

# September 2013 Newsletter

## From your Chairman

Welcome back to the Rose!!

Sue joins me in hoping you have enjoyed a good summer and that you are all ready for a new season of theatre.

The company of What the Butler Saw started work in July and we all appreciate the hours they have already put in. Flare Path is also in rehearsal and to both companies we send our thanks and good wishes.

As usual through the summer break an extensive program of work on the fabric of the building has been carried out, led as always by Mike and Keith, and to them and everyone who helped again well done and thank you.

Much effort is also being put in by many members to raise funds to further improve our facilities. Air-conditioning and a new roof for the main audito-

rium is a priority together with a plan to completely refurbish the Studio. We will keep you informed about the progress of these projects. The much extended Car Park and attendant landscaping is well underway and will be ready for our season opening on Sept 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Youth Theatre has also been much discussed. Starting in September a new YT will begin, again led by Gina Biggs with Louise Fulwell acting as a liaison officer between the YT and the main company. It is our wish to see the YT as a more integrated part of the Rose family, and I urge you all to support them in some way.

We are already well on the way to finalising the 2014-2015 season dates. There will be a reduction in the number of Nonentities' productions to nine, but new outside companies are waiting to use our excellent facilities. We will continue to book Professional shows; they add greatly to our versatility and appeal.

We are facing a problem trying to replace Kath as our FOH manager. If there is anyone out there who can help please contact me or Kath as soon as possible via the office: 01562-743745

The Rose and The Nonentities are in good shape. There are a number of new members and we welcome them and invite them to get involved! As members, the least you can all do, is if at all possible buy a ticket for every production to support your fellow actors and friends.

I look forward to seeing you all very soon at the Rose.

Stephen Downing  
Chairman.

## Close of Last Season

### Corpse

A production that was almost as tiring to watch as an audience as it was to be a member of the cast...almost! Much credit to the brilliant cast headed by Richard Taylor in the dual leading role, Tom Rees, who was as excellent as ever, Lynn Ravenhill, who was a delight, and James Stevens, who made a very welcome return to The Rose. With trapdoors and confusion at every turn, this show was demanding for both cast and crew, and was executed with panache!

### Dracula

Yet another challenge for us as a company. This production was visually stunning, with a lovely set design by director Jen Eglinton. Every cast member rose to the challenge and this really was a sum of all its parts, with no weak links to be found. A mention must be made about the wonderful Bedlam scenes that were created by Chris Clarke, Tori and Joan Wakeman, and Alex Forty. This production really got audience members talking and personally, I found it to be great fun to be both involved in and to watch.

### Blood Brothers

To close our season we had Blood Brothers. With a lovely balance of humour and heart wrenching, this was a great close to our season. A particular mention is deserved for our new member Chris Drew, who portrayed Eddie Lyons brilliantly and was a lot of fun to work with! Audiences were heard to praise the direction by Sue Downing.

## So, onto this Season...

Our 2013/14 season is as follows...

**What The Butler Saw - 9th to 14th September**

**Flarepath - 7th to 12th October**

**To Meet Oscar Wilde - 11th to 16th November**

**Wind In The Willows - 2nd to 7th December**

**Christmas Entertainment - 18th to 20th December**

**Boeing Boeing - 27th January to 1st February**

**Lady Windermere's Fan - 24th February to 1st March**

**Ghosts - 7th to 12th April**

**Quartet - 12th to 17th May**

**O What A Lovely War! - 9th to 14th June**

## A Word from your Artistic Director...

Hi everyone. Lots of things have been happening over the summer and it doesn't seem like five minutes since we were doing the last show! Many, many thanks to everyone who partook last season: it was hard work but we maintained an excellent standard and produced some cracking plays! This society is only as good as its members, so that says a lot about the company we have.

The props have been sorted and re organised, Wardrobe is tidy, and a lot of work has been done refurbishing the stage and repairing the auditorium. Unfortunately we have not been able to do as much as we would have liked, because so few people were available to help.

This year we have some new members and hope to include them all. **What the Butler Saw** is well into production. As usual the first play is not selling too well. So get out there and buy tickets! It is a wicked play!

In contrast **Flarepath** is in rehearsal upstairs: a much more dignified and classic play with many a stiff upper lip as they recreate the rigours of being in Bomber Command in the 1940s. Terrence Rattigan at

his best here and it is a fitting tribute in this, their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

**To Meet Oscar Wilde** will be beginning soon as well, our first studio play. This year we have managed to place the two studio productions well apart, so we have one in each half. This is an unusual play and very well written, briefly telling the personal story of Wilde as told in a series of flashbacks with all the characters played by the small cast. Excellent opportunities for them to display their talents in a variety of contrasting roles.

And of course we lead into our big Christmas productions. This year we have gone back to playing a traditional story and **Wind in the Willows** is much loved. Many parts here of varying sizes for everyone and here our new members can dip their toes in the water and discover the Nonentities' experience first-hand. It is already selling well, and please note the Saturday Matinee, especially if you would like to bring a party! The **Christmas Entertainment** is also looking good, so if you want to be involved with that just let me know.

**Boeing Boeing** is the last play of the first half, and the reading was great fun. You may remember we did **Don't Dress for Dinner** by the same author? Well this is the 'pre-quel', where the hapless

Bernard and Robert once again get into a right mess with their women! Not to be missed!

Availability sheets will be going out soon for the next half of the season, so please fill them in and get back to me. The play readings are as follows:

**24<sup>th</sup> September -**

**Lady Windermere's Fan by Oscar Wilde**

**29<sup>th</sup> October -**

**Ghosts by Henrik Ibsen**

**19<sup>th</sup> November -**

**Quartet by Ronald Harwood**

**14 January - O What a**

**Lovely War - Joan Littlewood**

It's going to be a great season! Make sure you are part of it.

XXX Jen

## Don't Forget!

The theatre 5 for 4 ticket offer isn't just open to patrons, members are able to take up this offer too. It is just as important to come along and support your fellow members and the theatre as a whole, as it is actually being involved in productions. It is your duty as a member if you like!

The 5 for 4 ticket offer is only available until the first play, **What The Butler Saw**, goes up, so you have until Saturday 7th September to book... Call the Box Office on 01562 743745 to check it out.

## Now for some Important Stuff

### Improving our Theatre - your views are important!

Your Committee has set up a working-party to look at the urgent questions of up-dating and improving our building and its facilities. Already we have begun the improvement of the frontage of the building and access to the Foyer, and we also understand that our audiences are very keen that we should install some form of air-conditioning. The outline schemes will not be inexpensive (!) and we are already in general discussion with various people who know about "funding things" and an organisation which will help us to prepare our applications... However *your* thoughts are vital in developing *the right proposals to take the Theatre forward!*

Please let us know as soon as possible what you would like to see incorporated in our "shopping list". Your thoughts on the division between important/urgent and merely "what would be nice", will help us to prioritise appropriately.

Please let The Chairman or any of the Committee know your opinions. Alternatively please send them to Hugh Meredith, Chairman of the Working Party, [hugh02@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:hugh02@tiscali.co.uk) or put your comments in the pigeon-hole in the outer office.

Thanks!  
*Hugh, on behalf of the Working Party*

*If you have special knowledge of any of the topics you are raising, or might like to be involved with what is likely to be a very time-consuming project, please indicate this on your response. Please also include your name and your preferred contact details.*

## Stuffing Day!

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO GOT 'STUFFING'**

The day and date is Tuesday 27th September 2013. A huge task in front of our dedicated team of 'Stuffers'. Over 5000 letters, 1st half of the Rose Theatre Season Brochures and some Pro show flyers to be mailed out to our Patrons. The task started at 10am and was completed for 1pm with a few pit stops for coffee, cake and sandwiches. We were very lucky to have 29 members turn up to help on another lovely sunny day. To all involved may I say once again THANK-YOU for your valued help. It sure was a case of many hands make light work.

We'll meet again, don't know where don't know when..... oh yes I remember .. just before Christmas for the 2nd half of the Season Brochure stuffing.

Vilma



Some of the 'Stuffers' in action!

## A Theatre Wedding!

CONGRATULATIONS! to Kerena Taylor and Derek Taylor, who got engaged this summer while on holiday in Ibiza. I wonder if she'll keep her maiden name or take his...?!

The Nonentities wish you both every happiness!

## Open Day

A reminder that the theatre is holding an Open Day on **Saturday September 14th, from 10am until 3pm.**

For those of you who haven't been to one before, we need volunteers to meet and greet visitors to the theatre, show them around and explain to them how we run the theatre, membership etc. We will have set designs on display and they will be able to see and possibly explore the set for the first play of the season. It is very casual and often good fun to show people around. Many either don't know we exist or have never been inside the building. It's a great day to promote who we are and what we do.

So come along! Please let Debbie in the office know if you intend to help out. Thanks!