



The Club News

Volume 2 Issue 6

April 2002

From the Editor

Hello again, and welcome to the real burgeoning of spring. How many of us are watching daffodils, crocuses and everything else start blooming? The day this was written, the sun had been out all day, gorgeous and warm, giving a real positive feel to life again.

Congratulations to everyone who contributed to the success of our last play, *Steel Magnolia* - the cast, crew, director, technicians, front of house and just

as importantly, you the audience. We're all equally vital. And I'm sure we all enjoyed a fantastic production. Not to minimise anybody else's work, a round of applause must be given to the stage crew who built the most amazing set some of us have ever seen, a fully working hair and beauty salon, with on-tap hot water included! Well done all.

And of course, no sooner is one over than preparations begin for the next. Our next play, *The Anniversary*, is surely going to be

yet another success in what people are saying has been one of our best seasons for a long time. That's good news, and hopefully we'll just keep getting better.

In the meantime, please do book quickly for the next play (read page 3 to explain urgency), and continue to enjoy the movement from spring into summer, and from *Steel Magnolia* into *The Anniversary*.

son's girlfriend, and the ensuing conflict of wills is the cue for a whole lot of laughs.

Don't miss the final show for this year - book fast!

See page 3 for booking.

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The Anniversary

A good play to end the season on, *The Anniversary* is a moving comedy, focused on the attempts of three sons to break away from a domineering and control mother, choosing as their start

date the anniversary of their parents wedding (despite the fact that their father will not be there to enjoy it, having died several years ago). The attempts are encouraged by one

400 Club winnings

There are two lists here - one for the March winners, and one for uncollected prizes. If you haven't yet collected your prize, please contact us to arrange to do this. We don't send prizes in the post, but we are open Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights from 7.30 onwards every week, for either you or a friend to come along and collect it. So have a look and see if you've got a surprise waiting for you! And don't leave it too long to collect it, otherwise the Treasurer may try and sneak it!



Come and grab your prize money before the Treasurer nicks it!

400 Club winners 22nd March 02

£50

Mr M Jarvis

£10

Mrs J M Clark

Mr M Granger-Brown

Mr P E Peel

Mrs Sparkes

Mr M Granger-Brown

Mr K McCormac

£5

Mr D H Nork

Mr and Mrs I Haselgrove

Mr and Mrs D Eastwood

Mr and Mrs J Mairs

Mrs A Tudor

Mr C Coldrick

Mr M Jarvis

Ms S Davis

Mr and Mrs R Gresty

Mrs K A Goulding

Mrs M Bealey

Mrs M Pownall

£30

Mrs H Moss

Uncollected prizes

£5

Mr D H Nork

Mr and Mrs J Mairs

Mr C Coldrick

Mr and Mrs R Gresty

Mrs M Pownall

Mr and Mrs D Eastwood

Mrs M Burton

Miss S Hill

Mrs D A Marsden

B R Lane

Mrs H E Bayliss

Mr H Southern

Mrs P Pickstone

Mrs E G Mackenzie

£10

Mr M Granger-Brown

Mr M Granger-Brown

Mrs Sparkes

Mr K McCormac

Mrs D Thompson

Mrs F M Phillips

£50

Hilda Moss

Some uncollected prizes are from the latest draw—please don't think you've won twice!

Letter from an audience member

This letter was received at the Club Theatre last week, and I thought I'd print it as an example of the letters we get after each show.

Dear Anna and all.

Just a few words to say how much our party of five enjoyed Steel Magnolias this week.

Excellent cast, set and choice of play. Well done each and every one. We particularly congratulate Shelby and Annelle as newcomers also, what a cast to remember all their lives!! SUPERB.

Let's have more and more like this.

Sincerely

Mary and Robert Ashley

Thank you, Mary and Robert.

Letter from Davyhulme

Dear all.

On Friday 22nd March I attended Club Theatre to be thrilled, delighted and moved by their presentation of Steel Magnolias.

On Saturday 23rd March I prepared to watch Whistle Down the Wind at the Opera House. Prior to my visit I read the review in the Manchester Evening News. Some of the adjectives used in this report were somewhat off-putting - dreadful, bizarre, grim, preposterous, third-rate, second-rate and first-rate tosh - were just some of the derogatory words used in the text.

However, fortified by a pre-performance glass of dry white wine and clutching a large bag of Revels my cousins and I sallied forth to our seats, dead centre row B. We were prepared, this was a touring company's production not the lavish West End show. From the outset we enjoyed

the settings, the acting and the tunes. The fact that Mary Haley Bell's original novel, a story about children living in an adult world, mistaking an escaped murderer for Jesus Christ had been re-set in the Deep South of America did not worry us. The original book and subsequent film were located in Lancashire.

The musical opened with a particularly moving funeral scene where the whole company lead by 'The Preacher' sand Keys to the vaults of Heaven.

When 'The Man', played by an exciting and versatile singer Tim Rogers, appeared the whole audience appreciated the high standard of this production.

The children of the small town were told about 'Jesus' being discovered in the barn and they acted out a very touching scene where many of the little ones



Have your say about theatre productions both here and elsewhere..

brought precious gifts for 'Jesus'.

Eventually the plot was resolved with the barn being consumed by fire and 'Jesus' disappearing.

So we wandered home, wondering, wondering if we'd seen the same show as the MEN critic.

Marian Williams

Thank you, Marian.

Wondering just what the critic has seen that you haven't is often a cause of puzzlement. It's always important to remember that every review is just one person's opinion. The only opinion that really matters is the audience. If you enjoyed it, then it worked!

Want to tell us about something you've seen - just write in! We'll delighted to publish it.

PLEASE BOOK IMMEDIATELY!!!

Stella Blackburn, our extremely efficient ticket secretary, and of course Jack, her husband, are begging you, pleading with you, to please send your booking forms in straight away. This is because they are going on a well-earned holiday from 27th April to 5th May, and so will be unable to process any booking forms or telephone calls during that time.

If you book before that, they will process your tickets within one day, and the aim is to have your tickets in the post to you within twenty-four hours - a fine record!

So please, get your forms in as quick as you can, accept that you may not get the exact seats you want but you will get seats somewhere in the theatre, and please DO NOT call during the time they are away to leave

phone messages! We do not want them to return to fifty messages asking for changes of seats!

We have mentioned before that they are only so many aisle seats etc, so please be accepting of the situation. Remember, some theatre's operate on a free-for-all basis!

Thank you.

Thou Shalt Not Steal....Photos?

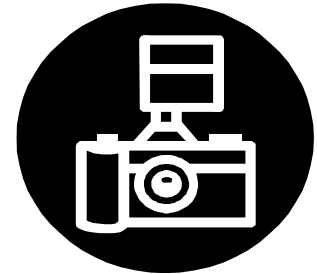
Normally, we like to give good news to our members but unfortunately an incident recently occurred which gives grave concern and needs to be addressed. On the notice board in the main foyer are displayed just before, during and after play week photographs of the play that is being performed. Sadly I discovered just after 'Steel Magnolias' that a photograph had been removed from the main display. As no one had asked to borrow it I can only assume that it has been stolen.

All the pictures that I take and use for the publicity of the theatre and its

productions are copyrighted to me. That is, they do not belong to the theatre but to me and therefore someone has stolen not from the theatre but from me. I do not charge the theatre for doing these photographs as I use them, among other things, to advertise my own work. Cast and audience alike can purchase any of these photographs and this has already happened in the past.

May I suggest therefore that if anyone is aware of how this happened that amends could be made by leaving a payment for this missing photograph at the theatre or at least a donation

for the theatre? The pictures displayed are not cheap to produce, as any photo lab will tell you.



**Please don't pinch the piccies!
You just need to ask!**

I am sorry that this has had to be mentioned but I hope that such an act will not reoccur.

John Banks, Press Officer

Hale One Act Festival—June 10th to 15th.

Many of you will know that The Club Theatre arranges and hosts the Hale One Act Festival each year in June.

This Festival comprises of anywhere up to six nights of three or four one-act plays per night, all performed by different drama groups from around the north-west region. Some plays are well-known, others less so, while some are originals written by the cast or director themselves.

The plays are always of a very high quality in all respects, and it is an

excellent opportunity to see a number of works that you might otherwise never get a chance to see. In addition, at the end of each evening, an adjudicator, this year David Olive, gives his comments on the performances of that evening, offering both praise and constructive criticism that is often just as interesting as the performance itself.

One let-down is the small number of people who come to watch, particularly from the host society. Very often,

it is simply the actors of each party watching the others performing that night. It's very hard acting at the best of times, but when there's no audience to speak of, it's even worse.

So get out and get down here, give some support to some of our colleagues in drama, and have some fantastic nights of entertainment as well.

No booking needed, just pay on the door. Performances start at 7.30 pm.

How many miles can I cycle?

It was mentioned numerous newsletters ago that your foolhardy editor and secretary was planning on doing a sponsored walk around the Isle of Man. As you may have guessed, that plan proved to be rather less than feasible, however, I refuse to be beaten, so I've come up with a sponsored something else that doesn't require me to leave the country, or even leave Altrincham!

What I'm now doing is a sponsored cycle—on an exercise bike! In the foyer or bar of the theatre. On Saturday 18th May, the last day of the coming play. From 10 am for as long as I can manage. Am I daft or wot?

The aim is to raise money (obviously) to contribute towards, not the sound, because thanks to the Robins, we've got that covered, but to the refurbishment of all 134 seats in the auditorium. Some of you may well have noticed (though not too painfully I hope) that our seats are beginning to get somewhat frayed at the

edges, and some of the springs are starting to make themselves known—if not actually felt! So the committee has come to the decision that the time has come to have a complete refurbishment of them. As you can imagine, this is going to make quite a dent in the finances—we're looking at anywhere between seven and nine thousand pounds—but hopefully with your help we can make this a more quickly achievable aim.



Come and watch me race the time and my energy levels—and raise money for the theatre.

friends, workmates, milkmen, whoever!, to sponsor me. They can sponsor either by hour, or by mile (these will be counted electronically—amazing technology), or simply give a set amount. If you can, please collect the money in advance, and then you can bring it with you when you come to see the

I've enclosed with this newsletter a sponsorship form—please get as many people as you can, neighbours,

play, or just drop it in either to the Theatre on a play or work night, or bring it to Ken Jarvis Photography, opposite Halfords on Manchester Road, near B&Q, and we'll have a box there for you to drop it in to. (They're my parents-in-law, you can trust them!).

On Saturday 18th itself, I will be cycling away, inside the theatre, the bar will be open, coffee will be on the boil, so when you're out doing your shopping, if you want to make sure I'm still going, come on in, have a drink with us, help mop my brow, and generally put your feet up while I do all the work for you!

So please. I don't want to go through what I know already is going to be absolute agony (I'll have to spend the Sunday face down in bed I think!) for nothing, so give it your best, get everyone you know to sponsor me, and together we can raise a lot of money, and give you some new comfortable seats to sit on.

SPONSOR ME!!

Anna Jarvis, Hon. Secretary

Come and see The Dish

It was mentioned in the last newsletter that the Manchester and Salford Film Society were giving us tickets to see their showing of The Dish. So far only 25 people

have booked tickets, though we have at least 80 spaces. While you may not have heard of this film, I can guarantee that it's well worth seeing.

You can just turn up on the night of 20th April, for 7.30 and buy tickets on the door. Don't miss a good film!



The Club Theatre

17 Oxford Road
Altrincham
Cheshire
WA14 2ED
0161 928 1113

For further details, contact
Anna Jarvis, Hon. Secretary
On 0161 941 2116



Very Important

Annual General Meeting

This year, our AGM will be held on the night of Wednesday 17th July, 2002, starting at 8pm. The agenda is enclosed—this details the business to be dealt with, and the positions that need volunteers. Anyone wishing to stand for any position simply needs to put this in writing and obtain signatures from a proposer and seconder. You can propose or second more than one person. All proposals must be received by Anna Jarvis by 10th July - no nominations will be taken from the floor on the night.. This applies to all current committee members as well as new-comers. Please do consider standing - we always welcome new blood, as it were!

Also, please do try to make an effort to attend. Out of 600 members, we rarely get more than 40 attending. This meeting affects you!

Thank you 'the Robins'

On Saturday the 16th March, representatives from The club Theatre were invited to Altrincham Football Club to receive a cheque to help towards the running of this theatre. Just before the match theatre Chairman Ian Bowden was presented with a cheque for £3800 from the Club's Chairman Mark Harris. We are delighted and thanks was given by Ian Bowden to 'The Robins' for their generosity and for supporting the theatre. The money will go towards updating and replacing the sound system

and also refurbishing the seating in the theatre auditorium.



Football combines with
Theatre to provide
some 'sound'
entertainment!

The representatives stayed

to watch an entertaining match and in turn thanked Mark Harris and every one at Altrincham Football Club for making them so welcome. The Club Theatre also made its mark there in a different way when one of our trustees Mr Peter Ball won not only the golden goal award but also the match ball. Well done Peter!! Indeed an afternoon to remember.

John F Banks, Press
Officer