



The Club News

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£50 Winner

Mrs J Sherry-Brennan

Chairman's Chat

As I write this the new Auditorium ventilation system is being installed. Ever since we blocked in the windows, at the request of the fire officer, we have had a problem with the auditorium getting very warm towards the end of the night. This is not because the heating is on but because each person gives off about a third of a

kilowatt of heat per hour. So a full house equates to 30 electric fires. In addition the stage lighting can generate another fifteen kilowatts. The new system will remove the hottest air from the ceiling and cool air will be drawn in. The system is designed to be silent in operation and will not produce any draft.

The theatre has a web site and uses broadband internet. We are looking at the possibility of sending the newsletters by email to members who wish to receive them in this way. If you are interested please let me know at newsletter@clubtheatre.org.uk and if there is enough interest we shall start the service.

Sparkle & Shine

Once again we appeal for your help in cleaning the theatre. If you can come then, the job gets done in half the time and the theatre can shine bright for our patrons. It is a thankless task but one that needs to be done and is much appreciated! As mentioned in the last newsletter no one stands on ceremony and it's a very friendly gathering. So DO consider helping on

SAT morning the 13th May at 12.30



400 Club Winners

The 400 Club was drawn on Wednesday 22nd March

£50	Mrs J Sherry-Brennan	£5	Miss J Worrall
			Mrs A Shelley
			Mr & Mrs J L Harris
£30	Mrs J C Finlay		Mr R Lucas
			Miss P Derbyshire
£10	Mrs E Leighton		Mrs A Pikesley
	Mr J V C Thomas		Mrs L Wright
	Mrs J M Clark		Mrs J Spilsbury
	Mrs J C Finlay		Mr & Mrs M Cooper
	Mrs H M Davies		Miss J worrall
	Mrs M Smith		Mrs M Pownall
			Mr P S Affleck

Fast and Furious



They came! They saw! They laughed! Well done to the director, cast and crew of 'Funny Money'. It was lovely to be able to put up the 'SOLD OUT' signs. Everyone had worked hard to make this an enjoyable experience for our audiences and certainly succeeded in that aim. The pace was fast and furious with Peter Nawn on 'speed' and Val Harris on whatever alcoholic drink she could lay her hands on! It was lovely to see some new faces on stage while at the same time welcoming back some old ones. This was a particular difficult farce this time around but the hard rehearsals had ensured that, whatever happened, the laughs kept coming thick and fast.

The whole cast did well but special thanks must go to Val Harris and Helen Walker. The director is very grateful to these two actresses who, between them, suffered illness and personal bereavement in the days running up to the week of the performance, yet they continued on with the play. We do not have understudies, contrary to what some people think, and whatever happens 'the show must go on'. The other thing would have been for the director to have gone on stage in a dress. He has been known to do that in the past but is a lot better now, since he's been taking the pills!! Farce is a very difficult form of theatre to do well but from the audiences reactions is a medium that they love and hopefully we can do more at some later stage but maybe not one quite so complex!

And There's Still More!!

'Billy Liar'

Yes he's back! We are delighted to have back in our rehearsal room, Garth Jones. Garth is in the middle of directing our next production 'Billy Liar' and by all accounts this will be a very interesting take on the boy who dreams of great things but merely gets himself in one fix after another. The only way he can escape is by lying his way out. This is a lovely comedy set in the 50's and finishes off our play season nicely. Again we are happy to be seeing some new faces making their debut on the Club Theatre stage. We are also pleased to announce that two of our ex-'Club Drama' students are playing roles in this production. Frances Waite who thrilled us with her heartfelt portrayal of the heroine Anna in 'The Snow Queen' and Mark Dawson who was

last seen tackling several roles in 'Under Milk Wood'

'Hale One Act Play Festival'

With barely time to pause for breath the theatre will be gearing itself up for the Hale One Act Festival which takes place this year from the 6th –10th June. Representing the Club Theatre will be two entries from 'Club Drama' and we hope an adult entry directed by John Fisher. This will be John's directing debut and we wish him well. (This is not a picture of John, in case you were wondering)



So Nearly There

You will have noticed this season that the theatre bar is different. You will have noticed that we have redone the walls and ceiling. You will have also noticed that it is still unfinished! Sadly before we could put the finishing touches to it, the play season had started and, it had to be put on hold. We just ran out of time! So next season the bar will look different again as it's at the top of the list of our summer jobs. If you can help us, let us know.

**The Theatre that
never lets us rest
or sleep**



Congratulations

We are delighted to hear that one of our regular actress's Hilary Slater and her husband Andy have been busy with their own little production! Our congratulations to both of them on the birth of their little girl, who's name now escapes me. We do hope that in time she will let Mum retread the boards again. Best wishes from us all.

Two Nights to Remember



It was all the fault of our Chairman and 'Club Drama' Tutor, Ian Bowdon. When thinking what play the young people should attempt this season he pipes up with 'What about 'Under Milk Wood'? Well all the other tutors agreed that this was indeed different and would prove a nice change and challenge for the group. Val Harris

was just about to start directing when unfortunately she was taken into hospital. She was thus out of action for a short while and the director's mantle therefore fell to me. I had studied Dylan Thomas at college and had read 'Under Milk Wood' at that time and liked it. However this play was written for radio, not the stage and the task proved to be a difficult and complex one. I did not want a load of people just standing about a stage reciting the lines. His story is full of poetry and pictures and I was determined to bring this to life. It proved in the end to be one of the most daring and complex productions that 'Club Drama' and their director had ever undertaken.

Rehearsals took place, just once a week, and were very intense. Our young people worked very hard to master not only the language of the play but also for some, even the Welsh accent.

It would be totally stupid for anyone to try and compare what they achieved with the adult version that starred Richard Burton. What they did do was produce a piece of theatre from a play that would put off many adult groups, never mind youth ones, attempting it. May I thank those members who supported 'Club Drama'. Sadly there are not enough otherwise we could have easily performed another night. Those who did come were impressed by what they saw and gave the young people the confidence that they all need to progress further, and tackle yet more ambitious projects.

Well done to all those involved and my thanks to all the Club Theatre departments who helped enrich the production. My thanks also to Chief Tutor, Val Harris, and fellow tutors Ian Bowdon and Colin Wild for their support and help.

I was very happy with the result and the ending of the play was superb as the whole cast stood in silence to listen to the Eli Jenkins' prayer being sung by a Welsh choir. I was moved by the experience, as were many others, and it makes me feel very proud to be associated with this talented group.

John F. Banks—Director

Stars of the Future

For nine of our students 'Under Milk Wood' was their last production and once again I was sad to think that not only was I going to lose so many in one go but also so many talented young actors and actresses. The students themselves were unhappy at the thought that they could not continue their love of drama at this theatre so after talking to them and my fellow tutors we are going to launch a senior youth group in September. All but one of the students are coming back and with this smaller group we will be able to cover many aspects of drama work in more detail which will not only include stage craft but the important behind the scenes aspects of theatre. However the group will only be open to students who have come up through the ranks of 'Club Drama'. In doing this we hope to help these students if they wish to continue working in this field.



In fact I am pleased to announce that one student is going to audition for the Royal Exchange this year. I am also delighted to say that one of my ex-Club Drama students, Abigail Foan, last seen in 'Pygmalion', has been accepted by The National Youth Theatre. She has gained a place on a week long course to take place in Manchester and, having completed the course will be able to audition for plays in the West End.

Val Harris—Chief Tutor

The Two Thirds Bit!

Another piece of advice from that source of many words of wisdom and truths. A fortune cookie!

'Luck is a dividend of sweat, the more you sweat, the luckier you get'

Well I don't know who writes these things but I am hoping for a lot of luck as there is a lot of sweat being rung out at present putting this newsletter together and hitting the deadline so that it get out on time!!



THE CLUB THEATRE

17 Oxford Road
Altrincham
Cheshire
WA14 2ED

Phone: 0161 928 1113

E-mail: secretary@clubtheatre.org.uk

Website: www.clubtheatre.org.uk

Useful Numbers

There is always someone who will be able to help or put you in touch with the right person if you have any questions or queries about any aspect of the theatre. Feel free to call.

Chairman	Mr Ian Bowden	0161 980 2551
Acting , Front of House	Val Harris	0161 928 2277
Treasurer	Roy Burman	0161 928 1477
Stage Director	Paul Affleck	07870 780910
Costumes	Helen Walker	0161 928 1113
'Thursday Club'	Barry Swithenbank	0161 980 7743
Secretary/Press Officer	John Banks	0161 486 1843
'Club Drama'	Val Harris	0161 928 2277
Ticket Bookings		0161 928 1113
Club Theatre Office		0161 928 1113

A Class of it's Own

We have been told that our theatre Programme is excellent and the best in the amateur field. At only 70 pence it is certainly value for money when you see people paying 50 pence for a folded A4 sheet of paper at other venues! Well that's all thanks to the hard work put in by editor Val Harris. Our thanks to member, Pen Roberts who has also, all season, supplied articles. However we always like to have two or three articles in the programme for people to read. You will have noticed member Peter Ball has also written some for us. Well is there anyone else who would like to contribute and see their work in print? It does not have to be something that has any connection to the play in question although it would be nice if it did. Contact Val Harris 0161 928 2277 with your ideas.

The End Bit



I was sent the following recently and it struck a chord with me especially with the way things are going at work! It was simply entitled 'Ballooning'.

A man in a hot air balloon realised he was lost. He reduced altitude and spotted a woman below. He descended a bit more and shouted, "Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago, but I don't know where I am." The woman below replied, "You're in a hot air balloon hovering approximately 30 feet above the ground. You're between 40 and 41 degrees north latitude and between 59 and 60 degrees west longitude."

"You must be in Information Technology," said the

balloonist. "I am," replied the woman, "How did you know?" "Well," answered the balloonist, "everything you told me is, technically correct, but I've no idea what to make of your information, and the fact is I'm still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help at all. If anything, you've delayed my trip."

The woman below responded, "You must be in Management." "I am", replied the balloonist, "but how did you know?" "Well said the woman, "you don't know where you are or where you are going. You have risen to where you are, due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise, which you've no idea how to keep, and you expect people beneath you to solve your problems. The fact is you are in exactly the same position you were in before we met, but now, somehow, it's my fault."