

NOISES OFF

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We have had a very successful few months recruiting new members. On behalf of all at APS, we extend a very warm welcome to:

Lisha Allen, Liam Beard, Pax Cook, John Cook, Sheenu Das, Isabella Franco, David Grierson, Georgia Holder, Andrew Holt, Fiona Holt, MillieAnne Hyde, Kate Kirkpatrick, Vivien Ludgate, Sarah Nias, Eloïse Salisbury, Sian Spencer, Rob Stephens (*returning*), Ethan Taylor, Austin Wookey and Connor Wookey.

Some of these folk have already made their APS debut in the summer garden production, whilst some will be appearing in *Witness*. To all of you, we hope that you will enjoy your membership and will want to participate actively in our plays and events.

"TABLE MANNERS" AGAIN!!!

It is nearly two years since we performed Alan Ayckbourn's *Table Manners*, which was extremely well received by full houses and attracted glowing reviews (*have a look at What's On/Past Productions in our website*). Just when we thought the dust had settled, we've received notification from the Rose Bowl Awards organisation that the production has been nominated for THREE major awards :

Bev Taylor-Wade for BEST ACTRESS as "Sarah"

Roger Chadbourne for BEST ACTOR as "Tom"

The whole play for BEST DRAMATIC PRODUCTION

Based in Bristol, the Rose Bowl Awards aim to encourage excellence in amateur theatre throughout the South West. The competition is fierce, but APS has been a regular winner since the awards' inception in 1963. Congratulations to Bev and to Roger, but also to the director John Crabtree



and the whole cast, for their nominations. The awards ceremony will take place on November 14th, and so we very much hope to be able to announce even better news in the next "Noises Off"!

APS MEMBERSHIP

As part of a drive to modernise our systems, the Committee has taken the decision to make use of a new online membership portal. One of the effects of this is that it is now very easy and quick to join APS as a new member, or to renew your membership, and to make payment by credit or debit card. Many members have already said how much they appreciate the convenience of this. The system issues polite reminders when payment is due, and already we have collected far more in subscriptions than in previous years.

If you have not already done so, feel free to log in (you don't need a password) here : www.membermojo.co.uk/aps to make sure that your contact details are accurate and up to date.

If you already pay by standing order, there is no need to change that arrangement, but it would still be helpful if you were to log in and check your details.

QUIZ NIGHT

Back in March of last year, we were all set to arrange another Quiz Night, following the success and popularity of a number of previous evenings. APS member Geoffrey Martyn had generously stepped forward to offer to create the quiz and host the evening. However.... we all know what happened in March 2020.

After months and months of the theatre being closed, and special summer al fresco performances, the time finally came for Geoffrey to deliver the goods. But by a cruel twist of fate, only a few days before the big night, he injured himself badly enough to be ruled out of attending. We know what a huge disappointment this must have been to Geoffrey, and send him our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Luckily, Adrian Harding had no hesitation in agreeing to step into the breach as host and quizmaster. The format of the evening (a fish & chip supper delivered half-way

through - bring your own drink) proved as popular as ever, as nearly 30 excited quizzers squeezed into the theatre on 15th October. This was a bit of a challenge in itself, now that half of the floor space is taken up with the raised seating, and even the stage had very little usable space because of the set for *Witness for the Prosecution*! Nevertheless, Adrian's ability to deliver his inquisition from the judge's seat in the Old Bailey certainly lent him an aura of authority and gravitas - much needed as certain rebellious citizens challenged him over, for example, whether or not an insect can be considered to be an animal, and even queried the announcement of the overall results (in which a Steward's Enquiry saw the team initially declared as being in last place promoted to Winner!)

There is certainly an appetite for more of these evenings, and we hope that those yet to be arranged will be just as well supported. Many

thanks to all committee members for their contributions, and congratulations to the eventual winners, "The Golden Globes".

(Footnote - Linda Catchpole, a member of The Golden Globes, when asked at the beginning of the evening which team she wanted to join, simply stated "The winning one". Good choice, Linda!)



The Hon. Mr Justice Harding presiding

HELP WANTED - CALL TO ACTION!

Planning is under way for our Spring production *Educating Rita* by Willy Russell, from March 21st to the 26th, directed by first-time APS director, Graham Smith.

Most of the plans are already in place, but we could do with volunteers from the APS membership for:

a) Stage Manager. This play has a talented cast, and the stage directions are straightforward, so the Stage Manager's tasks will not be onerous. This means that this would suit a first-timer who is willing to try their hand at keeping everyone on their toes during the performances. We'll be able

to provide guidance and mentoring if you would like to do this.

b) Prompt. With very experienced actors in this production, we shouldn't need a Prompt, but just in case.....Interested?

c) Do you have artistic skills suited to poster and programme design? We welcome someone with Photoshop or other creative computer skills to help out with artwork for future promo material.

If you'd like to give it a try, please contact Adrian Harding, the Production Manager, at anharding@btinternet.com

THE SWAN

On September 24th, a hardy band of APS members made the perilous journey to the Swan Theatre in Yeovil, in order to support a large number of our friends and fellow thespians in their performance of *Macbeth*.

We were royally entertained by some magnificent performances in a thought-provoking interpretation. Congratulations to all the Swan cast, and especially to those who are also APS members. It would be nice to develop the tradition of supporting and promoting each others' shows. The next show at the Swan will be Alan Ayckbourn's *Season's Greetings*, on November 15th-20th. A number of our members have proposed a visit on **Wednesday November 17th**. It would be great to have a good turnout from APS, so please give some thought to booking your tickets and coming along on that night. Tickets from www.thelittleboxoffice.com/swantheatre

WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION

It cannot have escaped your notice that our first post-lockdown indoor production will be Agatha Christie's *Witness for the Prosecution*, which will be performed at 7.30pm on **December 6th - December 11th**. You can read all about the background to this play on our website. Directed by John Crabtree, with a star-studded cast and a

magnificent set design, this is sure to be a sell-out - after all, our summer Shakespeare show proved what an appetite there is for live theatre in this area. **Tickets will go on sale on Monday November 15th**, once again online through the website, or, if you do not have internet access, through the Box Office. Payment is only accepted by credit or debit card.

Please note that tickets will be in two price bands: £12 for the front row and the raised seating; £10 for the two rows on the floor of the auditorium with a slightly restricted view. As always, the play is certain to sell out, and you are urged to get your tickets as early as you can.





Witness for the Prosecution - rehearsals under way

NEXT SOCIAL EVENT - PLAYREADING

The next planned APS social event will be a playreading, to take place in the Theatre on **Wednesday November 24th at 7.30 p.m.** Roger Chadbourne will be host, and the chosen play is *Sing On!* by Rick Abbott. This is the sequel to *Play On!* where an amateur theatre group are forced to put on a play written by an over-enthusiastic but inept playwright, Phyllis, who keeps changing the script up to and including the dress rehearsal. The gang is joined by Phyllis's song-writing nephew Monte when dire circumstances - their theatre is in peril - force them to do yet another show by Phyllis. The intrepid thespians know disaster will probably result: It may be tough to act on a

sinking ship but can you sing as the waters rise? *Sing On!* stands on its own as a side-splitting encounter with a harried community theatre group. The music does not require a cast that can sing well, rather the opposite, and the melodies (but not the lyrics) are well-known tunes by Stephen Foster. This is a melodious and absolutely lunatic catastrophe!

All APS members (and friends) are encouraged to come along and join in what should be an evening of great fun. As usual, you will be welcome whether or not you wish to participate in the reading (and singing) - it's perfectly OK just to sit in and listen!

FUTURE PLANS

The Productions Committee has been busy working on the APS schedule of planned future performances. We are firmly committed to *Witness for the Prosecution* in December, and to *Educating Rita* in March 2022. Although further plans are always subject to changes, we have it in mind to give serious consideration to *Billy Liar* by Willis Hall and Keith Waterhouse in July 2022, to *Death and the Maiden* by Ariel Dorfman in September 2022, to *Mr Quigley's Revenge* by Simon Brett in December 2022, to *Whose Life Is It Anyway?* by Brian Clark in Spring 2023, and to *Keeping Our End Up* by Mark Carey in the summer of 2023.

Watch this space!

CAN YOU HELP WITH THESE PROPS?

We would be very grateful if any members were able to help us with acquiring some props. For *Witness for the Prosecution* we are in need of an old-fashioned black bakelite telephone. If you have one of these, or know someone who does, and would be willing to loan it, please contact Jessica Colson, at jessica@ridgewayfarm.co.uk.

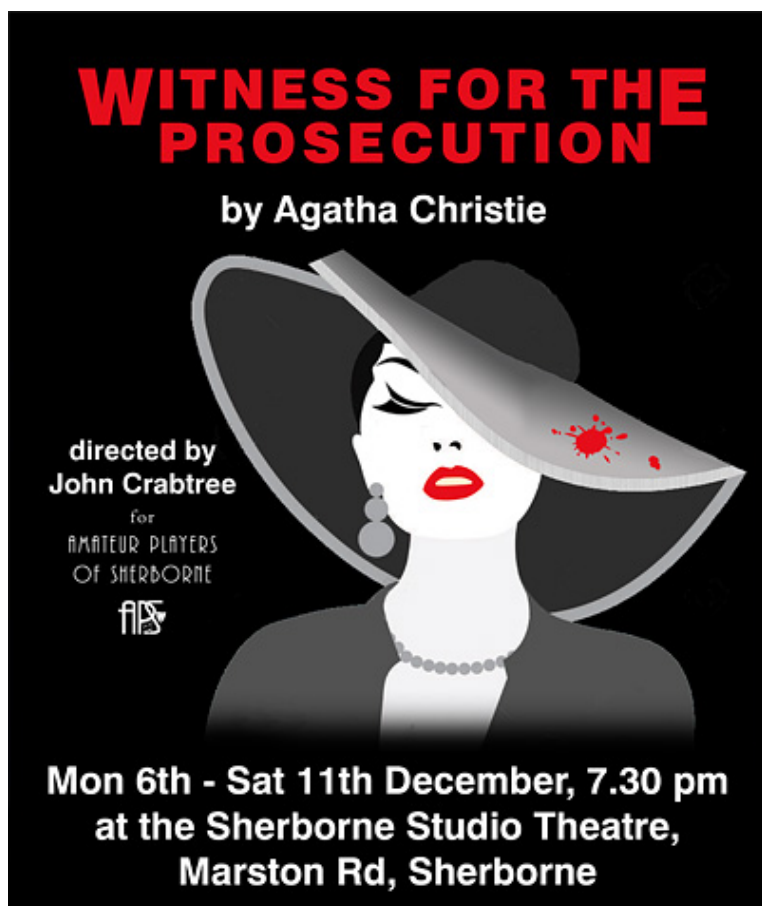
Also, for *Educating Rita*, we need very large numbers of old hardback books - either on loan, or, if you were having a clear-out, we will take them off your hands. And, for the same play we need (empty!) whisky bottles. If you enjoy a dram, and have a finished bottle, please save it for us, and contact Gilly Savage at gillysavage@hotmail.com

TECHNICAL CREW

For many years, we have been blessed with having the skills and services of Adrian Hole and Mark Lambert, who have masterminded the lighting and the sound (respectively) of all our productions.

We are actively looking for APS members with an interest in either sound, or lighting (or both), who would be interested in watching and learning from these gentlemen at work. You would be able to develop your skills with a view to assisting during performances, and increasingly feeling confident enough to take on responsibilities single-handed. If you would like to express an interest (without any obligation), please contact Jessica Colson, at jessica@ridgewayfarm.co.uk

Thank you again!



**Tickets on
sale from
November
15th**