

# NOISES OFF

## COSTUME SALE

We held our Great Costume Sale and Open Day on Saturday May 11th. The aims were to rid ourselves of our surplus costume stock (thereby creating much-needed storage space in the theatre gallery), and to raise the profile of the Theatre in the community. Maybe some of the people coming would not even have known of our existence, previously!

The day was a great success, we are delighted to report. Business was brisk, especially in the morning - there are reports of it being like the first day of Harrods' Sale - with much interest being shown, especially in the historical costumes.

By the close of business, we had cleared much of what we wanted to clear, we now have a lot more room upstairs, and we have £529 in the bank which was not there before. Win-win!

Many thanks and much appreciation to all those who supported the event, especially those who gave of their time to supervise, and those who donated refreshments.

## PLAY-READING

It was with regret that we postponed our play-reading of "A Penny for a Song", scheduled for May 8th, due to clashing commitments with rehearsals. This will be re-scheduled for September, and you will, of course, be notified of the date.

## NEW DIRECTORS

The Committee is always actively considering the plans for future productions, a year, sometimes 18 months in advance. The creation of the Studio Theatre, and the runaway success of last year's "Dream", has enabled us to get firmly re-established, and we have recently received notices of interest from two exciting new prospective Directors. We now have around half a dozen people able and willing to direct for us, and thus we are within touching distance of our

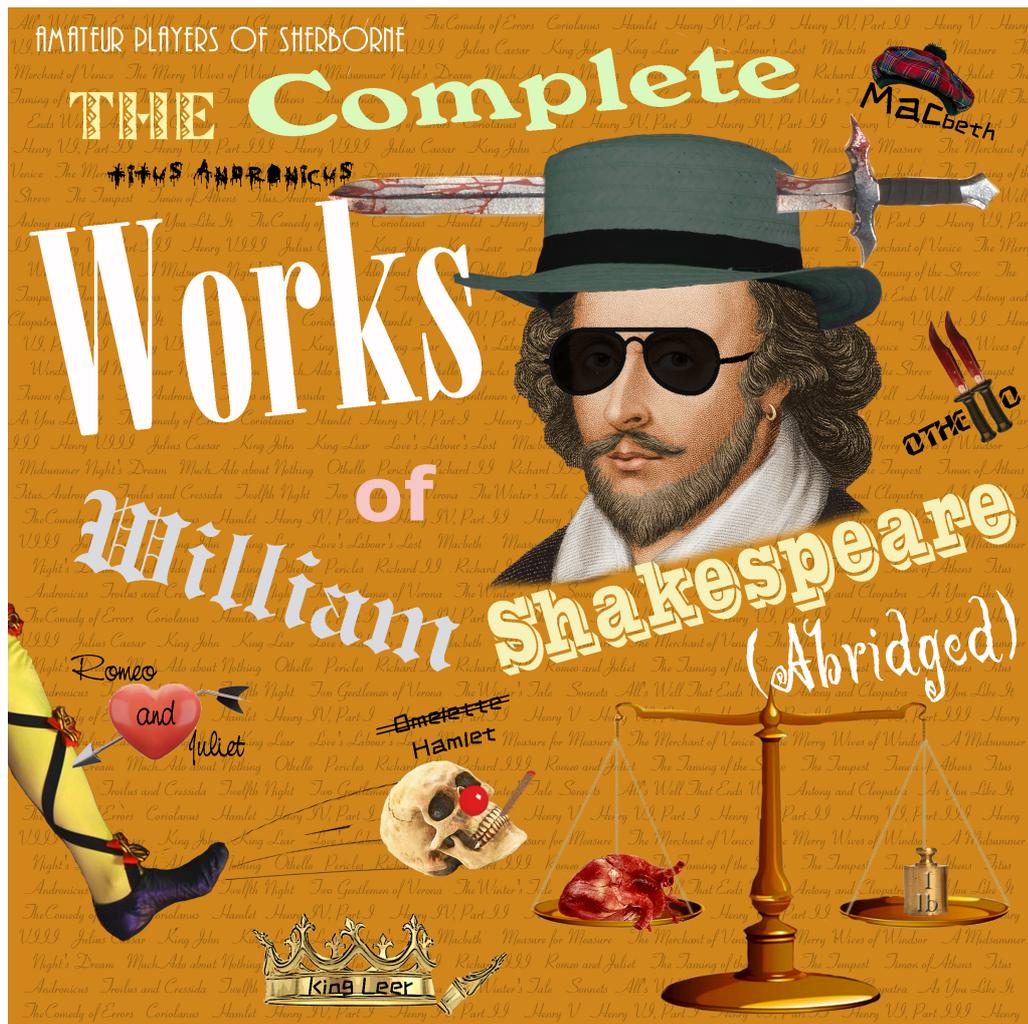
ambition to be staging three, if not four performances a year! As always, watch this space, and the website, for news of developments.

## ANY OFFERS?

Does anyone have a glass display cabinet which they no longer want? It could be free-standing or wall-mounted. We would like to be able to put our many trophies, awards and certificates on permanent display in the Theatre. Please contact [theatre@aps-sherborne.co.uk](mailto:theatre@aps-sherborne.co.uk)

## AGM AND PARTY

This is a reminder that the AGM will take place at 7.30pm on Friday July 12th, followed by our Summer Party. Agenda, election papers etc will be forwarded to you in due course.



SUMMER SHOW UPDATE

As we go to press, huge efforts are being put into our summer show: “The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)”. A considerable departure from APS’s tradition of formal theatre, this is Martin Williams’s first venture into directing with APS. He hopes to exploit to the full the quirky, intimate spaces of the SST, where there is little to separate the stage from the audience, and to create a piece of truly Fringe theatre - perhaps something quite new for Sherborne!

The piece was written and performed in the 1980s by three young American actors, firstly at the Edinburgh Fringe, and it went

on to achieve huge worldwide success. Martin has adapted and “de-americanised” it, enlarging the cast so that the roles are shared by a dozen actors, and genuinely embracing their wide range of age and theatrical experience.

The “story” looks at the way in which a group of enthusiastic but hopeless amateur actors decide, for reasons best known to themselves, to produce all of Shakespeare’s plays and sonnets in one sitting. Undeterred by the impossibility of the task, they set about it with energy and gusto, and refuse to be diverted from this insane project. With the exception of the odd serious moment, the

outcome is a totally bizarre medley of styles and genres - varying from, among other things, a rugby match, to a TV cooking presentation, to a rap. The actors make an attempt on the world speed record for a production of “Hamlet” (currently 42 seconds), and invite audience participation as they work on a Freudian analysis of Ophelia’s dilemmas. The results are a little reminiscent of the well-meaning efforts of “Dad’s Army”, while some of the humour rivals the best of Monty Python.

Tickets are selling briskly - as we go to press, there are still plenty left, but our experience tells us

that they WILL sell out, and that many people WILL leave it too late. If you haven't yet secured your seats - get on to our website now! Performances are 7.30pm on June 20th - 22nd and 26th - 29th.

As a footnote, the show represents another "first", in that we will be taking it for a single performance to the Shaftesbury Fringe Festival, at 4.00pm on Saturday July 6th. So if you do miss the boat in Sherborne, you may have one last chance. Shaftesbury tickets also available from our website.

[www.aps-sherborne.co.uk](http://www.aps-sherborne.co.uk)

**URGENT HELP NEEDED:** We presently have no Front of House Manager to oversee the welcoming of audiences and sales of drinks - a vital, though not onerous, role. PLEASE get in touch with the Production Manager John Crabtree ([icrabbers@aol.com](mailto:icrabbers@aol.com)) in order to volunteer your services.

*In rehearsal.....*





*Stalwarts Roy and Linda, Adrian, Richard, Jessica, Michelle and Gary are joined by newcomers - to whom we extend a huge welcome - Kate Mulvey, Storm Cain-O'Grady, Graham Smith, Marie Field and Sara Sadegh-Tehrani*