



Home of the Nonentities in Kidderminster

New Look!

Welcome to a new look for the newsletter! After some technical issues, I'm trying a new format... Hope you like it!

Diary Dates

Clear Out Days - Saturday
26th and Sunday 27th
July

Open Day - Saturday 4th
October

More info to follow about how
you can help on the day...

Plea for volunteers...

Mike has brought it to my attention that he has been single handedly mowing the grass outside the theatre. We have a lawn mower, but would be grateful for any members who would be able to spare some time to pop down and give the grass a trim! If you are able to help, please contact Mike Lawrence c/o the Theatre office at admin@rosetheatre.co.uk

WWI Memories

Jenny Eglinton is collecting memorabilia for a display in the theatre during show week of 'Oh What a Lovely War'. Please let us know if you have anything to lend for display.



Rachel Lawrence Sky Dive!

4 members of staff within the West Midlands Ambulance Service control centre, including our own Rachel, are raising money for Hope House Hospice in Oswestry by completing a 10,000ft tandem sky dive on the 23rd August 2014.

Hope House Children's Hospices - Hope a House at Oswestry and Ty Gobaith at Conwy - provide care and support to life limited children, young people and their families from Shropshire, Cheshire, North and Mid-Wales.

A range of services is offered, including respite and end-of-life care at the hospices and/or within the family home, and support such as counselling, advocacy and the promotion of children, young people's and Carers rights.

Children, young people and family members are welcomed into a friendly, homely environment, with the child or young person at the centre. The support offered includes physical, psychological and spiritual care from a team including experienced doctors, nurses and other care professionals. Support is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

There will be a sponsorship form located on the message board in the bar or you can donate via a joint just giving page.

<https://www.justgiving.com/wmas-control-staff-MP>



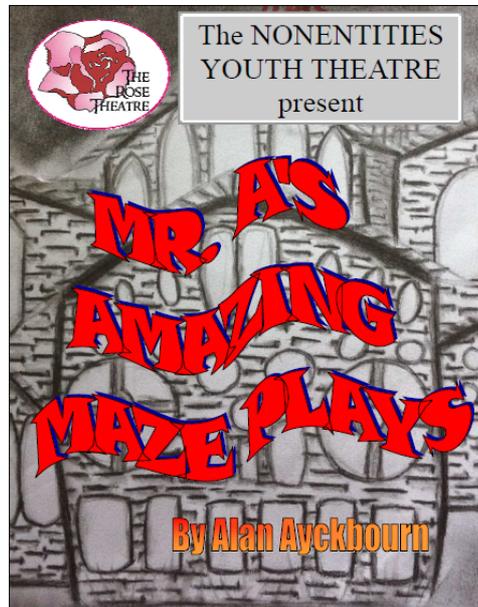
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Quiz Night

Many of you attended the Quiz Night held in March, from which £40 profit was raised. Monies go forward to help to pay for Dinner Dance decorations. £35 was raised from the picture quiz and has been donated to Breast Cancer Care. Thank-you!

House Keeping

- The Rose Theatre website - a copy of the Rules of the Society is now added to the Members section.
- A seating plan for the Studio Theatre has been reinstated on the website.
- **Carers accompanying Disabled Patrons** - A legal requirement has been adopted that Carers of disabled patrons who attend our performances will receive a complimentary ticket. Carers to declare status prior to purchasing ticket for the person they are accompanying.
- **Publicity Help Needed!** - the publicity team needs volunteers to distribute promotional materials such as brochures and flyers in their local area. The Box Office have a list of where we need to distribute, please check this list to see if anywhere is local to you. If so, please help us, to maintain high audience figures for the benefit of your theatre.



Suzy lives in a small cottage with her mother and her dog Neville - her father went up in a hot air balloon one day and never came back down. Except for missing Suzy's father, they are all quite happy until the suave Mr Acousticus moves into the mysterious old house across from their cottage and sweeps Mother off her feet. Suddenly Neville loses his bark, the birds stop singing, and the neighbour Mr Passerby insists his operatic tenor voice has been stolen. Suzy and Neville bravely decide to search through Mr Acousticus's mansion for the missing voices: at this point it's up to the audience to choose which course to take through the maze of rooms, trap doors and secret passageways, and also to remember the path to help the heroes safely out again afterwards.

The youth group have been working hard on this ambitious project and we really need the support of members to come along and see the fruits of our labours! These are the Nonentities members of the future, and they need to know that they are valued members of our society. Hope to see lots of you there!

Thursday 19th and Friday 20th June, 7:30pm £7.50



From your Chairman

The current season is almost at an end and it has been memorable and exciting ride for all who have been involved both from the point of view of audience and company.

I want congratulate and thank every one for their contribution.

The Nonentities are in good shape.

We have a growing membership, although we acknowledge that we also have a number of areas where additional people are required, we have a large, loyal and demanding audience who we are required to satisfy and encourage , and we also have a strong administration of both volunteer members and paid staff.

There is much work going on behind the scenes to secure funding for a major refurbishment for certain areas of the building and I wish to thank Hugh Meredith for his leadership of this project .

Jen Eglinton, with a small committee, has put together an excellent season starting in October.I commend it to you and wish, on your behalf, to thank Jen for her tremendous contribution to the Nonentities over her term as Artistic Director.

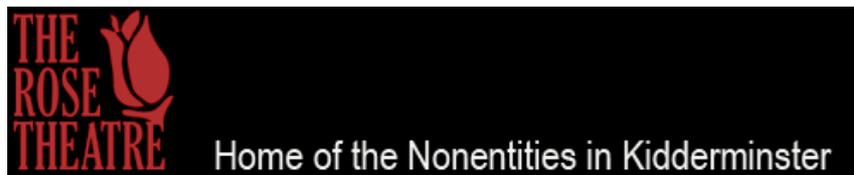
A word about our revitalised Youth Group , please support Louise and the young members in their next production on June 19th and 20th.

The work goes on.

That thing that we all love, The Theatre, is a constantly changing and challenging entity and in the Rose we have a healthy, prospering and exciting company.

Sue joins me in wishing you a good summer and we all look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Stephen



Little Theatre Conference. The Oast Theatre, Tonbridge.

Sue and I represented the Nonentities at a recent LTG annual weekend Conference in Kent. The weekend began with a reception, dinner and theatre Quiz at nearby Tonbridge School which boasted a wonderful theatre complex, followed by more drinks back at the Oast Theatre after their Friday night performance of Loot.

Next door to the theatre is a new Premier Inn which had been taken over for the conference making accommodation for the seventy delegates very easy and quite inexpensive.

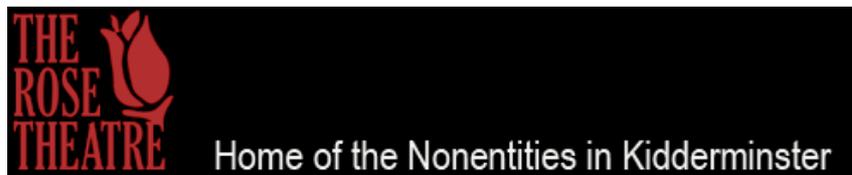
Saturday was filled with Theatre tours (quite impressive since they have recently spent several hundred thousand pounds on new wardrobe, workshops, props and furniture store,) three theatre workshops on interpreting Shakespeare, Wardrobe tips and procedures and Directing Orton. Incidentally they have an enormous Costume hire business bringing in over twenty thousand pounds each year.

Saturday night's performance of Loot was a full house attended by Sir Ian McKellen, who also stayed in the Premier Inn! Sunday began with much coffee and conversation followed by extracts from four new one-act plays written and performed by Oast members. This was certainly the theatrical high spot of the conference.

An LTG business meeting drew the whole weekend to an end.

It was very enlightening to observe how another Little Theatre works and one could not help but compare them to one's own Theatre.

There is no doubt that we at Kidderminster will be expected to host a conference in the near future and I have suggested to the LTG rep that we might be prepared to host a Midland regional one-day conference next year.



Artistic Director's Bit

Well, nearly the end of another successful season and the next one is well into the planning stages. You by now all know the productions chosen for next year, and there are a lot of things being organised. The directors are nearly all in place and you will be sent the complete list in the near future when a couple of problems have been resolved. Casting is well under way and Hilary and I are arranging meetings for new members again to make sure we can include them and I can create balanced productions. I always like to be inclusive, and if you don't find yourself with much in the first half, maybe your time to shine is later in the season? There are parts for everyone during the course of the year. We hope to get these all out to you before the end of June.

This season we are going to have less play readings as the committee felt they held up the casting process. It was often difficult to find time slots for them as the theatre is so busy. We will be focusing on a couple of big ones in the first half. Here are some dates for you:

Tuesday July 15th PYGMALION

Tuesday July 29th NOISES OFF

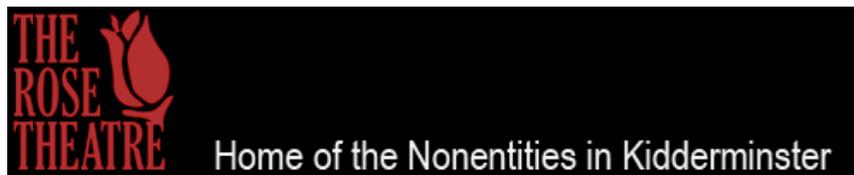
We hope to do some more in the second half.

This year we are also going to reinstate something the Nonentities use to do in the past. We are going to have rehearsed play readings, performed in the studio to an audience drawn from the membership. This will involve a minimal amount of rehearsing and you will not have to learn the lines.

There are several advantages to be seen here: Firstly this will allow us to try types of parts we haven't played before and encourage the shyer people to try things. Secondly new members can work with us and we can get to know them (and vice versa) which is a good way to encourage them. I think this is a good way also to bring the older youth members into the fold as well as we have been looking for opportunities for them. Thirdly it will allow possible new directors to have a go in a friendly atmosphere to experiment with no pressure, and fourthly, we can try out plays that we might not ordinarily put into a season. In the past we experimented with some wonderful one-acters and examples of Theatre of the Absurd amongst other plays. Who knows, we might find something we have overlooked and be able to use it in the future seasons? Dates will be decided after the details have been thrashed out as we have to ensure they don't clash with productions and external bookings. We are initially looking at the beginning of the New Year so watch this space!

I hope you can see from this that our society is constantly changing and evolving and we are always trying to find ways to stimulate you and our audiences and make the Nonentities a fun place to be. Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way this year. We have had a lot of fun and hard work, but it is all worth it. Have a lovely summer.

Jen x



A note from Hugh

Planning the Future

Using funds provided by Worcestershire County Council, a Working Party of your Committee has recently been engaged in detailed planning sessions with two Consultants. The discussions have centred on an examination of our financial control regimes, our working methods, possible improvements and changes to the fabric of the Theatre building itself, and possible sources of funding for any work deemed necessary. At the time of writing the second phase of the Consultation is shortly due for completion. Much interesting and worthwhile discussion has taken place, and hopefully it will be possible to begin to decide on the way ahead by the Autumn. You will be kept fully up-to-speed as plans are made.

Hugh Meredith

Membership Matters

Well done to all our members for your hard work this season – on all fronts, acting, backstage and front of house.

I am pleased to report that we have approved 13 new members since last October. Some have already started and all are keen to be involved across the range of opportunities.

We are looking at how we can support our older Youth Theatre members as they reach 17 and make the move to the senior society – supporting the Youth Theatre is vital to the Society.

New members are particularly welcome to the play readings in July when there will be an opportunity to meet other members, have a try at play reading and get a feel for the next season.

I am hoping to arrange one or two outings next season to see other productions, perhaps one in London and one more local theatre – ideas and suggestions much appreciated.

Hilary (Thompson)

Membership Manager

Contact: admin@rosetheatre.co.uk or 07500337585



And finally..

This was sent in by Dennis Beasley, for your amusement!

William Oxberry (1784-1824)

Advice to Players

As the purpose of acting is to obtain profit, notice and applause, the following Rules are laid down, by following which the 'summum bonum' notoriety may easily be obtained.

1. There is no necessity to subject yourself to the slavery of studying your part:- what's the use of a prompter? Besides, it's ten to one, that in a modern play, you substitute something from your own mother wit much better than the author wrote. If you are entirely at a loss and out, you will get noticed both by the audience and the critic, which would otherwise, perhaps, never have been the case. As to the feelings of the poet, did he shew any for you, when he put you in the part? And, as he is paid for his play by his master, why mayn't do what you like with it?
2. Another excellent mode of acquiring notice, is never to be ready to go on stage, and to have apologies made for you as often as possible.
3. Never attend to another actor in the same scene with you. You may be much better employed in arranging your dress, or in winking and nodding at your friends in the boxes. You must always keep your eye on your benefit.
4. If you have any witticism, or good saying to deliver aside, bawl it out as loud as you can. How are they to laugh and applaud at the back of the one shilling gallery, if they don't hear what you say? If you have no lungs, give up the profession.
5. Never part with your hat: what are you to do with your fingers?
6. If in a tragedy, your friend, the hero, is dying at the end of the stage, let him die and be damned. You come forward and look about you. Every man attend to his own business.
7. In singing, never mind the music - observe what time you please. It would be a pretty degradation indeed, if you were obliged to run after a fiddler - no, let him keep your time, and play your tune.
8. If you can force another actor to laugh, by making ugly faces at him - you get the character of being - so droll! The play may suffer by this, but you must look to your reputation.
9. Never speak a good word of the manager. I can't well explain why, but mind, I caution you not to do it!
10. Go to rehearsal very rarely. You are not a schoolboy, nor are you to think of yourself a parrot, that nothing but repetition will beat the words into your head.



11. After you have said your say, drop your character directly. You are only paid to play your own part, and not to assist another to play his. Never aid to set him off - it may make the scene better, but it will surely lead to comparisons to your disadvantage. Complain, if he serves you so.
12. In making love always whine. These are the tones that go to the heart.
13. In the middle of a speech, if there's the least applause, stop, turn around, come forward and bow. It's respectful. In general the plaudits will arise from the sentiment, and not at all from your acting - bow nevertheless.

Thank-you Dennis!