

ALTRINCHAM LITTLE THEATRE



SEASON 2015—2016

NEWSLETTER No. 2

PLAY NO. 1: HOW THE OTHER HALF LOVES

Here we are at the start of yet another season of plays and we hope you enjoy what we have chosen for you. Our first play, *How the Other Half Loves*, by Alan Ayckbourn, is one of his earliest. It is a very funny comedy about three couples, Frank and Fiona Foster, Bob and Teresa Phillips and William and Mary Featherstone. It starts off as a very simple story of a boss, his two employees and their three wives, but rapidly becomes very complicated, including dinner parties held on two consecutive evenings in two different households, but on stage at the same time. The cast includes: an actor new to us, Mark Brown; a returning actress, Charlie Welsh; and four faces which will be familiar to you all—Kathryn Fennell, Hannah Davies, Chris Burton and Ian Fensome. Our Director is also a very familiar face but in a different role; Peter Nawn has appeared in many productions here, but this is the first time he has directed for us. We hope it won't be the last.

NOT MANY CHANGES—BUT THERE ARE A FEW

This summer we held our Annual General Meeting and at the end of it we had very few changes to report: annual subscriptions remain the same, as do ticket prices: the cost of coffees, programmes and raffle tickets have not been increased and an annual subscription to the 300 Club remains at £10. In fact, the only two changes to report are that Leila Pilkington will no longer be House Manager and Gillean Thomas will no longer be on the ticket desk for each play. We thank them both for the work they have done for the theatre over the years. However, this does mean that we have several gaps which need fill, and inside this newsletter you will find further information about them.

PARKING AT SAINSBURY'S

As we reported in the last newsletter, parking in Sainsbury's car park is no problem for audiences for our plays. As long as you arrive after 6pm, the 2 hour maximum stay does not apply, so you can leave your car there without worrying while you enjoy the plays at the theatre.

Manchester and Salford Film Society—Season 2015/2016

September 12 **THE LUNCHBOX** Ritesh Batra IND 2013 104m

A mistaken delivery in Mumbai's lunchbox delivery system connects a young housewife to an older man as they build a fantasy world together through notes in the lunchbox. Won 25 international awards. Nominated for a BAFTA.

'A huge success in its native India. The Lunchbox is perfectly handled and beautifully acted; a quiet storm of banked emotions' The Guardian

October 17 **MR TURNER** Mike Leigh UK/FR/GER 2014 150m

An exploration of the later part of the great, if eccentric, British painter JMW Turner's life. A member of the Royal Academy, he was both celebrated and reviled by the public and royalty. Won Cannes best actor and Palme d'Or best Director 2014. Many other nominations.

'What a glorious film this is: a lyrical, mysterious quality pervades every scene.' The Guardian

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 £39.

BUYING TICKETS FOR OUR SHOWS

With this newsletter you will find a booking form for tickets for *How the Other Half Loves*. Tickets go on sale on Wednesday September 9th. Here are a few tips that may help.

- 1) To save you money, order your tickets by phone. The telephone is staffed every Monday, Wednesday and Friday evening from 7.45pm to 9.30pm and you can pay by credit or debit card. You can also send us your ticket order by post (or put it through the theatre letter box). If you want your tickets posted back to you, please enclose a s.a.e. with your cheque, but we will hold your tickets at the door for you to collect when you come to see the show (saves the cost of postage).
- 2) Get your order in as soon as possible. If you leave it until close to the show date you may find we cannot let you have the seats you want. This is particularly important if you want gangway seats. These tend to sell very quickly and there are only a limited number of them available each night.
- 3) We apologise if we caused confusion by asking for cheques to be made out to two different names—The Club Theatre and Altrincham Little Theatre. It makes no difference which title you use. Our Bank quite happily accepts cheques made out in either name.

HELP WITH ANSWERING THE TICKET BOOKING PHONE LINE

Could you spare us an evening to answer the phone at the theatre? It involves asking a few questions and filling in the answers on a form, ready for someone else to select and print the tickets. We are looking for help on Mon/Wed/Fri evenings from Wed Sep 9th to Fri Sep 25th. If you can help, please ring Meg (0161 881 8416) or email her on alt.theatre@msn.com. We only need a maximum of 8 people—could one of them be you? We could also do with extra help on the ticket desk every night of the play—from 7pm to 7.40pm. Again, contact Meg if you can help.

Last season was very successful—every production was at least nominated for awards. Congratulations to everyone involved in any way, and here's to an even more successful coming season.

AWARDS

Association of Community Theatre—'OUT OF THE SPOTLIGHT'

Wardrobe Team - Altrincham Little Theatre Team – 2014 / 15 season

Secretary of the Year Meg Cooper – Altrincham Little Theatre

Cheshire Theatre Guild

Florence Avis as Eva in Kindertransport

Dramatic Achievement Award for Kindertransport

NOMINATIONS

Association of Community Theatre—'OUT OF THE SPOTLIGHT'

Set Design / Construction

Steve Smith & Simon McBride – Set Design/Construction for Kindertransport

Cheshire Theatre Guild

Comedy Award for The reveal of the Gnome in Neighbourhood Watch

Anthony Morris as John Worthing in The Importance of Being Earnest

David Reynolds for Rev Canon Chasuble D.D. in The Importance of being Earnest

Barbara Steel as Lady Bracknell in The Importance of Being Earnest

Costumes for The Importance of being Earnest

Meg Cooper as Lil in Kindertransport

Properties for Kindertransport

Best Director - Jacqueline Wheble for Kindertransport

MORE NOMINATIONS

A.C.T. 'IN THE SPOTLIGHT' - (winners to be announced in November 2015)

Victoria Johnson Hilda in Neighbourhood Watch

Mark Edgar Inspector Davis in Something to Hide

Meg Cooper Lil in Kindertransport

Florence Avis Eva in Kindertransport

Gary Woodhall Arnold Crouch in Not Now Darling

MOST ORIGINAL PRODUCTION CONCEPT - Kindertransport

Again, we are putting out an appeal for help in running the theatre. There seems to be more and more to do and fewer and fewer of us to do it. Some of the areas in which you could help are:

BACKSTAGE: the wonderful sets you see on stage don't just happen—they have to be built, and our team of set-builders could always do with an extra hand or two. You don't have to be an expert carpenter—we need help with painting and decorating, wallpapering, holding ladders and many other jobs.

ADMIN: You don't have to be a computer expert to help in the office. If you have a working knowledge of Microsoft Excel we would welcome you with open arms.

You **would be welcome with open arms if you could help with any of these.**

NEW FORMAT FOR THE NEWSLETTER

As an experiment we are printing this newsletter in a new format—one folded sheet rather than 2 pages. If you find this new format difficult to read, please let us know and we will provide you with a larger-print version.

HELP US ADVERTISE OUR THEATRE

When you come to see the first play, don't forget to top up your supply of season flyers and business cards which you can place at strategic places round the area to help spread the word. Over the next few months we shall be trying to make more use of the QR codes— those neat black and white squares which look a bit like a chess board but which reveals a wealth of information if you point a mobile phone at it. (You do need a free QR reader app to do this). If you don't have one of these clever phones, ask someone at the theatre to demonstrate it to you.

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

Ticket sales — ct.tickets@gmail.com

Costume Hire Service — 0161 928 1113

Our website — www.alttheatre.org