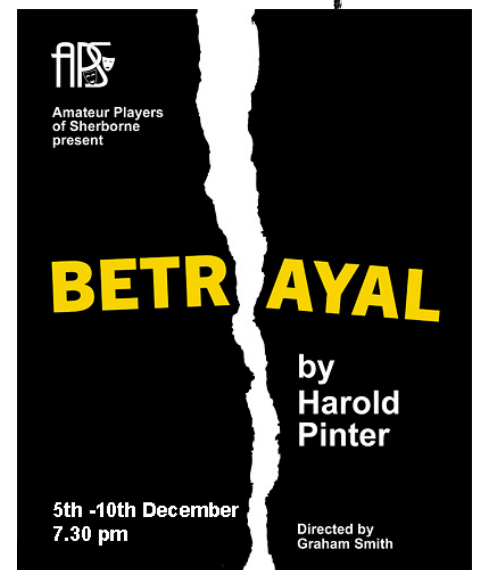
Performances (£12 and £10) will be on Monday 5th - Saturday 10th December at 7.30pm, and also on Saturday 10th at 2.30pm (£11 and £9).

Director **Graham Smith** writes: *Betrayal* is one of Pinter's most accessible plays, but also reckoned by many to be his masterpiece. The plot concerns the seduction of a best friend's wife and the course of the subsequent affair, but the theme is how human interaction is layered with duplicity and self-deception.

Some scenes are consecutive in time, but Pinter largely reverses the chronology, beginning with the aftermath of the affair and running back to its passionate beginning.

Because we already know how it all ends, the closing scenes acquire a fascinating depth of meaning. The script is sparse and plain, straightforward on the surface, but every syllable, look, pause and silence is significant, letting us see into the characters' inner feelings and manoeuvrings: competitiveness, dishonesty, evasion, jealousy, regret, anger – and love. When the single word 'betrayal' is dropped into a central scene it spreads its ripples all the way through the taut structure of the play. Emma, Robert and his "best man" Jerry are all ultimately guilty of betrayal – of each other, and not least of themselves.

This play is both simple and complex, sad and funny, utterly engrossing to



rehearse, perform and watch – truly a serious comedy. The Studio Theatre is the ideal environment in which to follow the characters' most intimate emotions and marvel at Pinter's craft.

Rehearsals have been - and continue to be - enormously rewarding and successful. The photographs feature cast members **Sarah Nias** (Emma), and, new to APS: **Chris Williamson** (Jerry), **Alex Scrivenor** (Robert) and **David Pileri** (Waiter).

"BETRAYAL" IN REHEARSAL



MARCH PRODUCTION – AUDITION CALL – “THE SECRET DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE”

We are delighted to announce auditions for our Spring production.

The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 ¾ **By Sue Townsend**

At nearly 14, Adrian Mole is an unrecognised intellectual and poet suffering the traumas of first love, the threat of parental divorce, and spots. If he could only have his mum back home, a date with the desirable Pandora, and his own poetry programme on the BBC, all might be well.....

Cast - (smaller parts may be doubled up):

Adrian (nearly 14 years)

Nigel (his best mate)

Grandma (in her late 60's/early 70s)

George and Pauline (Adrian's parents, late 30's/early 40's)

Mr and Mrs Lucas (neighbours – similar age to George and Pauline)

Pandora (same age as Adrian and Nigel)

Bert Baxter (“not a nice old age pensioner”!)

Queenie (in the same old people's home as Bert)

IMPORTANT - The parts of the “teenagers” can, and probably will, be played by young adults who can carry those parts (not gender specific). We are not expecting teenage actors/actresses - but, as

always, everyone is welcome to come and audition!

Smaller parts:

Kent (school bully)

Official (from the electricity board)

Doreen (George Mole's lady friend)

Scruton (headmaster)

Matron (in the old people's home)

If you would like to audition for a specific part, or just want to come along and see how it goes, drop an email to the Director, Bev Taylor-Wade, at

bev.taylor.wade@gmail.com

Performances will take place from Monday March 20th to Saturday March 25th.

AUDITIONS WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE SHERBORNE STUDIO THEATRE ON MONDAY 21ST AND TUESDAY 22ND NOVEMBER, AT 7.00

Contact Bev if you would like to audition but are unable to make either of those dates.

NEW MEMBER

We are delighted to welcome **Natasha Pranevich** as a new member of APS. We hope you will have a long and active association with us, and look forward to seeing you at APS events, and either on stage, or behind the scenes, in future productions.

100 CLUB

As we regularly report, the 100 Club exists to give vital support to our fund-raising efforts on behalf of the Theatre, and in its short existence we have already raised nearly £1000. But there are plenty of tickets remaining, and many APS members have not yet joined up - please do so as soon as you can. Please see “Support Us” on the website, or email sst100club@gmail.com

The October draw was won by ticket number **40**, whose holder won the prize of **£34.20**.

The next draw will take place on December 10th, and, excitingly, will comprise both the “normal” two-monthly prize, and in addition the annual bumper Christmas prize. This is currently estimated to be a **minimum of £147**. If you are not yet a member of the 100 Club, and if you like the idea of such a Christmas bonus, you can join up now and buy-in previous tickets from September onwards - this will entitle you to participate in the Christmas draw.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Please make sure you keep the evening of **Friday December 16th** free, for the APS Christmas Social - more details to follow later.

FORTHCOMING
PRODUCTIONS

Betrayal by Harold Pinter, directed by Graham Smith, will be on 5th - 10th December.

Into the Breach, written and performed by Mark Carey, will be on January 27th-28th.

The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 3/4 by Sue Townsend, directed by Bev Taylor-Wade, will be performed on March 20th - 25th.

Whose Life Is It Anyway? by Brian Clark, directed by Martin Williams, will be on 5th - 12th June 2023.

Bouncers and **Shakers** by John Godber, directed by Sarah Nias, will be on 18th - 23rd September 2023.

And Shakespeare's **Twelfth Night**, directed by John Crabtree, will be on a date to be confirmed in November or December 2023. Full details of all of these will, of course, be published both in *Noises Off* and on the website.

BREAKING NEWS - "INTO THE BREACH"

We are thrilled to have been able to invite Mark Carey (professional actor and writer, author of "Keeping Our End Up") to perform his one-man show *Into the Breach* at the Studio Theatre in January, and that he has accepted our invitation.

Mark has had an illustrious career - he trained at the Royal Central School, and has worked in Ludlow, Derby, Exeter, Northampton, Westcliff, Newbury, Nottingham, York, Coventry, Birmingham, The Orange Tree Richmond, The Southwark Playhouse, The Arts Theatre as well as on tour and in the West End. Amongst his credits, (of special interest to APS), he has in his time played in both *Educating Rita* and *Betrayal*.

Into the Breach tells the story of George Crocker. Returning from the Second World War, he is keen to liven up his dull life so he decides to join the village Drama Club. What happens then turns his world upside down!

A great little show. It's "Dads' Army meets "The Vicar of Dibley". London Metro.

A delight, a lovely and very humorous play that fully merited the standing ovation. Stratford Herald.

Mark Carey shows amazing dexterity and comic skill in playing all 17 parts. The Stage

The quality of acting and

writing is as good as any you will see. A deep and nuanced story. Every character drips with personality and charm. Beau Pergusey in The Cheltenham Standard.

The writing is breathtaking, so many surprises and wonderful moments. A tour de force. Mary G Evans, Cygnet Training Theatre, Exeter.

Following a run at the Rondo Theatre, Bath, the following review by John Christopher Wood appeared in the "Bath Echo":

This one-man, but multi-character play, written, directed and performed by Mark Carey (though partially also written by William Shakespeare) contains multitudes.

It's a demonstration of acting skill; it's a resume of the Bard's Henry V; it's a commentary on 4 wars - the Boer War, World Wars One and Two, and the Hundred Years War; it's at once anti-war, and pro-war; and also, obliquely references the performer's own family.

Where to start? The conceit of the play centres around the character of George Crocker, an odd-job man living in Devon in 1943, who, without any acting experience, joins his local drama group and is involved in its production of Henry V.

There's a magnificently old-school thespian director; a village idiot who's actually a savant; a nice lady who makes

costumes and plays the love interest in this play and in *Henry V*; a mad, choleric and drunken retired major; and more.

Carey jumps between these characters with consummate skill, in a performance which encompasses comedy, pathos, rage and poignancy; punctuated with the beauty of Shakespeare's own lyricism and bombast.

It culminates in the nationalistic rant of the "God for Harry, England and Saint George" speech, which in these 'Faragiste' times is a slightly chilling ending – though whether that is Carey's intention is left to us to ponder.

Altogether a remarkable and highly original piece of theatre.

Mark will perform "Into the Breach" at the Sherborne Studio Theatre at 7.30pm on Friday 27th and Saturday 28th January, and also at 2.30pm on Saturday 28th.

Tickets can be obtained from November 7th through the normal APS channels - www.aps-sherborne.co.uk, or 07786 070093.

QUIZ NIGHT

A year to the day after the previous one, we held a successful Quiz/Fish & Chips evening on November 15th. By a happy coincidence, this was also the date of the 100 Club draw, which took place during the interval, under the eagle eye of all ticket-holders present,

It was a well-attended evening, with over 20 participants in half a dozen teams of varying size, age-profile, talent and rowdiness. The light-hearted quiz rounds were based on the history, sport, life and culture of each decade since the 1960s, and the high scores achieved suggested there were some excellent memories at work! However, the quizmaster had his hands full on occasions dealing with multiple protests from one particular (ladies') team about any football-related questions!

Thanks to all who attended, and to Richard and Ruth Culham who organised the fish & chips. Congratulations to Team Harding, the runaway winners. The evening made a profit of £43.95 for APS.

ROSE BOWL AWARDS

The following people are all set to spend an enjoyable evening in Bristol on November 27th, waiting to hear whether their nominations for Rose Bowl Awards translate into wins. All at APS wish them all the very best, and our warmest congratulations for their nominations:

Sarah Nias as Best Actress for her portrayal of Rita in *Educating Rita*

Roger Chadbourne as Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of Mr Mayhew in *Witness for the Prosecution*

Patrick Knox as Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of Mr Myers QC in *Witness for the Prosecution*

Richard Culham as Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of Geoffrey in *Billy Liar*

And the production of *Educating Rita*, directed by **Graham Smith**, has been nominated as Best Dramatic Production.

We look forward to being able to bring you news of the outcomes.

