

NOISES OFF

LAUNCH OF THE NEW 100 CLUB!!!

We are excited to be able to announce the launch of the brand-new Sherborne Studio Theatre 100 Club. This has been planned as an attractive way to encourage APS members, as well as friends, relations and other theatre patrons, to invest in the future of the Sherborne Studio Theatre, with the chance of winning regular and attractive cash prizes.

We at APS are facing more financial pressure than ever to keep the Theatre running, with maintenance costs and repairs at an all-time high. We also face significant outgoings, with our recently-installed new lighting systems, costly repairs to the large "gothic"

window, the need to repair and replace the audience seating, and to repair the outside boundary wall - to name just a few.



A successful and fully-subscribed 100 Club would bring in several thousand pounds a year, which is why we are making this appeal - **PLEASE JOIN THE 100 CLUB!** If for no other

reason - you will have the chance to win up to £100 six times a year, and also, once a year at Christmas time, a chance to win up to £600.

You will shortly receive an email with all the details about how to apply and become a member. This can be done entirely online, but if you prefer, it can also be done through pen, paper and post! The first draw will take place on April 9th, and to participate in that, you will need to have joined up before the beginning of March.

We look forward to welcoming you as a founder member of the Sherborne Studio Theatre 100 Club. Good luck!

EDUCATING RITA

Educating Rita is nearly upon us! After more than six months of preparation, Rita is ready to burst onto our stage on March 21st - 26th, with tickets going on sale through the APS website on **Monday February 21st**. Intensive rehearsals have been under way since Christmas, the set is taking shape, and a lot of the theatre's nooks and crannies are now home to a supply of empty whisky bottles (but readers, please note, we need yet more!)

The story of *Rita* is quite well-known, probably because of the very successful and popular 1983 film starring Julie Walters and Michael Caine, both of whom received BAFTA and Golden Globe awards, and Oscar nominations, for Best Actress and Best Actor. It has been characterised (although not by the author) as a latter-day *My Fair Lady*, but that is only part of the story. There is both comedy and pathos, social satire and political comment - for a relatively short play, it covers a lot of ground.

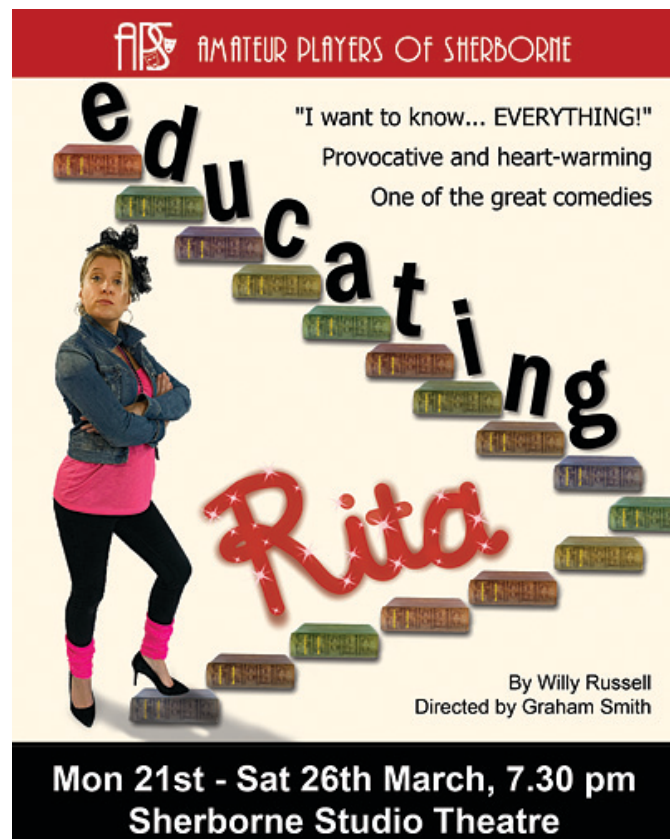
Even though the play was written over 40 years ago, some of the issues it raises will never stop being relevant: *"Why are you giving me an education?" "I had a choice - I chose."*

But enough spoilers. To give just one final quote from the play: *"Don't you go telling me what happens. Don't go spoiling it for me."*

Educating Rita will be performed at 7.30 on 21st-26th March, in the

Sherborne Studio Theatre. It is directed by first-time APS director Graham Smith, with Sarah Nias as Rita, (Sarah's first indoor role with APS) and Martin Williams as Frank. Tickets cost £12 or £10, from www.aps-sherborne.co.uk/next-production.html, or from the Box Office on 07786 070093. As always, we have to warn you that our shows always sell out, and you are urged to get your tickets early.

Contains some strong language.



KEEPING OUR END UP - PLAYREADING

Our first play-reading of 2022 took place on Thursday February 17th, and was extremely well-attended. Upwards of 20 people squeezed themselves into the theatre in and around the partly-built set for *Educating Rita*, to contribute to, and to enjoy, Mark Carey's *Keeping Our End Up*.

With an almost exclusively all-female cast (Richard Culham making a brief cameo as an incompetent bingo-caller, with suitable characterisation even before beginning his words), the participants were all ladies, each of whom brought the play to life, and drew out both its humour and pathos. There was a great achievement from people reading an unfamiliar script from paper and from screens, and sitting in a circle on a dark and chilly evening in February! There was a lot of



laughter, and a consensus that this play would indeed be a good choice for "proper" performance in the autumn. Adrian Harding topped and tailed the evening in his inimitable style, and also provided the Matt Monro musical accompaniment.

One of the most pleasing aspects of the whole evening was that we were able to welcome

not just old friends, but a good number of new faces, expressing their interest in and enthusiasm for local amateur theatre. Welcome to you all - we very much hope that you will want to join us, and that this is just the beginning of a long and successful association with you all.