



Newsletter

December 2014

Chairman's Message

For those who were unable to be at our recent AGM, I have posted a copy of my full report on the Bar Members Notice Board. In short I was pleased to report that the work of the theatre goes from strength to strength but relies heavily on our volunteers and Committee members to whom I paid individual tribute.

When I became Chairman of the Rose, I stated that my over-riding concern would be to maintain, care, support and improve what was presented on our stage and in the Studio – and that is still my Number One priority. All our other activities and endeavours are secondary to that overriding principle.

A big thank you to Jen Eglinton who comes to the end of her four year term as Artistic Director. Jen has been responsible for selecting with her committee colleagues, over 40 plays and then getting Directors and casts in place. Her contribution to other areas of the theatre e.g. wardrobe, design, box office were also considerable and long may we continue to enjoy her experience and talent.

Kath Lawrence, Paula Raynor and Kerena Taylor all came to the end of their terms and we are grateful to Amanda Salt and Tori Wakeman for taking on Committee

roles. New bar arrangements are in place with two paid Bar Stewards.

The last season 2013-2014 included plays which once again show-cased our brilliant sets and outstanding acting performances by members new and experienced and actors trying new challenges. All ably supported by our technicians and backstage crews. We had two Director debuts with Chris Clarke and Marika Farr.

We played overall to 82% and it looks already as if this year we will exceed that success rate.

Outside companies and professional acts continue to provide a variety of entertainment for the local community and contribute to our financial viability.

During the season our Youth Theatre prospered under the new leadership of Louise Fulwell. Numbers are again growing and the year ended with a two night production in the main house of Mr A's Amazing Maze Plays. I would like to place on record the Committee's gratitude to Louise and many other members who have supported the Youth Theatre this season.

I cannot praise the Officers, Committee and Office staff enough. We have had to deal with some difficult issues this last year, procedural, personnel and maintenance and the Committee have

often gone beyond the call of duty to protect and nurture this theatre

The future looks good, but we cannot be complacent – we have problems and challenges to solve but we are a talented company and I am proud to be your Chairman.

Most importantly have a good Christmas and New Year – best wishes from Stephen

Greetings from Your New Artistic Director – Richard Taylor

Greeting All, as your new AD I wanted to have a wee chat about my plans going forward.

I am in the process of casting the last four shows of the season, and against usual methods, given the half season timing, I met with each of your Directors to discuss theory thoughts and requirements from a cast. This has allowed me to distribute evenly, the available actors throughout the four plays. I will be contacting the casts of Merchant and Two via the office within the next few days, with the other two casts following on within the week.

Next on the agenda is to get the next season's plays in place! No small task. In this I would ask for your help: we are all theatre goers and readers of plays so I would ask you all, if you see a good play, if you read a great script – let me know! I want to build a list of plays that you guys have recommended. Couple this with a core group of trusty play readers (to be

confirmed) and I hope to plan out at least 2 seasons of plays.

I have no thoughts on style or theme yet, so anything goes. I am really open to suggestions. : Let's hear them folks. This is your theatre after all!!

I will put together a more comprehensive communication after Christmas to detail casting and play selection processes. I want to try to be transparent throughout my time as Artistic Director and regular communication is key to this.

Finally you have a brilliant December ahead at the theatre. Chorus of Disapproval is going great guns – get your tickets if you can! Followed by the all singing (no dancing) Christmas Entertainment – nearly sold out!!

Best wishes and “Seasons Greetings”

Richard

Stop Press

Complimentary drinks have been reinstated, after much discussion by the Committee. As from Chorus of Disapproval onwards any Nonentity member working FOH, Box Office and Bar for a Nonentities production only will be able to claim a free drink or ice cream (doubles and large wines not included). We hope this is acceptable to all and that it tidies up the current situation.

Members Matter

Hi everyone from Hilary. I am delighted to report that we have had upwards of 15 new members join since last October, all wanting to do a range of production and support work.

I am stressing to all members new and old that membership includes a commitment to helping with bar and FOH when the call comes!

Vacancy – no, sorry I'm not leaving but am looking for a beautiful Assistant to help with the social side of the role. I hope to get more trips and events going but need some support. Also there may be someone who wants to shadow the role to plan for the future. Applications and bribes welcome – well just a word with me would do!

As well as production and FOH roles we are always looking for behind the scenes support for Committee work – publicity, maintenancethe list is long. Thanks to all who helped get the foundations ready for the new shed – I can't promise the excitement of driving a mini digger again but a gardening party would be good.

Members Feedback – I want to start a member's feedback form so watch this space.

Also am hoping that we can arrange some training sessions on technical work and back stage roles in the New Year. We urgently need more lighting and sound folk before we wear our valiant techies out!

Have a great Christmas and New Year

Hilaryxx

Stop Press

Keith and Mike will be starting **set building** for Murder on the Nile on **Tuesday 9th December** – mornings and some evenings. They will also be planning for the next main stage productions and really need to swell the numbers. Can you leave a message in Keith pigeon hole or with office and your contact if you have not done this before but might be interested.

Dinner Dance – Advance Notice

The Dinner Dance will be on Friday 26th June 2015 at the Stone Manor – provisional cost £27.50. A sign-up sheet will be in the office from Monday 1st December – just ring in or mention to office or Hilary. No need to pay as yet but we will be asking for a deposit of £10 in the New Year.

New Patron – John Challis

It is with pleasure that we announce that John Challis of Only Fools and Horses fame and who used to work as a young actor regularly at the old Play House in his rep days has agreed to be a Patron of the Rose Theatre.

He will be appearing at the Rose on Saturday 7th February, talking about his life in the theatre and his memories of Only Fools and Hoses. Please come along and support John that night. Tickets as usual from Box Office.

Membership Subscriptions

To confirm that at the AGM membership subscription rates were increased in line with inflation to Full - £45, Associate - £10, Couple - £75, Concessions - £25 full

The Theatre Manager has indicated that the current system of members paying subs at any repeat time during the year, usually on the anniversary of joining, is causing problems of admin, reminders, emails lost etc. So the Committee have agreed that a new system will be instigated whereby all membership falls due on 1st July of each year. There will be an interim year 2015 when members will pay a manual pro-rata calculation. The full system will be complete then by 2016.

Example – if your current membership falls due on 31st October 2015 – you will pay again on July 1st 2015 instead but will have 4 months deducted to reflect what you paid this year.

Example – if your current membership is due in January 2015 you will pay then but pro rata to take you to 1st July 2015 i.e.7 months.



Your Front of House Needs You

Congratulations to Amanda who is doing a great job as our new FOH Manager – with new products and yes! new coffee machines.

Amanda will be arranging training times for new FOH volunteers and would welcome any member into the FOH family

Box Office – urgent need for new volunteers. This involves training on the computer system and is a critical role to the smooth running of any production night.

Bar – with paid staff the call for volunteers has been less but please we still need you. Experienced bar volunteers particularly needed on the predictable busy nights

And finally best wishes to Debbie, Mena and Siobhan and thanks for all your hard work.

Everyone – have a great Christmas and New Year – onwards and upwards – Murder on the Nile next!! Good luck to Lyn and her cast and crew.

