



IT'S THE ONE TO WATCH!



AMATEUR PLAYERS OF SHERBORNE
www.aps-sherborne.co.uk

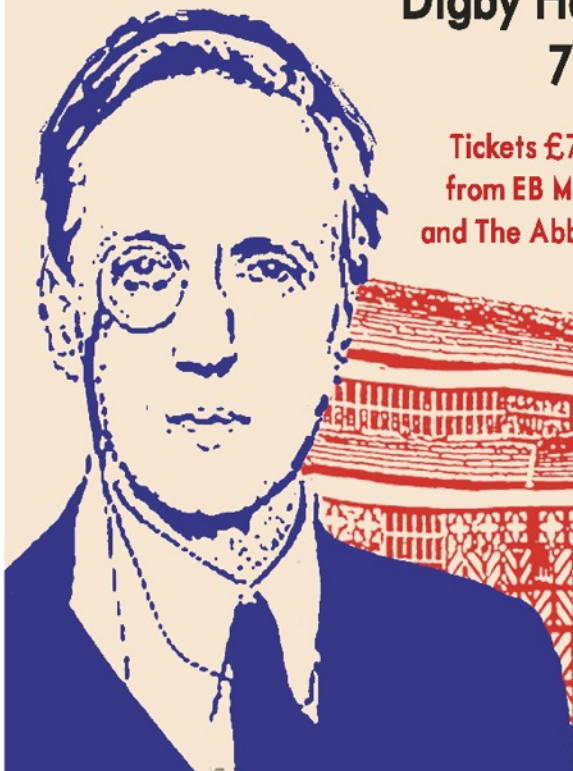
Busman's Honeymoon

A Lord Peter Wimsey mystery by Dorothy L Sayers
directed by Bev Taylor-Wade

31st March - 2nd April

Digby Hall, Sherborne
7.30 pm

Tickets £7.50 students £4.00
from EB Marsh & Son, Cheap St
and The Abbey Shop, Abbey Close



For information
Tel 01935 814597
membership@aps-sherborne.co.uk

Nearly there, but before Opening Night there's still a lot to do. We will move the scenery, lights and stuff into the Digby Hall on Friday evening 25 March and build the set on Saturday 26 and Sunday 27. We need all the help we can get on those days. (Don't forget clocks go forward 2 am Sunday, and it's also Census Day) Any time you can spare with painting, construction etc would be much appreciated. Lunch will be provided on the Saturday.

Above all, of course, do come to the play. And do tell all your friends about it!



Do come along to the After Show party on Saturday 2nd April. A celebration of all our time, energy and hard work in putting on yet another successful APS production.

See you there!

Other APS social events in March and April

'Opera as Drama' Part 3

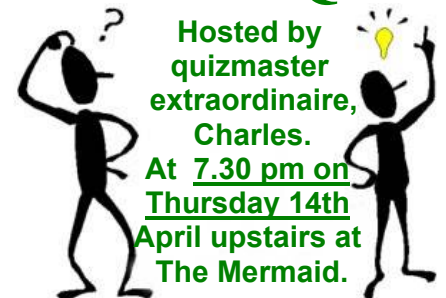
Adrian presents the second and third of his series of presentations using new video recordings to demonstrate the drama of modern opera performance. If you love theatre—and you wouldn't be reading this if you didn't—please come. Come even if—no, *especially* if—you think you don't like opera! **7.30 pm on Thursday 10th March at Nether Compton Village Hall**. If you need a lift do contact a Committee member.



For details and times of The Met's live presentations at Cineworld, Yeovil see page two.

Back by popular demand!

The fiendishly cunning **Theatre Quiz**



Hosted by
quizmaster
extraordinaire,
Charles.

At **7.30 pm on**
Thursday 14th
April upstairs at
The Mermaid.

ANNUAL DINNER FRIDAY 13 MAY

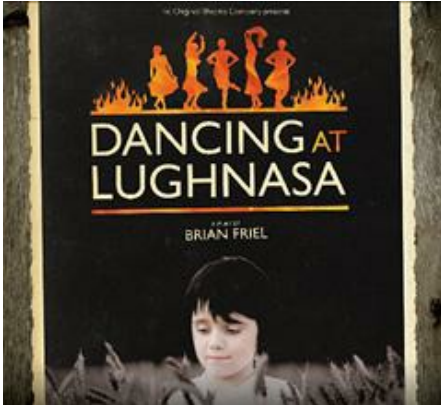
Our Annual Dinner will be held on the evening of **Friday 13th May** in the Arcadian ambiance of the Walled Garden Restaurant



at Castle Gardens. And, for our after-dinner entertainment, we will have the pleasure of the inimitable Ruth Rice.

APRIL NEWSLETTER LATER

Just to let you know that your April newsletter will be around a week later next month to include coverage of our 'Busman's Honeymoon' production.



Summer 1936. In a house in a remote part of County Donegal the five Mundy sisters live a simple life with their older brother Jack, a missionary priest, and seven-year old Michael. Barely able to make ends meet, the sisters acquire their first wireless radio and dream of happiness and love.

Years later as Michael looks back at the events of that summer, a tender and passionate portrait of the Mundy sisters lives unfolds.

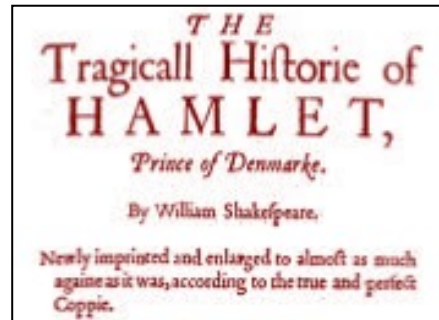
Brian Friel's play is a bittersweet reflection on life in rural Ireland in the 1930s.

Dancing At Lughnasa (pronounced Loon-essa) is on at the **Octagon Yeovil at 7.30 pm Thurs 7 and Fri 8 April.**

NIGHTWATCH AT THE SWAN

In Night Watch, an unbalanced society woman witnesses two murders across a dark alley - or does she?! This suspenseful thriller, in the tradition of Rear Window and Wait Until Dark keep you guessing until the very end.

It's on at The Swan, Yeovil from Monday 14th to Saturday 19th March. See 'Dates for your Diary' page 4 for further details.

**HAMLET FROM THE GLOBE**

Performed on an Elizabethan-inspired stage, a small troupe of travelling Globe Theatre players aim to breathe new life into Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' at the **Strode Theatre in Street Tues 19, Wed 20 April at 7.30 pm and Thursday 21 at 2 pm.**

Learning of the king his father's death, Hamlet comes home to find his uncle married to his mother and installed on the Danish throne. At night, the ghost of the old king demands that Hamlet avenge his 'foul and most unnatural murder'.

Encompassing political intrigue and sexual obsession, philosophical reflection and violent action, tragic depth and wild humour, Hamlet is Shakespeare's 'poem unlimited', a colossus in the story of the English language and the fullest expression of Shakespeare's genius.

A raw, and thrilling production from the Globe Theatre players is promised. See page 4.

**£100,000 BOOST FOR ARTS CENTRE**

West Dorset Council has given £100,000 towards the building of the new community arts centre. It marks a step forward for the Sherborne Community Arts Centre Trust which needs to raise £1.5 million in order to build the centre and have it ready to open in 2013.

Sherborne Town Council has already awarded £50,000 and may award more as the project progresses. A further £100,000 may be made available through district council Section 106 agreements - financial benefits from other developments in the Sherborne area. Even more financial assistance may be available through the district council if the centre can provide a suitable home for Sherborne Tourist Information Centre.



The 5th season of The Met: Live in HD features many of the most popular operas.

Sat 19 March at 5 pm: Donizetti's Lucia di Lammermoor

Sat 9 April at 6 pm: Le Comte Ory by Rossini.

Sat 23 April at 6 pm: Capriccio by Richard Strauss.

Sat 30 April at 6 pm: Verdi's Il Trovatore.

For performance details and video sample go to: www.metoperafamily.org/metopera/broadcast/hd_events_next.aspx

For Yeovil show times and advance bookings go to: www.cineworld.co.uk/cinemas/71



Thurs 17 March at 6.45 pm. Danny Boyle (Slumdog) directs.

A Brief History of Theatre - in several parts: 7

London's theatres: 1576-1599

The theatres built in London in the quarter century from 1576 are a notable example of a contribution made by architecture to literature. In previous decades there have been performances of primitive and rumbustious English plays in the courtyards of various London inns, with the audience standing in the yard itself or on the open galleries around the yard giving on to the upper rooms. These are ramshackle settings for what are no doubt fairly ramshackle performances.

In 1576 an actor, James Burbage, builds a permanent playhouse in Shoreditch - just outside the city of London to the north, so as not to require the permission of the puritanical city magistrates. Burbage gives his building the obvious name, so long as it is the only one of its kind. He calls it the Theatre. It follows the architectural form of an inn yard, with galleries enclosing a yard open to the sky. At one end a stage projects beneath a pavilion-like roof.

In such a setting, custom-built, writers, actors and audience can begin to concentrate on dramatic pleasures. A second playhouse, the Curtain, rises close to the Theatre in 1577. A third, the Rose, opens in 1587 on the south bank of the Thames in the area known as Bankside. In that year one of these three theatres puts on a play which reveals how far English playwrights have progressed in a very short while - *Tamburlaine*, by Christopher Marlowe.

In about 1594 a fourth theatre, the Swan, is built close to the



London and the Globe theatre

Hope. There are now two theatres to the north of the city and two south of the river. But soon the balance shifts decisively to Bankside.

James Burbage, builder of the original Theatre, dies in 1597. Two years later his two sons dismantle the building and carry the timber over the river to Bankside, where they use it as the basis for a theatre with a new name - the Globe. This name resounds in English theatrical history for two good reasons. It is where Richard, one of the Burbage brothers, develops into one of the first great actors of the English stage. And it is where many of Shakespeare's plays are first presented.

The structure of the Globe and the other London theatres has a significant influence on English drama at its greatest period, because of the audiences which

these buildings accommodate.

Ordinary Londoners, the groundlings, stand in the open pit to watch plays for a penny. Others pay a second penny to climb to a hard seat in the upper gallery. A third penny gives access to the two lower galleries and a seat with a cushion. A few places in the first gallery, to left and right of the stage, are reserved for gentlemen who can afford a shilling, or twelve pennies.

This is a cross-section of nearly all the people of London, and the audience is vast - with four theatres giving regular performances in a small city.

It has been calculated that during Shakespeare's time one Londoner in eight goes to the theatre each week. A city of 160,000 people is providing a weekly

audience of about 21,000.

There is only one comparable example of such a high level of attendance at places of entertainment - in cinemas in the 1930s.



The range of Shakespeare's audience is reflected in the plays, which can accommodate vulgar comedy and the heights of tragic poetry. The occasional performances in the Athenian drama festivals must have had something of this effect, involving much of the community in a shared artistic experience. In Elizabethan and Jacobean London it happens almost every night.

FAMOUS NAMES OF THE STAGE

Though best known for her mystery novels featuring amateur sleuth Lord Peter Wimsey, Dorothy L Sayers, was also a playwright, whose works frequently examined moral and theological questions. They include *The Devil to Pay*, a retelling of the *Faust* legend;





and the 12-play cycle *The Man Born to be King*, a dramatization of the life of Jesus commissioned by BBC Radio. Sayers felt that religious drama was frequently undramatic, populated by flat characters who mouthed archaic dialogue while going through the over familiar motions, and strove to avoid this in her play cycle, presenting the characters as real people who speak in contemporary language

and are motivated by everyday (and occasionally trivial) concerns. The approach was inevitably controversial, but widely regarded as a success.

Busman's Honeymoon first saw the light of day as a stage play in December 1936. It was published as a novel the following year and was the eleventh (and last) featuring Lord Peter Wimsey. It is the fourth and last novel to feature Harriet Vane.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH 2011

<i>APS event</i>	Thurs 10	Opera as Drama : 3 Presented by Adrian Thorpe	<u>Nether Compton Village Hall</u> 7.30 pm
	Tues 15 to Sat 19	The Good Doctor Adapted Chekhov by Neil Simon	Tacchi-Morris, Taunton 7.30 pm Mat Sat 2.30 pm
	Mon 14 to Sat 19	NightWatch Psychological thriller	The Swan, Yeovil 7.45 pm
	Thurs 17	Frankenstein Directed by Danny Boyle	Cineworld, Yeovil 6.45 pm
	Sat 19	Lucia di Lammermoor Donizetti	Cineworld, Yeovil 5 pm
	Tues 22	Lady Chatterley's Lover Hull Truck Theatre	Merlin Theatre, Frome 7.45 pm
	Mon 28	The Caucasian Chalk Circle Bertolt Brecht	Octagon, Yeovil 7.30 pm
	Wed 30 to Sat 2 April	Les Liaisons Dangereuses By Christopher Hampton	Shaftesbury Arts Centre 7.30 pm: 1 Apr 8 pm
<i>APS event</i>	Thurs 31 to Sat 2 April	Busman's Honeymoon An APS production	Digby Hall, Sherborne 7.30 pm

APRIL 2011

	Mon 4 to Sat 9	The Hot Mikado Taunton Operatic Society	Tacchi-Morris, Taunton 7.30 pm
	Thurs 7 to Sat 9	One flew over the cuckoo's nest Frome Drama Club	Merlin Theatre, Frome 7.45 pm
	Thurs 7 to Fri 8	Dancing at Lughnasa The Original Theatre Company	Octagon, Yeovil 7.30 pm
	Thurs 7 to Sat 9 and Tues 12 to Sat 16	The Ghost Train 1920s drama	Studio Theatre, Salisbury 7.30 pm
	Mon 11 to Sat 16	Journey's End R C Sherrif's WW1 drama	Theatre Royal, Bath Mon/Wed 7.30 Thurs/Sat 8 Matinees Wed&Sat 2.30
	Mon 11 to Sat 16	Pirates of Penzance Wells Operatic Society	Little Theatre, Wells 7.30 pm
<i>APS event</i>	Thurs 14	The Theatre Quiz Quizmaster, Charles Napier	Upstairs at The Mermaid 7.30 pm
	Tues 19 to Thurs 21	Hamlet Globe Theatre on tour	Strode Theatre, Street Tues/Wed 7.30 Thurs 2.30 pm

Little Theatre: Box Office 01749 672280 www.littletheatrewells.org

Strode Theatre: Box Office 01458 442846 www.strodetheatre.co.uk

Shaftesbury Arts Centre: Box Office 7478 564321 -10..30-12.30 (not Sun) www.shaftesburyartscentre.org.uk

Tacchi-Morris: Box Office 01823 414141 www.tacchi-morris.com

Merlin Theatre: Box Office 01373 465949 www.merlintheatre.co.uk

Studio Theatre, Salisbury: Call 07789 858126 www.studiotheatre.org.uk

Cineworld, Yeovil: Call 0871 200 2000. Google Cineworld, Yeovil then select advance booking.

Swan Theatre: Tourist Information Centre 01935 845946. www.swan-theatre.co.uk

The Octagon, Yeovil: Call Box Office 01935 283884 or www.octagon-theatre.co.uk

NB: As Diary Dates are compiled in advance, do check with the venue for any programme changes.

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

If you would like any local performances advertised in the **Dates for your Diary** section please send any details to me at: jim.reville@btinternet.com or give me a ring on (01935) 814626. If I'm not there leave your message and I will ring you back.

April Copy DEADLINE: Friday 8 April

Last Word...

"Those who prefer their English sloppy have only themselves to thank if the advertisement writer uses his mastery of the vocabulary and syntax to mislead their weak minds."

Dorothy L Sayers