



**March 2017**

### **VICE-CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

Dear members,

At the time of writing this our illustrious Chairman has run off to the Seychelles so you'll have to make do with me just this once.

I know for many of us, the loss of Rob Broadhurst has been front and foremost in our minds this year. It has been a time of such sadness but I cannot be anything but incredibly proud of the way our theatre family reacted; the way so many of you stepped up to support each other, attend Rob's funeral, donate to his charities and, most importantly, showed up to make his family and girlfriend feel supported and loved in our theatre. You are a credit to Rob and the love he had for The Rose.

Rob's parents, Ruth and Richard, came to see Macbeth and afterwards presented us with a large donation to the Youth Group in his memory. Myself, Rebecca and Alex sat with them after the show and they

talked of Rob and how much he loved the Rose and I know they were touched by the many members who made an effort to come and say hello. You are a credit to The Rose and the love we had for Rob.

Macbeth proved to be a huge success, with sell out audiences, wonderful feedback from the RSC (who turned out to support us even without an Open Stages project running at the moment) and a glowing review which told readers to, "consider the bard raised." Though it seems slightly self-serving to congratulate the cast and crew I'm going to do so anyway - well done to a fabulous team and especially to Alex Powell and Rebecca Williams who led the cast with dedication and deserved all the credit they received. Congratulations should also go to the cast and crew of Murdered to Death who also performed to sell out audiences - and despite such terrible adversity managed to have our patrons cheering with laughter and thanking them for chasing away the January blues. Well done all. Finally, God of Carnage is in full swing, Woman in White is about to start rehearsal and tickets for the 80th Anniversary Ball have now gone on sale, so there's plenty going on to get involved with - and to anticipate eagerly. Including, I'm sure, the return of our Chairman. In the meantime I'll hand you over to Chris for a few words from our Artistic Director. With kindest regards, Tori.

## AND FROM OUR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR....

### Artistic Director's Musings

We are already half way through our current season and what a season it's been so far with all the plays we have produced since September 2016 gaining fantastic reviews and excellent audience feedback. It really is a joy to see the hard work of all members-be it Backstage, Front of House, Bar, Box Office, Theatre Management or in an Acting capacity-bring so many challenging and diverse pieces not only to life, but also give our audience a great night out to remember. I always stress the point that we are a community and the continued success of The Nonentities is because EVERYONE plays their part as theatre makers. Everyone deserves a huge pat on the back for all the hard work that is not only done onstage but behind the scenes as well. Thank you for your dedication and positive team ethos.

The last three plays in our season are already in progress: 'God of Carnage' kicks off in April, rehearsals for the mysterious and haunting 'Woman in White' start in earnest next week and preparations for our farcical end to the season 'One Man Two Guvnors' are taking shape. We really have a strong end to the season and if you are not involved in them, I urge you to get your tickets as they are going to be absolute corkers!

I have been particularly pleased by the number of new members who have joined this year and have already got actively involved in both backstage, FOH and acting capacities. Part of my aim as AD is to ensure new members DO get taken on board as soon as possible, so we can develop and add to our existing membership pool. This year, Mary Field (Flint Street) Isabelle Waring (Murdered to Death) Ryan Green (Props) and Neale McGrath (directing 'One Man') have all got instantly involved in productions and we will continue to encourage new members to be as active as possible in the life of the theatre.

On an acting note, we have had some casting difficulties this year. The reasons for this have been varied; but I

have been impressed and indebted to those actors who have stepped up to the mark to ensure that the show goes on. I must also thank all those members who also cover the duties needed to run the show and operate the Front of House/ Bar /Box Office duties as these are vital elements. Andy Bingham's brilliant app has really helped to overhaul the system and ensure we have a full quota of staff for shows. Can I remind members that it is a policy of the theatre that if you are acting in a play, we do expect you to take on other non acting roles as part of your commitment. A letter detailing this was sent out recently and has had a very positive response. Thank you for your support.

The new system for casting plays with Directors I introduced has proven to be very successful and given all the opportunity to show what they can do performance wise-and some excellent casting has been borne out of this approach. This process will continue later in the year when casting workshops begin again, starting with 'Blithe Spirit'.

As you may have already seen, I am also setting up some free skills workshops for new members, run by members, as these proved very successful when trialled last year. I have already had some members come forward to offer workshops so when I have a complete timetable, I will send out to members.

Finally, the new 'Decades' season is nearly complete and I will be revealing these plays to members in April. There's a fab range of shows which will be challenging and demanding and really highlight our diversity and strengths as a company. Big thanks to the Play Advisory Group of Bob Graham, Tori Wakeman, Joe Harper and Sue Downing for their input into the planning and discussion process.

Finally, a personal thank you to all of you for your support, ideas and encouragement in the role. We all have a theatre to be proud of.

**Chris Clarke**

## PUBLICITY

Thank you to all those who came to stuffing day at the beginning of the year. Our brochures were out on time and our two opening plays of the year were virtual sell outs! A new venture for us this year was to invite schools to see our production of Macbeth. It did help that the Scottish play was on the GCSE syllabus and proved attractive. We welcomed approximately 450 students from seven different schools. A big thank you to Debs and Mena for co-ordinating the ticket sales and correspondence and to FOH staff (and actors!) for dealing with a totally different audience. Feedback from the schools has been very positive and we hope we have developed a whole new client base for future productions.

*"I couldn't understand Macbeth in class but I actually followed that!" Baxter College student.*

## POSTERS AND PHOTOS

We have tried to firm up the organisation of the advertising inside and outside the theatre so hopefully there is a good rotation of posters for Nonentities productions and visiting companies. Committee made the decision to have a break from the traditional 'Display cabinet' arrangement of props which advertised the next play. The cabinet will now be used to display the rehearsal photos. Another selection will appear on the small board in the box office foyer. The large board, when not used by KODS or Carpet Trades, will have our current seasons posters in full view of ticket buyers!

You may have seen the first display offering which is a fantastic photo montage that **Alex Powell** created for 'The God of Carnage', our next studio play in April. (Created during the week Alex was performing as Macbeth!) Alex has taken over from **Paul Cutland** as rehearsal photographer. Huge thanks to Paul for all his work in the past – commitments mean he can no longer guarantee he can get to us. **Colin Hill** will continue to take dress rehearsal photos which will be displayed in the foyer for the duration of the play, and a selection chosen to appear as large framed photos in the bar area and at the bottom of the stairs.



# GOD OF CARNAGE

3 - 8 APRIL 2017 | ROSE THEATRE STUDIO

Thanks to **Amy Jane Baker** who has volunteered to help me with on line advertising  
Anne Booth

## FRONT OF HOUSE NEWS!!

At the risk of repeating myself, can I start by thanking everyone who has volunteered for duties. The latest news is we have a dishwasher! I felt it is more hygienic when we are serving to the public to use a dishwasher. And yes, you can use it before the interval, as it has a 30 minute cycle. It is very easy to use, there are instructions on top and the button you need to press is marked for you! So, enjoy using that – no more dishpan hands! (Maybe you don't remember that advert!)

Actors and back stage crew, you are welcome to use the dishwasher. When you are in rehearsals, or in during the day, can you choose to either wash up your mug by hand, or if there are a number of you, put the mugs in the dishwasher and then when it is full, put it on, please. Many thanks.

Next, stock ordering: we have moved on line! Rather than taking the long and costly trip to Makro, we are now ordering on line – thanks to Deb, who researched the relative cost and found us a competitive supplier. Deb has also very kindly offered to order the stock for us, as she and Mena are in every day to receive the order and can easily check the stock in the cupboards for us. So, if you are on FOH and notice anything running low – drinks, coffee, sweets, chocs, ice cream, washing up liquid, etc, please feel free to leave the office a note so they can add it to their shopping list! That includes when the 'rehearsal' coffee is running low! Thanks.

We have been asked several times for herbal teas and drinking chocolate, for customers, so Deb is going to add this to the next order and we will trial those and see how they go. If you have any suggestions of things we should offer, please let me know. Thanks.

We are also getting some new, small, mugs for the public to use; the prices are not changing. At the time of writing, they had not arrived yet, but when you see them in the cupboard, please use them. We will continue to put out some cups and saucers for those people who prefer that, thanks.

Another bit of news – we are trialling offering the punters in the bar a plastic cup to take their drinks into the main auditorium, if they wish to do so. Obviously, we have to keep an eye on spillages, but it's something lots of theatres offer these days, so we have decided to give it a try.

FOH reminders – just a couple of little things. If you open the auditorium doors, can you remember to push the magnetic buttons, rather than pull very hard! Also, can you check the stock in the choc tray, fridge and freezer, please and re load. Thanks

Dates for FOH training Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 6pm and Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May at 6:30.

If you need the link to the app, let me know, please.

Thanks to members who are training up more people for Box Office duties - If you fancy giving Duty Manager a go and would like to be trained, let me know and I'll organize it for you.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We continue to have a steady stream of new members joining us, which is great. Some want only to do FOH duties, other are keen to get involved in back stage and acting roles. If you know anyone who is interested in joining, let me know. I hold new members meeting monthly, the date depending on interest and my work commitments, so I can always add them onto the list. Any questions about membership or Front of House please contact me. [agclarke63@gmail.com](mailto:agclarke63@gmail.com)

Thanks

**Amanda Clarke**

## YOUTH THEATRE

**KRYPT** (Kidderminster Rose Young People's Theatre) goes from strength to strength and their Christmas Shows 'Christmas Carol' and 'Elves and the Shoemaker' were a great success. The 8-12 year olds will be performing a play written by Helen herself. **Screen Time!** This will be in the main house on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March. If you have any children or grandchildren aged 5 and up this would be a great show to bring them to.

## YOU SHALL GO TO THE BALL!!

To celebrate our 80th anniversary a ball will be held on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September at The Mercure Hotel in Bewdley. Thanks to **Tori Wakeman, Hannah Tolley and Sue Downing** for the planning.



**TICKETS ON SALE FROM THE BOX OFFICE 01562 743745. Cost £30 to include dinner and music. Tables of 8 can be booked should you wish to create a party!**



## **The Rob Broadhurst Memorial Fund**

### **Background**

Rob Broadhurst was a much loved member of the Nonentities Society and the Rose Theatre family, both as a member of the Youth Theatre and the senior society, for over ten years. He tragically died on 2<sup>nd</sup> January in a car accident at the age of 24. He performed in a variety of roles and at the time of his death was in rehearsal. The Nonentities Society has decided to dedicate a Memorial Fund to Rob for the purposes outlined below. It is a way of making a lasting memorial to him, and the laughter, fun and professionalism he brought to the Society, growing in talent from his Youth Theatre days to senior productions.

### **Purpose**

- 1) To provide small sums of money to the current Kidderminster Rose Young Peoples Theatre (KRYPT) to purchase specific equipment, or support events and bespoke training
- 2) To respond to requests for financial support by way of small one off payments to young people between the ages of KRYPT membership and 25, specifically to support drama, stagecraft and backstage skills training.

**The Society to ensure that both purposes are met.**

The Fund will be made up of an annual contribution of £200 from the Nonentities Society income and any other contributions from family, friends and members specifically indicated for the above purposes.

The Fund will be overseen by the Chairman of the Nonentities Society, the Artistic Director and the Youth Theatre Leader, supported by the Secretary of the Society. Requests should be made in writing via the Secretary to the Society. Agreement to funding requests will be advised to the Committee.

An annual report of the use of the Fund will be provided at the time of the annual accounts.

### **Requests for Funding**

These should be:

- In writing - indicating:
- Recipient details
- For individual applicants -history with KRYPT and Nonentities Society
- Purpose of request and time frame
- Amount required



