

ALTRINCHAM LITTLE THEATRE



SEASON 2013—2014

NEWSLETTER No. 5

It is with great sadness that I have to tell you all that our treasurer Peter Ball died last week. Our sincere sympathy goes out to his wife Jennifer and his two children Gina and Mike.

Peter loved the theatre taking part in all areas. From when he joined the theatre in the early 1970's to today everyone will remember him for his kindness and humour , always adding a funny perspective to things. I have fond memories of him working on the stage and aided and abetted by several others playing practical jokes on members of the stage crew. He became secretary of the theatre in 1989 and then took over as chairman when David Lane, the then chairman, died in 1991. He steered the theatre forward organising the centenary celebrations in 1996. Pressure of work forced him to relinquish the post of chairman in 1998, but he still remained active becoming one of the trustees. He became treasurer in May 2009 and started working on computerising the theatre accounts, which he looked after until his death. He appeared on the stage in several productions over the years including The Ghost Train, Saturday Night at The Crown The Lion in Winter and Funny Money.

Of the many memories I have of Peter it is the personal help he gave me that stands out the most, from supporting me and discussing the day to day needs of the theatre to visiting my mother when I was away on business and making sure she was alright. The theatre will miss a true supporter and enthusiast.

Peter Ball's funeral will be on Monday 10th March at 11.00am at Altrincham Crematorium



Peter Ball

12th October 1947—21st February 2014

Manchester and Salford Film Society—Season 2013/2014

MARCH 22ND BIUTIFUL Alejandro Gonzalez Iñarritu Spain 2010 141 mins

Introduced by Dr Carmen Herrero of Manchester Metropolitan University.

Uxbal is a man on the wrong side of the law who struggles to provide for his children on the dangerous streets of Barcelona. As fate encircles him, Uxbal learns to accept the realities of life.

"Iñarritu's most accomplished film to date" - Sight and Sound

APRIL 26TH LA RÈGLE DU JEU JEAN RENOIR FRA 1939 110 MINS

Introduced by Dr Isabelle Vanderschelden of Manchester Metropolitan University

A French classic concerning a duke's weekend shooting-party where the complex and amorous intrigues of guests conceal deep tensions and prejudices just below the surface.

Regularly chosen as one of the world's ten best films

All enquiries regarding the M&SFS should be addressed to the Secretary; John Grieve, 17 Bradley Close, Timperley, WA15 6SH, 0161 283 6565, secretary@mandsfs.org.uk. Annual membership £35.

BOOKSHOP SALE

At this time of year most shops have a Spring Sale to clear out old stocks to make space for the new Spring goods. Our upper foyer Book Stall is no exception. Christine has received so many carrier bags of books to sell that she is holding an EVERYTHING HALF-PRICE sale just for the duration of the current play. This applies to hardback and paperback books and CDs, DVDs and videos. The latter are becoming more and more difficult to sell these days so, please, no more donations of videos.

ADVERTISING OUR SHOWS

For each show we ask Trafford Borough Council to display a poster advertising it in each of the 14 Libraries in the Borough. As I cannot get round all the libraries to check if posters are being displayed clearly, I asked in the last newsletter for you to phone the theatre and leave a message if you had spotted any of our posters. Sadly no-one did, so we don't know if it is worth doing it. Could I ask you again to let us know if you spot a show poster for our next play in any of the libraries. For this coming show, the posters should be on display from Monday March 10th (at the latest) until after the play has finished.

WHAT THE ADJUDICATORS THOUGHT

“The stage at Altrincham Little Theatre was transformed into a visual delight. This was indeed a striking set and a great deal of attention to detail was in evidence. Congratulations to the artist, designer, builders, painters *et al* and technicians whose sound and lighting enhanced it all. Wow!”

“Congratulations to the Director, Mike Russell. Through his detailed, experienced and sympathetic direction, he made this difficult play into a joyous and thought-provoking experience for his audience and, I suspect, a memorable one for his cast, who showed complete dedication to and belief in their roles, and who worked well together to produce some excellent scenes.”

We are not sure whether you have all noticed that we have had several dead spouses appearing in plays recently —especially those who have taken up gardening. No more, we promise, and David Garner’s next role will be as a live person, we’ve promised him!

300 CLUB WINNERS

Well, it's actually only a 245CLUB because not enough people have bought shares in the scheme. This means that, though we have paid out £300 this draw, the theatre has only made £190 from it. If you would like to join there is still time. Talk to Chairman Ian Bowden during the next play.

£100	Mr and Mrs J C Finlay	£15	Mrs Jill Benn
£50	Mr R Fry		Mrs Shirley Phillips
£30	Mrs Shirley Davis		Mrs Lynette Sykes
	Mr and Mrs J C Finlay		Mr Colin Watson
£15	Mr Ronnie Ballantyne		Mrs Margaret Womersley

BOOKING TICKETS:

Just to remind you.

There are a variety of ways of booking seats for our shows. You can fill in the enclosed booking form and post it back, enclosing a s.a.e., but this costs you money for the stamps. You can put your booking form through the theatre letter box and collect your tickets on the door when you come to see the play. This doesn't cost you anything. You can use the online booking facility at ct.tickets@gmail.com or on our website, www.alttheatre.org but you need access to a computer for this. Both of these are free as well. Or finally, you can ring us between 7.45pm and 9.15pm on Monday, Wednesday or Friday evenings and talk to one of us. This costs one phone call but you don't need a computer for it.

FOURTH PLAY OF THE SEASON



Our fourth play of the season is a classic by Terence Rattigan — “The Deep Blue Sea”. It portrays a day in the life of Hester Collyer, caught in a web of decaying relationships and attempting to live by the dictates of her heart instead of the expectations of society. *“Caught between the devil and the deep blue sea, the deep blue sea can sometimes look very inviting ...”*

We are delighted to welcome a new Director for this play, though he will be very well-known to you all as an actor. Malcolm Cooper last appeared here in “Horses in Midstream” and before that he played the classic double role in Rattigan’s “Separate Tables.” The cast of this play have all appeared on our stage before — long-term members Bob Homer (Sir William, Hester’s estranged husband) and Leila Pilkington, (Mrs Elton, the owner of the boarding house where Hester is living) will be very familiar to you all, and newer members Paula Keen, Steve Abell, Arthur Hulse, Jacinta Russell and Robert Smith have all been in recent plays. Appearing in the role of Freddie, the ex-RAF pilot for whom Hester left her husband, is Graham Makepeace-Warne. Graham used to be a member many years ago and re-joined us for last year’s end-of-season romp “The Happiest days of Your Life”.

THEATRE CLEANING

This time the help with theatre cleaning is needed for Saturday March 22nd at 10.30am.
All welcome and any help gratefully accepted.

CONTACT DETAILS



Should you need to get in touch with us at any time,
these are the relevant contact details;

By phone — 0161 928 1113

By email — alt.theatre@msn.com

Charity Registration Number: 517914