



# NEWS LETTER



NOVEMBER 2001

An autumn production is an excellent thing. It gives one something to look forward to as the wind and wet of October merge into the floods and freezing fog of November and allows those of us so inclined to put off having to think too clearly about Christmas for a while. Roll on next spring, but meanwhile.....



## The EGM

Twenty-eight members (out of a possible 104) attended the Extraordinary General Meeting on 30th September. As you can see from the changed banner above, we remain **Amateur Players of Sherborne**. Those who attended the meeting were given the opportunity to propose a change of name, but in the event no such proposal was made, although Tony Birks-Hay made an excellent and impassioned speech giving the reasons why he felt the word 'amateur' should be dropped, together with his reasons for deciding not to propose it formally.

In fact the possible change of name was always something of a side issue. The main purpose of the EGM was to correct the anomalies and inconsistencies contained in the Constitution. This was achieved, although one or two of the changes were more controversial than the Committee had thought they would be, and at the 2002 AGM we will probably have to revise the article that deals with how our accounts are audited. A copy of the revised Constitution as it stands at present can be found on the clubroom noticeboard.

## Ring Round The Moon

Margaret Field is very happy with the way rehearsals have progressed. **Production week** of this extremely funny play starts at 9.00 am on **Saturday 24th November** and as much help as possible would be appreciated for setting up as we have to be ready for a technical rehearsal on the Sunday evening. Dress rehearsals will take place on the Monday and Tuesday, followed by **four performances**, starting on the Wednesday. My apologies for not including a cast list in the last Newsletter, but at the time of printing changes were occurring. A complete cast list is now shown in the panel on the next page.

## Help required

On the subject of help, this is a good place to remind all those who take part in our productions that it is appreciated if actors can turn up to help if at all possible, on both the setting up day and the 'get out' day on the Sunday after the last performance. The back stage crew are always happy to do what they can, but it is appreciated if the actors 'muck in' too.

By the same token, following *Arms and The Man* the Committee received complaints about the state of the dressing rooms on the Sunday following the production. In future please would cast members leave the dressing rooms reasonably tidy after the last performance, particularly if they are unable to come and help the following day, by disposing of litter (used tissues, disposable cups, empty drink cans, unwanted envelopes etc). Costumes should always be left tidy and make-up items returned to where they came

## Prompt Corner

All events at 7.30 pm in the Clubroom, unless otherwise indicated.

Saturday 24th November  
**Setting up for *Ring Round The Moon***  
Digby Hall, 9.00 am

Sun 25th - Tue 27th November  
**Technical and dress rehearsals**

Wed 28th Nov - Sat 1st Dec  
**Performances of *Ring Round The Moon***  
directed by Margaret Field  
Digby Hall, 7.30 pm

Tue 4th and Wed 5th Dec  
**Auditions**  
***Hotel Paradiso***  
by Georges Feydeau  
Directed by John Sutherland-Smith

Friday 14th December  
**Sherborne House Christmas Party**  
with part of the entertainment  
supplied by members of APS,  
directed by Jennie Ward  
Tickets £15

Friday January 4th  
**Our own 'Twelfth Night' party**  
With a repeat performance of the entertainment performed at Sherborne House  
directed by Jennie Ward

Tuesday 8th January  
**Give Us A Clue**  
Devised by  
Madeline Lambert and Jill Hudson

Monday 14th January  
**Improvisation Workshop**  
First of six Monday workshops  
Led by John Sutherland Smith  
Remaining workshops on Mondays  
21st & 28th Jan, 4th, 11th & 18th Feb

Friday 25th January  
**Chairman's evening**

Thursday 31st January  
**Auditions for Twelfth Night**  
by William Shakespeare  
Directed by Jason Hepple

Thursday 7th February  
**1940s Musical Evening**  
Arranged by  
Sue Francis and Angela Lindley

## Life membership for Dod

I am pleased to report that Dod Pearson has been offered and has accepted Life Membership of The Players.

Dod joined APS in 1981 and is therefore, in terms of length of membership, the most junior of our Life Members. However, since she joined Dod has voluntarily been involved in one way or another with almost every production.

Off stage Dod's support has always been invaluable. She can nearly always be found somewhere, beavering away with either costumes, props or coffees. On stage her only major role was that of the maid in

the 1985 production of *Gaslight*, but she has always been happy to play walk-on parts and she and her good friend Jean Harrap, with whom she used to perform 'party pieces' for the entertainment of members, have always jokingly described themselves as 'professional villagers'.

Now a proud 81½ years of age, she continues undaunted, as her recent appearances in *As You Like It*, *Hamlet* and the October rehearsed play reading demonstrate. Her dedication and sense of fun have made her a treasured member of The Players and her Life Membership is richly deserved. ML

## Ring Round The Moon

Joshua	Colin Mayes
Hugo	Jason Hepple
Frederick	
Diana Messerschmann	Claire Axelson
Lady India	Jan Bridgman
Patrice Bombelles	David J. Smith
Madame Desmortes	Joy Parkinson
Capulet	Janet Vincent
Messerschmaunn	Tony Stephens
Romainville	Mark Lambert
Isabelle	Fliss Trew
Her mother	Anthea Watson

Director: Margaret Field

Production Manager: Tony Field

Stage Manager: Margaret Dixon

from. This will be much appreciated by those who have to complete the tidying and cleaning process the following day.

### The Season starts

The Chairman's Opening Night went with a swing. The actor Roger Hammond attended and chatted to members, and a stylish cabaret entertainment was provided by Jo Freestone and Lucy Allen at the piano. Wine (free on this occasion) flowed freely and several new members joined our ranks.

This years edition of our musical panel game Face The Music was hosted by Peter Thomas. He was assisted by yours truly at the sound desk, and the scorer, following the family tradition started by the Lovely Louise and the Tantalizing Tamsin, was on this occasion the Mesmerising Madeline. The panelists on team A were Lucy Allen and Althea Collier, with their captain Jason Hepple. Team B comprised Jennie Ward and Tony Stephens, captained by Jane Stein, and both teams, as always, astounded us all with their musical knowledge. A hard fought contest was won by a Team B. Fred Collier picked up the prize for the audience round, and a lively audience had an entertaining evening.

### Play readings

For her rehearsed play reading Jessica Colson presented two one act plays, *In Room Five Hundred and Four*, by Jimmy Chinn, and *Remembering Things* by Michael Freeman (we think!). The first of these plays saw a welcome appearance by Dod Pearson as an elderly woman reminiscing about her honeymoon during the war. Fred Collier and Patricia Stewart played the couple in earlier days, with Jessica herself taking the role of the boarding house manageress. In the second play Dod played another elderly woman who claimed to have lost a large sum of

# HOTEL PARADISO

Feydeau really invented the genre of the quick-fire farce. His work is fast-moving, witty and stylish, not at all like the Whitehall imitations, which are laboured and crude by comparison. The play contains all the classic Feydeau ingredients: Wife-swapping, spiralling panic and a seedy, apparently haunted, hotel where the corridors see the action of the play rather than the beds. We shall be using the John Mortimer translation which is skilful and pacy, as well as remaining true to Feydeau's word-play.

## CHARACTERS

<b>Benoit Pingle</b>	Middle aged. Slightly pompous; constructs an affair with Marcelle.
<b>Palliardin</b>	One of the major parts with plenty of character to experiment with.
<b>Angelique, his wife</b>	A magnificent bully. Lots of fun in this part.
<b>Marcelle Palliardin</b>	Another main part. Early middle aged. Misunderstood by her architect husband. Lots of chances to develop character and lots of comic business in the hotel.
<b>Henri Palliardin</b>	Architect. Middle aged. Rather keener on his work than his marriage. Another major part, he is involved in all three acts.
<b>Maxime</b>	Palliardin's nephew. He is a philosophy student and totally unworldly, at least at the beginning. He is taken to the hotel to be "educated" by Victoire. I played this part some years ago and can guarantee it is hilarious.
<b>Victoire</b>	The Pingle's maid. She falls for Maxime and takes him off to the hotel. There are no embarrassing scenes as everyone spends all their time rushing around. A middle length part, but you won't get bored!
<b>Mathieu.</b>	Pingle's friend who comes to visit with his daughters and finishes up in, yes, the hotel. Lots to do in all Acts and a chance for great comic acting.
<b>Four daughters</b>	Aged 15 and under. I have already asked around and will audition these separately.
<b>Bastien</b>	Hotel Manager. Lots to do in Act 2. Any age. Lots of comic stuff.
<b>Boulot</b>	Hotel porter. Again, Act 2 funnies. Could be re-jigged for a lady.
<b>Inspector Boucard</b>	Of the Department of Public Morality. Act 3 mainly.

We also need people to do **two policemen, other hotel staff, guests, porters and one or two small speaking parts.**

John Sutherland-Smith, Director (01935 81513)

money, with Fred and Patricia as members of the police. A small but appreciative audience enjoyed their performances very much.

For the unrehearsed play reading in November, Kevin Beer produced *So Long Life*, by Peter Nicholls, a rather dark comedy about family relationships with some interesting characters. A most enjoyable read was had by those who came.

### Hotel Paradiso

**Auditions** for the spring production, *Hotel Paradiso*, will take place immediately after the autumn production on Tuesday and Wednesday December 4th and 5th. A list of characters and some notes about the play are shown in the panel above. Do please come to these and all other auditions if you want to be considered for a part; contrary to current rumours directors do not pre-cast their plays!

### Party time!

Your membership card lists the Sherborne House Christmas Party on Friday 14th. As this is the date we would normally have our own Christmas party and because Sherborne House had asked us to provide part of the entertainment, the committee originally decided that we would forgo our own party in favour of theirs.

This decision was made on the assumption that the ticket price would be no more than a few pounds. However, we have since learned that the ticket price for this fund raising event is £15, which we are aware is rather more than many members will wish to pay.

Accordingly, we have changed our plans and this event is no longer seen as a joint event. Jennie Ward will still be presenting an entertainment at the Sherborne House Party, but any APS members not involved

## Rose Bowl Awards

I am pleased to report that APS collected two Rose Bowl Awards at the ceremony in October. *Hamlet* received the special millenium award for the Best Shakespeare Production and the award for the Best Publicity Material. Congratulations to Mark Freestone and everyone else involved.

Recent Committee decisions affect the arrangements for entering productions for the Rose Bowl Awards and attending the award ceremony.

The initial decision as to whether or not a production can be entered for the Rose Bowl remains with the Director. However, should he or she wish to enter the production, a vote must then be taken among the cast prior to making a final decision and the results of this vote are binding on the Director. The vote should

be taken after several week of rehearsal but in any case at least three weeks before production week in order to allow time for entry if the cast so wish.

APS will pay for a maximum of ten tickets for the Rose Bowl Award Ceremony. Priority for these tickets shall go first to any nominees, who may take an additional ticket for one friend or family member (who may or may not be a member of APS). The Director and Production Manager shall also be entitled to claim one ticket each.

Any remaining tickets will then be offered to members on lottery basis; the names of those who have applied to go will be drawn from a hat and the first names out will be allotted tickets. Anyone wishing to attend after all ten tickets have been allocated will be required to pay for their own ticket. *ML*

with this who who wish to attend will have to pay the £15 ticket price.

In view of this, we will now be holding our own 'Twelfth Night' party in the clubroom on **Friday January 4th**, which, as you will have already worked out, makes it more of a Tenth Night party (Twelfth Night falls on a Sunday). Jennie Ward will present the same entertainment, and Jessica Colson will prepare a cold collation, for which the charge will be £2.50.

### January meetings

After Christmas, on Tuesday 8th January, there will be another edition of **Give Us A Clue**, devised this season by Mally Lambert and Jill Hudson. On Monday 14th January John Sutherland-Smith will lead the first of six **improvisation workshops**. John is not necessarily expecting members to attend on every occasion, but he does <sup>advise</sup> that anyone interested in coming to at least some of these workshops should, if at all possible, attend the first one.

## Costumes

Elsie Lombard, aided by Sylvia Smith, Daphne Clapperton and Ann Russell, has been doing sterling work in the wardrobe and has brought about a much needed reorganisation of both the storage and the system for borrowing and returning items. We are extremely grateful to Elsie and all her assistants for this.

Sadly, however, Elsie has told us that she would prefer not to remain in charge for much longer and we are therefore looking for someone to take her place.

The main requirement is for someone both to act as key-holder, so that members can get access to the costume

store relatively easily, and to maintain the organisation so that costumes can be located. Now that order has been restored, this should not be a very arduous task. Anyone willing to take on the job of Wardrobe Mistress (or Master!), please contact the Chairman, Secretary or Membership Secretary.

For your information, members of APS may now borrow, free of charge, two costumes for two weeks. For non-members the following weekly hire charges apply:

Dresses £5  
Trousers, jackets, skirts, tops £4  
Small items (Shoes belts, hats etc) £2

*ML*

## Membership November 2001

Des Armour	Monica Parsons
Claire Axelson	David Peet
Michael Baatz	Jenny Peet
Barbara Beak	Ann Russell
Kevin Beer	Jim Schofield
Adam Birks-Hay	Jill Service
Tony Birks-Hay	Bob Service
Jan Bridgman	David J. Smith
Daphne Clapperton	David R. Smith
Fred Collier	Sylvia Smith
Althea Collier	Eve Snell
Jessica Colson	Jonathan Stark
Andrew Cross	Jane Stein
Margaret Dixon	Anthony Stephens
June Easton	Mytyl Stephens
Tony Field	Patricia Stewart
Margaret Field	Adam Strachan-Stephens
Suzanne Ford	Diana Strachan-Stephens
Sue Francis	John Sutherland
Joan Freeland	Lucy Sutherland
Jo Freestone	John Sutherland-Smith
Pauline Gardner	Peter Thomas
Jakki Gregory	Pauline Tillett
Freda Hance	Fliss Trew
Jean Harrap	Vivian Vale
Patricia Harris	Janet Vincent
Marilyn Hawkins	Jennie Ward
Peter Hawkins	Anthea Watson
Jason Hepple	Michael Welland
Rebecca Hill	Arthur Whittaker
Yvonne Hill	Jean Whittaker
Jill Hudson	
Patrick Knox	<b>Life Members</b>
Madeline Lambert	Jack Dodge
Mark Lambert	Meg Hulme
Tamsin Lambert	Joan Miller
Fizz Lewis	Mary Micklewright
Geoff Lewis	Dod Pearson
Angela Lindley	Gerald Pitman
Elsie Lombard	Pam Richardson
Daisy Mangnall	Joy Saunders
Gill Manns	Hrolf Trump
Tony Manns	Meg Whittingdale
Colin Mayes	
Kathy Messinger	<b>Honorary Member</b>
Joy Parkinson	Adrian Hole

## Lost property

Two items have been left in the clubroom (during *Hamlet* rehearsals, I think). They are a **blue hooded top** with a logo that contains the words 'Quicksilver' and Pan-Asian Boardriding Conference', and a **small black rucksack**. Would the owner(s) please claim these--contact me if you need to know when the clubroom will be open. If there are no claimants they will be donated to Oxfam. *ML*