

# April 2013 Newsletter

## Welcome to the first newsletter of 2013!

Apologies to you all, I had hoped to send out a Happy New Year and welcome everyone to 2013 at The Rose Theatre, but life and time conspires against the best of us...

So it may be late but...

Happy New Year and welcome to 2013 at The Rose!!!

## From your Chairman

I would like to thank everyone who has helped to make the first few months of my chairmanship such an enjoyable experience. The Officers and company managers have all been very supportive and their efforts are much appreciated by me and, I'm sure, the Company.

It's not all been plain sailing. We had to appoint a new Treasurer and Secretary earlier this year and my thanks go to Mo and Brian for their help and commitment.

We are very pleased to note Hughs recovery and send best wishes to Sheila Hodges and Judy Bassett, who are both unwell.

We have defined job description for our part-time, paid staff, and agreed a pay rise for them. They had not received an increase in three

years. There is a new mobile phone number to allow members greater access to the office staff.

The monthly committee meetings are well attended and debate is often heated, but in good humour. We do get through a lot of items.

Recent productions have been of a very high standard and have been exceptionally well attended.

Congratulations to all concerned.

Work on next seasons dates and plays is well advanced but may I ask all members to support the remaining shows by helping on FoH and watching performances.

With my best wishes to you all,

Stephen

## The Season thus far...

Many thanks again to everyone who has worked tirelessly over the Christmas and New Year period to ensure that we continue to present quality theatre to the folks in our region!

The cast of 'A Murder is Announced' were so dedicated that they even rehearsed on New Years Day!

## Seasons Greetings

This ever popular Aykourn was very well received by the hundreds who came to see it in December. We were pleased to see such high audience figures, especially when considering that we were not the only amateur company presenting this play. Well done to Stephen and his excellent cast.

## The Christmas Entertainment

This year the ever popular festive treat was directed by David Wakeman, who delivered a poignant and touching reflection of Christmas, along with the usual humour. The choir were once again accompanied by Stephen Watkins, and we all appreciate the hours of

hard work and rehearsal that go into this annual production.

## A Murder is Announced

Coincidentally, this popular Christie was being shown, along with many other adaptations, on television at the same time as the production was on. There was some excitement during first rehearsal provided by Pam Meredith (!), and rehearsing over the christmas period is never easy for a cast. This was a very well received production and it was a great show to be involved in.

## Deathtrap

This was a thriller full of twists and turns, bluffs and double bluffs. We had two new members involved in this production, and they certainly did the company proud! A big well done to all of you, it was another great show.

## Coming Up...

### Corpse

The next show in the main house runs from **April 22nd - 27th**. This demanding but hilarious play should prove to be a challenge to the cast and

the director! Stephen Downing has stepped in to direct in Hugh's absence, and he will be assisted by Marika Farr, who makes her debut as a director at The Rose. We are also fortunate to have the input from RSC Stage Combat choreographer Tom Jordan. Good luck everyone, really looking forward to seeing this one!

## Dracula

**may 20th - 25th**

Yet another challenge for us as a company. This production should be visually sumptuous and promises to deliver something a little different for our audiences...

## Blood Brothers

To close our season we have Blood Brothers the play, **June 17th - 22nd** Described as a modern classic, Willy Russell's play is both humourous and heart wrenching.

And speaking of

### Blood Brothers

Here is a word from the director, Sue Downing...

'A warm welcome to my cast and thanks to all who came along to the reading - it was good to see so many new and talented faces.

As well as a superb group of fresh and experienced performers, I'm very pleased to have Patrick Bentley along as prompt, Ross Workman ably assisted by Beryl Sirotiuk on

props and an astonishing set in the planning designed for us by Jen Eglinton. Our first rehearsal is on Monday 29th April at 7:30pm. I would like the whole cast to attend with your diaries please. From here we can work out who is available when and plan a sensible rehearsal schedule that ensures no one needs to be at the theatre more than is necessary.

I can't say how much I'm looking forward to working with you all on this exciting project.'

Sue Downing - 01562 700279

Sue.k.downing@btinternet.com

## Note from the Treasurer... Turn off lights!

We were recently informed by our electricity supplier that our invoices for the next 12 months will be £7,200/£7,500. Shopping around will not reduce this by much. Members are the only ones who can reduce this. Regularly when I come in to the theatre on a Monday/Tuesday and Wednesday mornings I find auditorium lights, stage lights, corridor lights and dressing room lights have been left on all night or even weekends. It is hard

enough for the society to stay in profit without our income being wasted away. YOU would not leave your lights on like that at home would you!

## Payment Procedure

When members pay for goods on behalf of the society out of their own pockets we have always reimbursed them for this on a Monday, after reconciling the previous weeks accounts. This has been the procedure for the past ten years. Members send in their receipts, payment is made in cash or by cheque and the member signs a petty cash voucher proving receipt of the monies. This procedure seems to have slipped lately, mainly due to minor purchases (milk etc.) being paid out of the petty cash tin. I have reminded the box office that they have no authority to make such ad-hoc payments and if anything goes wrong they are totally responsible.

## Membership Subs

It would appear that the membership fees for quite a few people have not been paid. I am sure that I do not need to remind members that they should not be considered for any part in a play whilst technically not a member and would not be insured whilst

in the building should some unfortunate accident occur.

This newsletter is only received by those who are fully up to date and paid up members, so please could I ask you to remind anyone you know who has let their membership lapse... Thanks!

## A word from Mike...

Just to remind you...

If you are locking up, please do a full tour and check all exterior doors are secure and bolted.

If you find anything defective/missing or broken, please leave a message in my pigeon hole in the Box Office.

### Set Building

Keith and I are here set building most days from 10am until 1pm including weekends. If you feel like giving us a hand sometime please feel free to drop in. We're not very good at asking but we really do appreciate ALL help. Don't wait to be asked, just call in even if its only for coffee and a natter! Thanks to our two regulars Steve and Nick.

# Front of House

## Donation Box

To try to keep on top of our ever escalating bills, we have put a small box for donations toward the cost of rehearsal drinks in the kitchen. There is no set donation but all donations will be gratefully received and spent on restocking.

Can I please remind you that it would be very much appreciated if you would wash up your tea and coffee cups as the kitchen fairy has lost her spell and is fast losing her sense of humour!

Many thanks to all the members who help with FOH, however, we could do with a few more in order to spread the load. Just leave a note in my pigeon hole.

Thank-you! Kath

# Notes from the AD's Sofa...

Well, we are now well into the second half of the season... Where does time fly to? Three more shows to go. Thanks for a great *Seasons Greetings*, *Christmas Entertainment*, *A Murder is Announced* and *Deathtrap*! Audiences have been very appreciative and you have all worked very hard behind the scenes and on stage to make our shows a great success.

The casting group have been reading plays by the ton in order to be able to present you with a

new season and I am delighted to say that it is going to be a stunner if we can get all the plays we want. Most of them are in the bag, and this week should see the last three finalised in time for the committee meeting after Easter. We will be having an EGM on **May 12th** to present them all to you, together with the obligatory Availability sheets. Then the play readings will begin...

I know it is a habit for us to go on about these, and I expect now you just switch off when they are mentioned, but please may I explain why these are so important? Firstly, it allows me to see how many of you are around, and when. Secondly, you can tell me what sort of things you are interested in and if you can do FoH or any of the other jobs that are essential to a production. (Remember, for each play we need approximately 16 supporting members). Thirdly, you can tell me of any holidays or work commitments that might mean you can take a small part or only help in other ways for specific productions. Some of you are only available at specific times of the year, so I have to make sure you can be used at that time.

Unfortunately, we are a bit short on certain sorts of actors, so I have to rely on the goodwill of some of you who will be cast more frequently. At the moment there are currently 32 women and 30 men who act in the company.

Availability forms can also be e-mailed to you if you are technically inclined!

Thank you all once again for all the work you have done and are doing. I really appreciate every contribution, however small.

Happy Easter and here's to next season!

Jen x

# Dinner Dance!

## Nonentities Annual Dinner Dance.

Stone Manor, Friday 14th June 2013 7pm for 7:30pm

## Menu

Ham Hock Terrine  
*Piccalilly, Butternut squash puree*

Grilled Pork Cutlet  
*chive pommes puree, caramalised pear, rosemary jus*

Pan Fried Hake Fillet  
*crushed potatoes, asparagus, lemon & dill cream sauce*

White Chocolate Cheesecake  
*raspberry puree, chantilly cream*

## Coffee and Mints

## Vegetarian choices

Portobello Mushroom  
*stuffed with Montgomery cheddar rarebit, baked in filo pastry*

Ricotta & Spinach Tortellini  
*with a tomato and basil sauce*

Galette of Goats Cheese, Grilled Aubergine & Tomato  
*baked in puff pastry, served with a Provencale sauce*

Sweet Potato, Broccoli & Spinach Crepe  
*glazed with a cheese sauce*

Nonnies 'Golden Gnome' awards will once again be presented by our very own Stanley Barten. Nominations are now being sought for these awards. Please forward your suggestions to Stanley or Vilma at [vilmawatson@aol.com](mailto:vilmawatson@aol.com)

We have tables of 10 at Stone Manor so you could arrange your own table of ten friends/family. Or perhaps arrange a play reunion with a table of ten.

To all new members, do please try and come along. This is a great evening where the Society can get together and celebrate the years work at the theatre. There will always be a warm welcome extended to you.

Order tickets through Box Office or online at [admin@rosetheatre.co.uk](mailto:admin@rosetheatre.co.uk)

Preferably order before April 30th. You can pay with cheque/ Cash or card. £25 Per person.

## And finally...

As many of you are aware, Hugh Meredith was taken ill at the end of January. Amidst directing 'A Murder is Announced', Pam had to cope with Hugh being admitted to hospital and it was a worrying time for friends and family.

Thankfully, you'll be pleased to hear, that Hugh is now convalescing at home, he is much improved.

I'm sure I can speak on behalf of all of us at The Rose Theatre, when I say that we all wish Hugh well and hope to see him back at the theatre soon.