



NEWS LETTER



MAY 1999

As the 1998-99 APS season draws to a close, plans are already under way for the next. This year, in fact, The Players will not even close down for the summer, as we have a summer production of *The Tempest* that finishes only a few weeks before the opening night of the new season.



Watson, Kathy Messinger, Fiona Watson and Louise Lambert, who were awarded some generous prizes by Stuart.

Due to the unavailability of rehearsal space Vivian Vale's evening sadly had to be cancelled, but Margaret Field stepped in at the last moment to arrange an unrehearsed play reading of another of Eric Chappell's plays. I'm told it was hilarious and much enjoyed by those who attended.

Kathy Messinger's musical evening was a tremendous success. She had put a lot of hard work into organising an evening of 20th century songs, arranged by the decades. All twelve of the company had a great deal of fun doing it and for me it was an honour to be included in a line-up of so much talent. No doubt each member of the audience will have had their favourite moments, but it would be unfair to even try and single out any one performance. More than one person has suggested that this show, or something like it, could well do with a wider audience, and serious consideration will be given to this thought.

As a postscript to the spring production, you may like to know that we made a profit of £400, which is very satisfactory, especially as some of the features of the set boosted the expenses somewhat. We have since received the Rose Bowl adjudication, which most of those who have seen it seem to think was fair. The comments about David Smith's performance were particularly favourable and there seems to be every

Prompt Corner

Tuesday 1st June

An Unrehearsed Play Reading
with digital sound effects
Arranged by Mark Lambert
The Crown, 7.30 p.m.

Friday 18th June

Annual General Meeting
Nether Compton Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.
Followed by
Summer Party
Horns Hill,
Nether Compton

Wednesday 21st & Friday 23rd July
Auditions for Arcadia
Cheap St Church Hall, 7.30 p.m.

reason to hope that he may get a richly-deserved nomination for Best Actor.

Forthcoming attractions

Prior to the AGM there is just one evening left in our 1998-99 programme. On Tuesday 1st June I shall be conducting an unrehearsed reading of *Play On* by Rick Abbott. This is an amusing concoction of a play within a play, but I have to confess that the main reason for my choice is the play's sound effects, which on this occasion will all be produced with the aid of a computer. If there is time afterwards, there may be an opportunity for anyone who wishes to learn more about how the effects are generated.

Officers and Committee 1998-1999

President

Joy Saunders

(standing for re-election)

Chairman

Colin Mayes

(retiring)

Secretary

Anthony Stephens

(standing for re-election)

Treasurer

Jessica Colson

(standing for re-election)

Membership Secretary

Mark Lambert

(standing for re-election)

Committee

Elected in 1996 and retiring

Stuart McCreadie

Kathy Messinger

Jennie Ward

Elected in 1997

Sue Francis

Patricia Stuart

Elected in 1998

Michael Baatz

Chris Jessiman (retiring)

A letter from Bentley....

I've got itchy feet, always on the move to another house, another place, different people.. it's not the recipe for the type of lifestyle where you settle, make a group of firm friends and belong. I don't seem to be able to do that; so when after just a few months in Sherborne I found an interesting group of people and learnt what APS really stood for I was soon at home, as though I had been living in the town for many years.

Let me remind you, I am no stage actor, though off stage being a Gemini and an advertising man I carry a certain reputation. But I found that APS was interested in what I could contribute and what is even more important for my inferiority complex, I was appreciated. APS was my only out of work experience in Sherborne, but it was strong and I seem to have no need for more time out.

Then this lad was given a part in a play, and though it was by default it turned out to be the highlight of my stay in Sherborne. Unforgettable.. I really belonged!!

So thanks a million everybody, I benefited from your company and will never forget APS.

Thanks... Robert D

ARCADIA

by Tom Stoppard

In 1809 at Sidley Park in Derbyshire, the orderly classicism of Lady Croom's Capability Brown grounds is being turned into picturesque romantic chaos, as fashion dictates, by landscape architect 'Culpability Noakes'. In a Georgian room overlooking the work is Lady Croom's brilliant adolescent daughter, Thomasina Coverly, with her handsome, clever tutor Septimus Hodge. Their maths lesson is interrupted by, among others, the imperious Lady Croom and Ezra Chater, a cuckold and minor poet, determined on satisfaction.

180 years later, in the same room, a corresponding group, comprising a mathematician, a biographer/historian and a vulgar academic, try to unravel the events of 1809—with spectacularly wrong results.

This critically acclaimed, award-winning play was premiered at the Royal National Theatre in 1993 and has just been released for amateur production.

Auditions

at The Cheap St Church Hall

Wednesday 21st and Friday 23rd July, 7.30 p.m.

If you cannot make either of these dates and wish to audition for a part, please contact the director, Tony Field, on 01935 815427.

Production week starts November 27th. Performances will take place from Thursday December 2nd to Saturday December 4th

CAST (8/9 men and 4 women; Note: Cast ages can be flexible within the overall age structure of the play)

1809

Thomasina Coverly, aged 13, later 16

Septimus Hedge, her tutor, aged 22, later 25

Jellaby, a butler, middle-aged

Ezra Chater, poet, 30s +

Richard Noakes, a landscape artist, middle-aged

Lady Croom 35 - 45 ?

Captain Brice RN, middle 30s to early 40s

Augustus Coverly, aged 15 or so.

(also plays Gus in the present day.)

PRESENT DAY

Hannah Jarvis, an author late 30s to late 40s ?

Chloë Coverly, aged 18/20

Bernard Nightingale, a don, as Hannah

Valentine Coverly, 25-30

Gus Coverly, aged 15 or so

The Tempest

Chorus	Marilyn Hawkins Lucy Kneller Kathy Messinger Jane Stein
Alonso	Graham Baker
Antonio	Tony Manns
Gonzalo	Elsie Lombard
Adrian	Gill Manns
Sebastian	Madeline Lambert
Miranda	Charlotte Colson
Prospero	John Sutherland-Smith
Ariel	Tamsin Lambert
Caliban	Jennie Ward
Trinculo	Jessica Colson
Stephano	Mark Lambert

directed by
Jason Hepple

The AGM will take place at Nether Compton Village Hall. As last year, we have given you an incentive to come by arranging the Summer Party immediately afterwards. This will be held in Jennie Ward's garden if the weather is fine; otherwise we will remain in the Village Hall.

At the AGM there will be the usual election of officers and committee. As I mentioned in the last Newsletter Colin Mayes is stepping down and so we will need to elect a new Chairman. The remaining officers are all standing for re-election, but of course nominations for any post are welcome. Three committee members, Stuart McCreadie, Kathy Messinger and Jennie Ward, have reached the end of their three-year term and will therefore be retiring, and we need to elect two committee members in their place (at which point the overall reduction in the size of the committee started three years ago will be complete). Nomination forms are printed on the next page; feel free to nominate anyone you would like to see on the committee, but please ensure that anyone you nominate is willing to stand for election. If, on the other hand, you believe that you could make a useful contribution to decision making, but have not yet been asked, don't be modest—ask someone to nominate you.

Regretfully, I have to tell you that we must also elect an additional committee member, for a two year period, as Chris Jessiman is also retiring. He and Catharine have decided to buy an hotel, possibly as far away as Devon. We are very sorry to lose Chris as a committee member, and indeed both of them as members of the play if and when that happens. Not only are they thoroughly likeable people, but Chris's talents as a director, actor, scriptwriter and set-builder are rare in one person. We will miss him greatly.

1999-2000 Season

As yet no one has responded to our request for ideas for next season's evenings. There must be something you would like to do or see, so do please let us know about it as soon as possible. While on this subject, the response to Michael Baatz's idea for workshops has been disappointing. Do take a moment to let us know if you are interested.

Préveza 1999

Rehearsals for *The Tempest* have begun and all is going well; see the opposite column for a full list of the cast. In addition to the performances in Greece, we will be presenting two performances on Thursday 5th and Friday 6th August at Compton House (The

Summer Workshops

Shakespeare Workshops and Hamlet

Punch Productions hope to put on an al fresco production of *Hamlet* in late August or early September. With this in mind, Mark Freestone will be running some Shakespeare workshops starting in June. These workshops are intended to be useful and entertaining in their own right and by joining in you will not necessarily be committing yourself to taking part in any particular production. So if you are interested in learning more about Shakespearean acting, contact Mark on 01935 817012.

Octagon Theatre Summer Workshops

In August The Octagon Theatre is running its annual workshops and summer projects for the young and not so young. I haven't enough space to give details, but if you want to know more do telephone me on 01258 817270, or ring the Octagon Theatre on 01935 422836. Book early for the Musicals, as they are always well subscribed.

Octagon Theatre Courses	Age range	Date	Fee
Movement	8-12	2 August	£25
Pantomime	13+	3 August	£25
Musical Theatre	13+	4 & 5 August	£45
Variations on a Theme	13+	6 August	£25
Stage lighting	13+	To be announced	Tba
Scenery and props	13+	7 August	£25
Build a mini musical	8-12	8-13 August	£55
Build a rock musical	13-18	15-21 August	£60
Build a musical	19+	22-28 August	£65
Drama & Physical Theatre	10-13	26 Aug - 2 Sept	£60

fly Farm), Over Compton. There will be a charge for tickets and we will need front-of-house support and some help with publicity—distributing posters etc. Volunteers please contact Gill Manns (publicity; 01935 474206) and/or Monica Parsons (Front of House; 01963 250424) before they contact you.

Future Productions

A synopsis and details of auditions for *Arcadia*, our autumn 1999 production are given on the previous page. Tony Field comments that this is a cleverly constructed, thought provoking and very amusing play, in effect two one-act plays run-

ning in parallel. Hence no one has too many lines to learn. The set Tony requires is relatively simple, but needs to be solidly built and will involve some degree of constructional skill. The property list is quite extensive and unusual and an early volunteer willing to rise to the challenge would be welcome. The sound effects are also interesting if anyone feels they would like to take on that task.

As yet no decisions have been taken about millennium productions, but we have a number of interesting ideas from several directors and the new committee will bend its collective mind to the task of choosing plays during the summer.

A new home for APS

If anyone has a spare £200,000 available, I understand that the premises in Long St, formerly occupied by Phillips, the auctioneers, are up for sale at this bargain price. What a wonderful place that would be to create a home and perhaps even a small theatre for The Players.

On a more realistic note you may be interested to know that negotiations for leasing the Rawson Hall are proceeding satisfactorily. Having whetted your appetite that's all I am going to say for now; if you want to know more, join us at the AGM. See you there!

Mark Lambert

AMATEUR PLAYERS OF SHERBORNE Annual General Meeting

I wish to nominate

.....
(please print name)
for the post of

President / Chairman / Secretary / Treasurer / Membership Secretary /
Committee Member (please delete as applicable)

Proposer.....(please print name)

Signed.....

Seconder.....(please print name)

Signed

Please send completed nomination form to The Secretary,
Virginia Cottage, North Rd, Bradford Abbas, Dorset DT9 6SA
or hand it in at the start of the meeting

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