



Congratulations to the Dream 16 Team – more below....

Chairman's Message

Best wishes as we continue to do well in 2016. We ended 2015 with excellent productions of the Wizard of Oz and our own Christmas Entertainment, to which so many contributed. The New Year has gone from strength to strength with "Entertaining Angels" and "Breaking the Code". Casting for the rest of the season is complete and rehearsals and planning are all underway for "Muddy Cows", "The Glass Menagerie" and "Dad's Army".

Our Artistic Director and the Production Advisory Group have been busy reading plays for the coming season, although we have already agreed to bring "Jeeves and Wooster" to the Rose in September as the first play of our 2016 – 2017 season.

We have thoughts of ending the season with a Summer Sizzler. Two nights of summer songs, readings, a

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morsel of "Midsummer Night's Dream" and a glass of Pimms.

I am delighted to report that our Youth Theatre, under the leadership of Helen Timmins is going well. We now have 20 young people working towards a production in the Studio in the Spring, which we must all do our best to support.

On your behalf I welcome Amanda Clarke as our new FOH Manager and Membership Recruitment Manager. Andy Bingham has been approached to be a General Committee member, as we look forward to the contribution of our younger members.

Thankfully we have a new roof and we continue to make plans for any refurbishment and building needed, especially additional set storage and office space.

As always - there is a lot happening!!

Clear Out Weekend – will be upon us soon in July – watch this space for a diary date and all hands to the pump.

Welcome to and from our new Artistic Director – Chris Clarke

Welcome Chris!

And from Chris..

"Welcome to the 2016 – 17 season which is proving exciting and busy for the Nonentities. We had a cracking Christmas with Wizard and the wonderful Christmas Ents. Followed by a great New Year with Entertaining Angels and Breaking the Code (what a review was that!!) As I write the casts and planning are all set for the rest of the season for challenging productions. We have three fantastic plays to finish the season: "Muddy Cows", "Glass Menagerie" and "Dad's Army"

As we all appreciate, all shows require a huge amount of time and commitment from actors and backstage crew and I would encourage everyone who may be "resting" between shows to get involved in some way, either FOH, bar or backstage. We are a theatre community and the support we can all give each other in working as a team is vital.

The Production Advisory Group have been busily reading plays to be included for the next season, kicking off with "Jeeves and Wooster" in the main house in September. The rest of the season will be announced in April and then the casting process will begin.

There are some major changes coming in terms of how we read and cast for future seasons. I have emailed members about these changes and more to follow, but I am confident that these changes will provide more scope for everyone to showcase their talents.

As the year progresses, I am hoping to develop a programme of workshops for members as well as creating some informal evenings/get togethers for monologue and duologue performance. I believe it is important that we all have the opportunity to work on developing our acting and backstage skills as well as participating in informal performance.

Finally, as members, we all have a voice. Can I thank those of you who have emailed me or talked to me about your thoughts. Please feel free to continue the process.

Chris

Dream 16 – Wow – what a coup for our theatre!

Last year Erica Whyman, RSC Director of Dream 16 said about us..

"The Nonentities are a tight-knit group who impressed us with their warm generosity of spirit. Hailing from Kidderminster, they bring an infectious joy to speaking Shakespeare's language. The whole group have terrific instincts - definitely not nonentities!"

Hard to put into words the tremendous achievement this has been, led from last year by Sue Downing, supported by our Chair and not least ably acquitted by our actors, Sue, herself, Chris Clarke, Patrick Bentley, Alex Powell, Andy Bingham and Simon Hawkins.

It has been a massive amount of hard work, travelling and commitment, representing the Nonentities.

Our coach trip to see the production was great and we were so proud.

During production Alex Powell, one of our youngest actors to be involved wrote:

"It's fair to say that since the announcement, that a group of mad hatters from our theatre would get to play Shakespeare's mechanicals with the RSC, my elated but calm demeanour has evolved into a an indescribable combination of excitement, determination and terror.

The RSC has certainly put us through our paces; they have thrown tasks at us left, right and centre, sent in professional coaches to tame the "Nonentities beast" and it may come as no surprise that our Artistic Director Chris Clarke has been perfecting his ass's bray at a donkey sanctuary too. As there were 14 amateur companies involved in the project, most of our rehearsals have taken place on line via webcam – it has all been very confusing and I daren't explain the intricacies! Though I hope to touch upon parts of our journey that have given us valuable insights into professional Shakespeare and the fun we had along the way.

Michael Corbridge (RSC Voice Coach Extraordinaire) came to visit us, making sure to bring his "trouser pocket of care" with him. (The pocket of care is always empty, which means he is an unforgiving kind of guy with no care to give.) (He's actually lovely but he loves the drama) In this session we learned how to understand our bodies as a complete instrument for our voice. We worked on posture, breathing and little tricks to utilise our total range in performance. Michael has brilliant ways of enthusing us and we have all had great fun jumping through Michael's vocal hurdles. Moreover we had the wondrous

Sinead (Movement Coach) visit us who managed to get a group of left footed Nonentities to dance! My stand out accolade would go to our resident Starveling, Patrick Bentley, who donned his dancing shoes and set the house on fire. This came across most vividly on our dance video task performed to the "Take That" pop-anthem "Relight My Fire".

One of our online tasks was to record a monologue hand-picked by the RSC team to challenge us. After hearing Erica Whyman's feedback, one comment was particularly distinguished. Modern playwriting is often based upon subtext, requiring the actor to add thought and action outside of the written word. Shakespeare's writing completely challenges this, as each character's thoughts and emotions are embellished in Shakespeare's words. Mark Rylance recently criticised his generation of "too slow-speaking" and "too reverent" Shakespearian acting – he argues that Shakespeare plays were made to be rapped with the instinctive rhythms of modern rap music to be close to his intentions. This was most definitely echoed by Erica – Shakespeare has done most of the work for you, so in Rylance terms let's rap it.

Five weeks before the show one of the most notable aspects of the rehearsal process was that it pays to rehearse playfully and openly with each other to discover the possibilities of the play. Erica and the creative team are a most forgiving and inspiring bunch.

The RSC have made us feel so comfortable and valued as part of this professional production. We did hope we wouldn't make a Comedy of Errors of Erica's Midsummer Night's Dream"

Alex Powell (Flute) March 2016

Technical Director

Joe Harper has been working his socks off as our new Technical Director. He will be co-ordinating technical support for all productions. Anyone wanting to branch out or re-learn old skills please feel free to get in touch with Joe through the office. We were recently delighted to welcome young George Brown who manned the box with Amy for "Breaking the Code".

Members Matter

Hi everyone from Hilary as I hand over to Amanda Clarke for new recruitment. Amanda and I am stressing to all members new and old that membership includes a commitment to helping with bar and FOH when the call comes!

The tricky bit is getting new people involved quickly and so all Managers need to think about training days and weeks when new members can be invited along.

Our new members need us oldies to help them along and gain confidence

Amanda and I have agreed with the Committee that we will split the role of Membership Manager as it was too large a role. We welcome all interest in being part of the team, in particular the Social Secretary type work, Dinner Dance etc etc. Sue Hunt has offered to help and the more the merrier

Members' Points and Complimentary Tickets

It has been agreed that members can use their points vouchers for tickets on any night now, but the excess needed above the cost of the cheaper Monday

and Tuesday nights will need to be paid.

We have noticed that for those in rehearsal it is not always easy to get to the Monday and Tuesday nights and therefore there is less incentive to gain points working Front of House and Bar, backstage etc.

Member News and Views

Please send in articles and news

Congratulations to the Taylors, erek and Kerena – a baby girl Beth Amy born to them on 10th January 2016 what more can one say?! A new little Taylor to join the fold.

Dinner Dance 2016

Dinner Dance 2016 will be Friday 24th June 2016 at a venue to be announced. Get it in your diary now.

Subscriptions

We are well underway with the new system for payment from 1st July each year. This has meant pro rata payment for those renewing before 30th June 2016.

A letter will go to all members at the beginning of June 2016 reminding them of memberships being due from the 1st July 2016. There will one or two left with a pro rata needed but otherwise nearly all will then fall due on 1st July - **a date for your diaries**

Hilary and Amanda xx

Box Office Training

Box Office on the night is a critical role but it requires training on the computer system and shadowing of current experienced members

Please let us know if you are interested – much needed!!

Thanks to Kat Ball for joining the team.

Locking Up

Stage Managers are responsible for locking the front padlocked gate as the last to leave. The Duty Manager will have locked the rear gate. We need to ensure that outside lets have someone nominated as their “Stage Manager” to lock the gate. With external shows this is often the technical support team.

Your Front of House Needs You – more than ever

Many thanks to Amanda , our new FOH Manager.

The office have offered to do as much as they can and Mena is doing a sterling job on the rota

FOH and Bar are critical to the financial viability of the theatre and our volunteers are so much appreciated.

Free drinks and ice creams have been reinstated on Nonentities shows

It has agreed that one FOH volunteer sits in the show for at least half of the evening to cover first aid emergencies – saves feeling one is waiting around and free preview of the play!

KITCHEN NEWS!!

Now you would be surprised if we didn’t mention the kitchen. Can all in the theatre be mindful of leaving the kitchen clean and all cups washed up, whether day-time or after rehearsals.

Directors – can you nominate someone on your cast or team to provide rehearsal milk as otherwise the office staff come in to an empty fridge.

BAR

Bar – we are saying “goodbye” to Hayley who has founded a new job with more spread and reliable hours.

Thanks to Hayley for working with us over the past year and we wish her well this year in her new job and on her forthcoming wedding.

A decision will be made as soon as possible where we go with this, but it is obvious we will be relying on our bar volunteers in the short term after the KODS production.

Rehearsal Teas

Thanks to Lyn Ravenhill for co-ordinating rehearsal teas. Please support her. She will be in touch. It involves providing a tea between double dress rehearsals on Sundays before productions.

Cast and Crew need a tea between double rehearsals. We charge about £3.50 per head and those providing teas can manage it as they wish. It’s a great way to support a production.

Phone Lyn 01562 851143 if you think you can help

YOUTH THEATRE update...



'Red'

by KRYPT

**Friday 29th April- Saturday
30th April 7.30pm Tickets**

£7.50

Kidderminster Rose Young People's Theatre (KRYPT) is now well underway with its first production since Helen Timmins became the new group leader in November. The young people are working on a modern version of the tale 'Little Red Riding Hood' entitled 'Red', which they are devising and writing themselves. Each week more layers are added to the story and what was once a simple tale with a stranger danger message is now a complex murder story. The group now consists of 15 regular members who meet every Saturday 10.30-1pm at the theatre at a cost of £7 per session. New members welcome, so if you know of anyone in the 11-18 age range who might like to join then contact the theatre and get them to come along.

News and Views are always welcome. Just send in to the office for Hilary