

Noises Off

APS newsletter December 2011

"A superb production! Well done APS!"



From Peter Wheeldon our NODA rep: "Thank the Players for a most enjoyable evening of theatre and congratulate all involved in the production of 'Our Town'. Great credit is due to the entire cast of thirty seven players who performed so well in establishing and maintaining the emotionally-charged atmosphere throughout the play. Given more space, all the prime characters would be worthy of mention here, but perhaps a few special words for the fine

performances from the young leads Annabelle Fricker and Josh Hart, as Emily and George, around whom the narrative is woven. A word too for Lights and Sound whose timely interventions added markedly to the effect. This was a truly splendid production with which the Players can be well pleased. Definitely a triumph for Jennie, her talented cast and her production team. A superb production! Well done APS!"

And from Gay Pirrie-Wear in the Blackmore Vale Magazine:

"It is a very American play, and Jennie Ward and her cast captured its spirit.

Congratulations also to Mark Lambert, whose inspired and



excellent sound effects added enormously to the atmosphere of the piece - all perfectly operated even to the rattling of the milk bottles.

Outstanding in the large cast were Annabelle Fricker and Josh Hart as Emily Webb and George Gibbs, with Caroline Hart as Mrs Gibbs, Christine Yardley's effervescent Mrs Soames and the younger members of the company enjoying their chance to demonstrate fine American accents and mime convincingly throughout.

Charles Napier's Stage Manager is going to be a hard performance to better, filled with compassion, wit wisdom and enough interest to keep the packed audience on tenterhooks for the next revelation."

Up front from your Chairman

As we approach Christmas there is much to celebrate that has happened since September. I would like to thank Adrian for leading a stimulating play reading and to Charles for his work in acquiring charity status for APS. As you read this news should be in that this status has been granted.

Then there is the wonderful production of 'Our Town' so ably directed by Jennie. I must admit to having been sceptical of the play but the end result was fantastic. It was so good to see new people involved and it was

a privilege to admire the work of new young actors in lead roles.

Now we look forward to the next production of 'The Wyrd Sisters' and wish good luck to Sylvie Lord for her casting and future rehearsals. It is exciting to be doing something very different even if it is based on well known ideas.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year. Unfortunately, I will not be at the party since I have business in France over that weekend. I look forward to a challenging and fulfilling 2012 for our society.

Stuart McCreadie

**Wishing you all
Happy Holidays
from your Committee**



Programme of events

2011-2012 season

Friday 9 December: Christmas Party at The Cider House, Over Compton

Thursday 19 January: 'Tell a Tale of Pantomime', presented by Bernard Tinker

Thursday 9 February: Theatre Visit to Salisbury, to see Noël Coward's *Design for Living*

Sat 23 March to Sun 1 April: Spring production, 'Wyrd Sisters' Performances 29 to 31 March

Tuesday 17 April: Play-reading, led by Charles Napier

Friday 18 May: Annual Dinner at Castle Gardens

Wednesday 20 June: Poetry evening *Life and Death on Mount Helicon* led by Maurice Freeland. In Paddock Gardens (weather permitting)

Friday 20 July: AGM and Summer Party. Venue to be decided

All events at 7.30 pm in our Club Room at The Old Chapel unless indicated otherwise.

LAST CALL FOR 'DESIGN FOR LIVING'

Thursday 9th February 2012 is the date for our annual theatre visit to Salisbury Playhouse.

The play is Noel Coward's witty and passionate 1930s comedy '**Design for Living**'.

The cost. Theatre Day at 11.30 am is £7, the play at 2.30 pm is £14 = £21 per head plus rail fare of approx £7 - to be confirmed.

Bookings must be confirmed and payment - £28 - made to David by **Sunday 4th December**. Anyone using their own transport need, of course, pay only £21.

Get in touch with David right now on 01935 817439, email: drysmith@btinternet.com

Everything's coming up Roses at our Christmas Party Friday 9 December

It kicks off at 7.30 pm, at The Cider House, Over Compton, home of our generous hosts, Adrian and Miyoko Thorpe. Cost £5 - pay at the door - includes food and your first drink. Subsequent drinks at APS prices. This year's theme is "**Roses**" with a prize for the best outfit. Bring KFS, bowl and plate. Glasses provided. The Cider House is directly opposite Trencherman's at Over Compton. Parking in the courtyard for those with walking difficulties and essential deliveries - food and drink. Parking available along the wall outside and in St Michael's Church car park on the other side of the church.



'Tell a Tale of Pantomime' Thurs 19 January 7.30 pm Club Room
Bernard Tinker, who has written and directed many pantomimes for amateur groups, will talk about aspects of the history of pantomime, stock characters, developing storylines and devices. There will be use of short DVD clips to illustrate the talk.



It's got our name on it

The raising high of our sign on the Old Chapel marks the final act that places us firmly and very obviously on the Sherborne map. Many thanks to Mark Lambert.

WYRD SISTERS SPELL?

Gales of laughter at the read-through portends much more for the future.



NoISES OFF

Many thanks to those members who took up the challenge of coming up with a new title for our monthly newsletter. The number of suggestions reached well into double figures.

The term 'Noises off' is used as a stage direction referring to sounds created offstage during a play's production and intended for the ears of the audience.

Next newsletter out early January 2012.

Arts SCENE

A selection of what's on around and about



RATTIGAN'S 'IN PRAISE OF LOVE' ON AT THE SWAN

Rattigan's penultimate play and inspired by the true life relationship between Rex Harrison and Kay Kendall is the Swan's first production of 2012.

For more than twenty years Sebastian and Lydia Crutwell have endured a marriage of cold hearts and restrained emotions. Lydia, an Estonian refugee and recently diagnosed with a terminal illness, seems unable to shake off thoughts of her traumatic past. Reserved and unemotional, Sebastian is seemingly preoccupied with his failed writing career and is permanently at odds with their son, Joey. Lydia contrives to keep her illness secret from her husband, unaware that he is fully in the picture and is mirroring her deception. A romantic history exists between Lydia and a fourth player, American Mark Walters. Over the course of two evenings, a series of heartbreakingly revealing revelations changes the façade of Lydia and Sebastian's relationship forever and we wonder what the future will hold now that the brittle truth is exposed.

Underneath the façade we discover not cracks but a deep and touching breadth of mutual feeling which we were perhaps not expecting.

It's on from Monday 23rd to Saturday 28th at 7.45 pm. Tickets available from 3rd January 01935 462781 www.swan-theatre.co.uk

READ THE BOOK, SEE THE FILM

"Reader, I liked it. This Jane Eyre, energetically directed by Cary Joji Fukunaga from a smart, trim script by Moira Buffini, is a splendid example of how to tackle the daunting duty of turning a beloved work of classic literature into a movie. Neither a radical updating nor a stiff exercise in middlebrow cultural respectability, Mr. Fukunaga's film tells its venerable tale with lively vigor and an astute sense of emotional detail. Ms. Wasikowska is a perfect Jane for this film and its moment. *New York Times*

Digby Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm Wed 14th December.



MAYDAY MAYDAY

MAYDAY AT BRISTOL OLD VIC

May 1st. Padstow. Cornwall.

The death of winter, the birth of summer. A man falls head first off a wall. Years later he tries to remember what happened next. This is a true story. Told by the man who fell.

With smoke and mirrors, music, slapstick and a guest appearance from the 'Obby 'Oss, (dialect for Hobby Horse) this extraordinary theatrical adventure starts with an unforgettable celebration: a day where everything changes.

See Diary Dates for further dates and times etc.

National Theatre Live AT CINEWORLD YEOVIL

Thurs 1 Dec: *The Collaborators*
At 7 pm

Thurs 9 February: *Travelling Light*, a funny and fascinating tribute to the Eastern European immigrants who became major players in Hollywood's golden age. At 7 pm

Thurs 1 March: Goldsmith's *The Comedy of Errors*. At 7 pm

NEW HARDY PLAYERS HONOUR NORRIE'S LAST REQUEST

Norrie Woddhall, president of the New Hardy Players and who died in October aged 105, had asked that they perform "The Woodlanders" for their 2012 summer production.

Norrie was the last living person to have known and spoken to Thomas Hardy. She was the last of the Hardy Players, who, with Thomas Hardy's blessing, formed in 1908 to perform plays based on his novels. Her 100th birthday request was that the Hardy Players be reformed. Thus the birth of the New Hardy Players.

The Met ropolitan Opera HD LIVE

AT CINEWORLD YEOVIL
Sat 2 Dec: Handel's Rodelinda. At 5.30 pm.

Sat 10 Dec: Gounod's Faust. It's French opera at its finest as Faust works his wicked ways in memorable style. At 6 pm

Sat 21 Jan: The Enchanted Island. Lovers of Baroque opera have it all: the world's best singers, glorious music of the Baroque masters, and a story drawn from Shakespeare. At 6 pm.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER 2011

 Thurs 1st	The Collaborators NT Live	Cineworld, Yeovil 7 pm
Thurs 1st to Sat 10th	My Very Own Story Alan Ayckbourn	New Theatre, Exeter 7.30 pm Mats Dec3 & 10 2 pm
Tues 6th to Sat 10th	The Wind in the Willows Next Stage Youth	Mission Theatre, Bath 7.30 pm Matinee Sat 2.30 pm
Thurs 8th to Sat 17th No show Mon 12th	The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe	Merlin Theatre, Frome 7 pm
<i>APS event</i> Fri 9th	APS Christmas Party	The Cider House, Over Compton 7.30 pm
Sat 10th to Sat 17th	Robin Hood pantomime	Little Theatre, Wells 7.30 pm
Fri 16th to Thurs 29th	The Princess and the Goblin Quirk Theatre Company	Phoenix Theatre, Exeter Times vary
Wed 14th	Jane Eyre film	Digby Memorial Hall 7.30 pm

JANUARY 2012

Wed 4th to Sat 7th	My Very Own Story Alan Ayckbourn	New Theatre, Exeter 7.30 pm Mat Jan 7 at 2 pm
<i>APS event</i> Thurs 19th	'Tell a Tale of Pantomime' by Bernard Tinker	Club Room, The Old Chapel 7.30 pm
Mon 23rd to Sat 28th	In Praise of Love Terence Rattigan	Swan Theatre, Yeovil 7.45 pm
Wed 25th to Sat 28th	You should see us now Peter Tinniswood comedy	Backwell Playhouse 7.30 pm
Wed 25th to Sat 28th	Jack in the Beanstalk Yeovil Amateur Panto Society	Octagon, Yeovil Tues/Fri 7.15 Sat 1.30 & 6.30 pm
Wed 25th to Sat 4th Feb	Beauty and the Beast Traditional family panto	Shaftesbury Arts Centre 7.30 pm Mats 2.30 28/9 + 4 Feb
Thurs 26th to Sat 4th Feb	Mayday Mayday Theatre Damfino	Bristol Old Vic 8 pm

Octagon: Box Office 01935 845321 www.octagon-theatre.co.uk

Shaftesbury Arts Centre: Box Office 01747 854321 www.shaftesburyartscentre.org.uk

Bristol Old Vic: Box Office 0117 987 7877 www.bristololdvic.org.uk

Backwell Playhouse: Box Office TBC www.backwellplayerhouse.co.uk

New Theatre: Box Office 01392 277189 www.cyqnetnewtheatre.com

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

Mission Theatre: Call 01225 428600 www.missiontheatre.co.uk

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

Phoenix Theatre: Box Office 01392 667080 www.exeterphoenix.org.uk

Little Theatre, Wells: Box Office 01749 672280, opens 19 November www.littletheatrewells.org

Swan Theatre: Tickets from 3rd Jan Box Office 01935 462781 www.swan-theatre.co.uk

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

 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.
January Copy Deadline: Thursday 5 January

Last Word...

"He didn't take any notice!" whispered Tomjon. "A born critic," said the dwarf.

Terry Pratchett, Wyrd Sisters