

NOISES OFF

"BETRAYAL" SPECIAL



Amateur Players of Sherborne

CHRISTMAS PARTY



Friday 16 December 7.30pm

at the Studio Theatre

Marston Road, Sherborne

AN EVENING OF FUN, MUSIC AND LAUGHTER
TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON

Light-hearted, comedy, musical, festive (or not), and great food!

Come and join the fun!

We are looking forward to seeing as many APS members and guests as possible for our **Christmas Party** at the Theatre this Friday, 16th December, from 7.30pm. Do come along. We'll have the heating on!

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 £1200. 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 December draw took place on Saturday 10th, and was won by ticket number 98, whose holder won the prize of **£34.20**.

At the same time, we held the grand annual Christmas Bumper draw, with the prize being 10% of the club's takings for the year. The winning ticket was number 62. The ticket holder was awarded the prize of **£147.70**, of which she very generously returned a portion as a donation to APS funds.

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome **Marty Pentecost** and **Scarlett Brookes** as new members 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, or behind the scenes in future productions. We also welcome **Jan Pain** as a new member of the 100 Club.

ROSE BOWL AWARDS

As we reported in the last *Noises Off*, APS received no fewer than 5 nominations for awards at the annual Rose Bowl Ceremony, which recognises and rewards achievements in amateur theatre throughout the whole of the South West of England. APS productions, and individuals, have been regular nominees and award winners over the years.

This year's ceremony took place at the Marriott Hotel in Bristol, on November

27th. We are proud and delighted to announce that Patrick Knox received the David Higson Award for the Best Supporting Actor, for his portrayal of Mr Myers QC, in the December 2021 APS production of Agatha Christie's *Witness for the Prosecution*, directed by John Crabtree.

Patrick's citation read as follows:

It is always a joy to watch an actor who inhabits a role every second they are on stage. Whether the

focal point of a scene, or, as this character often was, in the background reacting to mime, but never in an intrusive manner, to others' words and actions, this actor was Mr Myers QC every moment he was in view. He was the epitome of what a supporting actor should be.

Many congratulations to Patrick, and also to the other APS nominees: Sarah Nias, Richard Culham, Roger Chadbourne and Graham Smith.



Patrick receives his award



The (rather rowdy) APS table

BETRAYAL

Following the highly successful 2019 APS production of *The Birthday Party*, our Sherborne audiences once again showed their appreciation of the work of Harold Pinter. Sell-out audiences were captivated by the fascinating twists and turns in the relationships between a married couple, and the wife's lover (also the husband's best friend), in our latest production, *Betrayal*, which was staged from December 5th - 10th.

Despite choosing to perform in the coldest and darkest week of the year (one scene requires the actors to transport us to a sunny summer week in Venice!), we found ourselves with another triumph on our hands. The responses of the audiences were glowing:

"absolutely brilliant! Superb acting from all the cast, utterly convincing performances, really professional level, and expertly directed..."

"...engrossing and totally believable..."

"...the chemistry between the characters was electric..."
to quote a few.

The script is pared back in such a way as to make the dialogue totally naturalistic; Pinter's famous pauses and incomplete phrases showing with utter conviction how the

three characters, while appearing to communicate with each other, have actually weaponised their use of language, and operate their own selfish, sometimes sinister, agendas.

The actions of the play, as the adulterous affair is initiated, develops, grows stale and ultimately fails, largely run backwards. This deceptively simple trick allows great scope for the audience to wonder who knows what - and when did they find out, and why didn't they say something?

The action takes place over nine scenes in half a dozen different places. This was effortlessly captured by using a plain stripped-down set, with just one entrance, a few pieces of furniture in differing locations, a handful of props and some nicely-timed sound effects. And plainly, that was all that was needed. At no point was there ever a need for complication.

A real bonus was the fact that of the four actors (the three main protagonists are joined by a cameo waiter in one scene), three were new to APS. Alex Scrivenor and Chris Williamson brought a wealth of talent and experience with them, and we very much hope that they will make APS their future theatrical home. Sarah Nias

has quickly become a regular favourite, despite only joining APS in 2021, and once again demonstrated her range and versatility. And newcomer David Pileri brought some more light-hearted touches to the play in his restaurant scene. David's background from the Sicilian theatre in Palermo meant that we and the diners were in safe hands: his Italian accent was most convincing!

All four are to be congratulated on their brilliant realisations of their characters. And director Graham Smith's insistence on meticulous attention to details paid dividends. As he noted in the programme, the rehearsals involved all the actors in lengthy discussions on intonation, position and interpretation - a hugely stimulating, challenging and rewarding process, which meant that - apologies for the unavoidable cliché - they really did "inhabit" the rôles. It was a cruel blow of fate that Graham had to miss the final performances after contracting Covid, and we wish him a speedy recovery.

All in all, *Betrayal* was an enormous artistic success - as well as a financial one - which has cemented yet further APS's outstanding reputation amongst our loyal and faithful audiences. Many thanks to all involved.



Sarah Nias - "Emma"



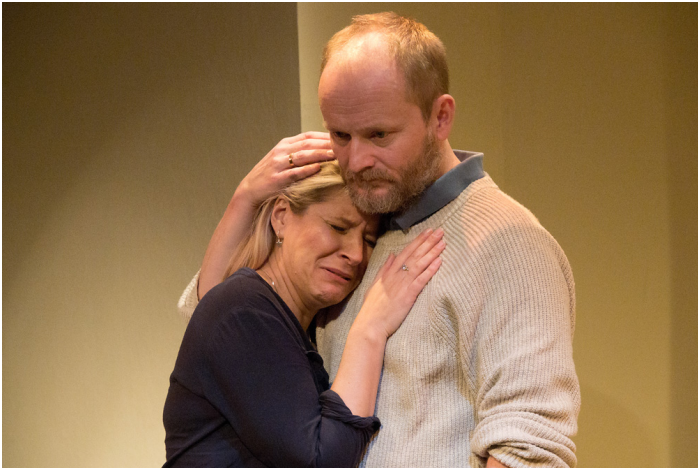
Alex Scrivenor - "Robert"



David Pileri - "Waiter"



Chris Williamson - "Jerry"



JIM REVILLE

It is with much sadness that we have learned of the recent death of Jim Reville. Jim joined APS in 2007 and very quickly became a much valued member of the society. He never appeared on stage – or even wanted to – but he was always keen to provide help and support wherever he could.

Jim took on the task of Newsletter Editor in September 2008 and in his first edition he wrote “my aim is to bring you a monthly newsletter that is lively, entertaining and above all informative”, an aim he achieved admirably throughout the next eight years. He was elected as Membership Secretary in



2012 and served in that role continuously until 2017.

Jim was often found helping front of house or back stage and he was Stage Manager for five consecutive plays – *The Love of Four Colonels* (2008), *When We are Married* (2009), *Tons of Money* (2009), *A Ghost on Tiptoe* (2010) and *The Wind in the Willows* (2010).

However, he really preferred to help rather than manage and he greatly enjoyed being part of a set building team.

We miss him. Rest in peace, Jim.

Mark Lambert

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS IN 2023

Into the Breach, written and performed by Mark Carey, will be performed 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 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.

NEXT SHOW IN THE STUDIO THEATRE

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.

Mark has had an illustrious career - he trained at the Royal Cereal 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!

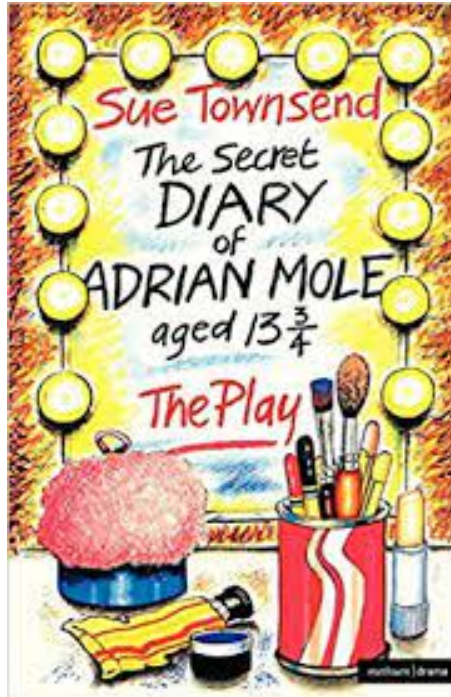
A great little show. It's "Dad's Army" meets "The Vicar of Dibley". London Metro. A delight, a lovely and very humorous play that fully

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, *Cygnets Training Theatre, Exeter*.

Mark will perform *Into the Breach* at the Sherborne Studio Theatre 7.30pm on Friday 27th and Saturday 28th January at 7.30pm, and also at 2.30pm on Saturday 28th. Tickets can be obtained through the normal APS channels - www.aps-sherborne.co.uk, or 07786 070093.

THE SECRET DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE (AGED 13 3/4)

The wheels have already started turning for our March production, *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 3/4*. Director Bev Taylor-Wade held a series of very successful auditions in late November, and is now close to completing the casting. We are very pleased to be able to announce at this point that the principal roles of Adrian and Pandora will be played by **Liam Beard** (*Billy Liar* and



Shakespeare In (and out of) Love) and **Lou Bakewell** (a very welcome newcomer to APS).

Rehearsals will commence in January, and the performance will take place between March 20th - 25th.

Further details will, of course, be published in *Noises Off* and on the website.

NEXT PLAY READINGS

Keep these dates! We are pleased to announce our next two informal play readings, which will take place in the Theatre, and to which all APS members and friends are invited.

The reading of ***A Wife for all Reasons*** has been arranged for Wednesday 8th February at 7.30, hosted by Adrian Harding.

And ***Art***, by Yasmina Reza, will be read on Wednesday April 5th at 7.30, hosted by Graham Smith.

More details will follow, of course, and we look forward to seeing you at these events.

2022 - IT'S A WRAP!

And so we reach the end of 2022, the first year since 2019 in which our programme was not severely disrupted by Covid (despite various individuals being laid low along the way).

And it is a year on which we look back with a lot of satisfaction. We have received awards and nominations. We have had glowing reviews. We have terrifically good feedback from our audiences, and a very high degree of loyalty (with a high proportion of audience members returning for all our shows). We have maintained our membership numbers and recruited talented new actors. We have launched the 100 Club, and are now on a more secure financial footing than ever before (although we are of course impacted by inflation and rising fuel bills just like everyone else.) We have benefited from some extraordinary generosity, and we have been lucky enough to have

been gifted a number of assets for our building. We have exciting plans for further growth and development. Above all, we take satisfaction that, for the first time since opening our new home in 2018, we achieved our goal of staging four major productions in one year. Mind you, they were not just "staged" - *Educating Rita*, *Billy Liar*, *Keeping Our End Up* and *Betrayal* were all artistic, critical, and commercial hits.

We look forward to presenting our 2023 programme of a further four plays, and we look forward to seeing you at them, and at our social events in between.

Meanwhile, the APS Committee wishes all members, friends, and other readers of *Noises Off* a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year