



The Club News

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Chairman's Chat

As you will read elsewhere the summer work is progressing as we planned. There will be a lot of work after the contractors have finished from painting to cleaning up. Plaster dust gets everywhere (I don't take sugar).

Where does the money come from to pay for all these improvements to the theatre.

You may well ask (and the treasurer often does) we hire the theatre out to different groups. Since Harvey we have had four separate events comprising of seven rehearsals and thirteen nights of actual performance.

I have just received a letter from the Manchester and Salford Film Society outlining their program for

the season. As most of you know they present their films here at The Club Theatre. The first one of the season will be on Saturday September 24th. It is called Japanese Story and is an Australian film. Club Theatre members can obtain guest tickets by telephoning John Grieve on 0161 928 7472.

New Ticket Booking

We are very grateful to Stella Blackburn, who after the death of Vicki Lane, immediately offered to take on the role of Ticket Secretary. It is a thankless task and is not made any easier when people do not include their vouchers, stamped addressed envelope or send in their forms late. Stella did an excellent job overcoming these annoying problems and we are very grateful for all the effort she put in sorting out people's bookings. However Stella has this year resigned from this post and therefore from now on all tickets sales will be handled from the theatre office. Could you please bear with us as we will be putting a new booking system in place but we will endeavour to keep up the standard of service that Stella provided. There is an answer machine to take messages out of hours so please don't be put off and any queries will be attended to as soon as possible. If you or any of your party cannot attend an evening's performance **PLEASE** let us know **ASAP**. Sadly many times we have been in the position where patrons have turned up on the door or phoned to get tickets and have been turned away only for someone to arrive moments later with returns that they decided to tell us about only when they got to theatre. We do not want to disappoint anyone so lets all please help each other on this one. At the end of the day we love to see the 'Sold Out' signs up!!

The Unsung Hero's

We are all aware of the work that Steve Smith, Paul Affleck and Barry Swithenbank do at the theatre. It's a lot and we are very grateful for the long days and nights that they spend there. However there is also a small and faithful crew who are thanked but never named (apart from in the play programmes) who also do a lot in the time between shows. So a **BIG THANK YOU** to the following: Ian Haselgrove, Vernon Evans, Chris Nock, Leo Schroeder and John Fisher. We must also mention the others who have, on more than one occasion last season, given up their time to help so thank you John Ross, Lisa Barker, John Fitch, Mark Dawson, David Eastwood and Ian Hills. There is always room for others to join them, always things that need doing and a warm welcome is guaranteed. Paul Affleck awaits your call!



Not just the Usual Suspects

Our New Season

The hardest task facing any theatre is choosing a season of plays that will delight their audiences and set challenges for their actors, directors and stage crews! You can never please everyone but we hope we manage to please the majority!!

The season will begin with a world premiere and once again we have been offered a brand new piece by our patron Brian Clemens. For this we are delighted to have secured the services of David Wood who will direct **'Murderous Intent'** a thriller set in France during the late 1930's which is full of twists and turns.

Our second play sees a change this year with Mike Donohue directing **'Pygmalion'**. This is the original play written by George Bernard Shaw about a London flower girl who is turned into a lady of society and should not be confused with the music filled 'My Fair Lady'.

The third play of the year sees us still with the clock turned back when John Powell directs the drama **'And A Nightingale Sang'** by C.P.Taylor. Set during the Second World War this traces the life of a working class family during those hard dark years. It was also a play put forward to our Committee by one of our members so if you would like us to consider putting on a particular play please let us know. We are always happy to hear your ideas.

Putting down briefly his pen and swapping his acting cap for a directing one John Banks brings us **'Funny Money'**. This is a modern day farce penned by one of the kings of this genre Ray Cooney. A play full of non stop confusion and mayhem!

We started off in France with our first play and for our next offering we move to Wales and the poetic writing of Dylan Thomas. 'Club Drama' brings to life on stage the story of **'Under Milk Wood'** and this is a story not to be missed as you meet the colourful characters of the small seaside town of Llareggub. Now say that after a couple of beers!!

Our final production is the play **'Billy Liar'** directed by Garth Jones and is a delightful gentle comedy about a dreamer who as soon as he gets out of one spot of trouble just falls into more.

Don't forget that after that we still have the 'Hale One Act Play Festival' which is always a well worth week of drama.

So there you are and a gold flyer is enclosed with more details. We sincerely hope you will enjoy the season as much as we will performing it for you.



Alive and Kicking

I am still, after all this time, surprised and at the same time dismayed how few people in Altrincham know about The Club Theatre. They do not seem to realise that they have one of the oldest drama societies in the North West, possibly in the country, based in a lovely theatre next to one of their favourite supermarkets! The Club Theatre is far older than its younger brother across town and yet still unknown to many. Well, three years on and I am still trying to tell them! If anyone is willing to help me advertise the theatre then please contact me. I am still on the lookout for outlets where flyers can be left for the public to pick up and places where posters for our plays can be placed. I am very grateful for the continued work that Robert Fysh does but more help is needed. So, if you have a business or know someone who is willing to display our advertising material, call me. Thank you.

John F. Banks—Press Officer

Getting Plastered?

Okay so it won't be the new Copacabana but our bar area is in the process of a BIG make over. We hope that by the time you read this, a large part of the work will have been done and that when you come to our first play, you will be impressed with the final look. Of course there are lots of other jobs that are being done this summer behind the scenes but this will be the most visible one this year. There is so much we would like to do to the building like improve the ventilation in the theatre itself and we are already looking at ways of achieving this at a reasonable cost. Sadly, as always, it comes down to just that, COST! However all the money the theatre makes goes straight back into the building and so we hope that this new development will please you, our patrons.



Awards 2004/05

Below is a list of the awards and nominations that the theatre has received this last season. You will notice that apart from two, they all concern 'Club Drama'. This is disappointing for the senior sections who have produced some excellent work yet it also highlights the young talent that we have nurtured here at the theatre. Therefore for those who knock our young ones don't forget that we were all young once!



Hale One Act Festival

Best Individual Youth-Will Roddy
Best Director Youth -John Banks & Colin Wild - 'Fool's Errand'
Best Youth Production - 'Fool's Errand'

Cheshire Theatre Guild One Act Festival

Best Individual Youth-Will Roddy
Best Youth Production - 'Fool's Errand'

Sale One Act Festival

Best Individual Youth-Will Roddy
Best Youth Production - 'A Good Knight's Work'

Greater Manchester Drama Federation

Best Female Youth- Abi Foan for Nancy in 'Oliver Twist'
Runner Up Best Male Youth - Mark Dawson for Bill Sikes in 'Oliver Twist'

Cheshire Theatre Guild

Certificate of Merit- Jessica Irving as the Robber Maiden in 'The Snow Queen'
Certificate of Merit - Will Roddy for Fagin in 'Oliver Twist'

NOMINATIONS

Greater Manchester Drama Federation

Best Female Youth - Abi Foan for Nancy in 'Oliver Twist'
Best Female Youth - Lucy Spurrell for Mrs Corney in 'Oliver Twist'
Best Male Youth - Mark Dawson for Bill Sikes in 'Oliver Twist'
Best Male Youth - Ian Prest for Mr Bumble in 'Oliver Twist'

Cheshire Theatre Guild

Barry Phillips Award for Most Promising Youth (Male) - Will Roddy for Fagin in 'Oliver Twist'
Rebecca Seymour award for Most Promising Youth (Female) - Jessica Irving as the Robber Maiden in 'The Snow Queen'

The only adult success were the following nominations:

Margaret Thomas Salver for Best Costume - 'The Importance of Being Earnest'

James Tait Award for the Best Production with Musical Content - Val Harris for 'The Snow Queen'

(Oh Dear! It is disappointing to note that the adjudicator seems to have forgotten that director, writer and composer John Banks had a small hand in that one!!)

Upward and Onward

Well done to everyone at 'Club Drama' for the achievements listed above. Individual actors and actresses have done well but it must be remembered that they did so because they were well supported by a good cast of colleagues. I would like to thank my fellow tutors Ian Bowden, John Banks and Colin Wild for all the hard work that they put in this last season. Colin, in particular, came to us at the start of the year to help and has fitted in very well while his vocal work with certain individuals has already paid dividends. We will now be starting work in preparation for 'Under Milk Wood' - another exciting challenge for us all.

Val Harris - Chief Tutor

**Young Stars Shine
Bright**



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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
Sponsorship	Val Harris	0161 928 2277
Treasurer	Roy Burman	0161 928 1477
Stage Director	Paul Affleck	07870 780910
Costumes	Helen Corrie	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

The End Bit

How time flies? Only another four weeks and then we will be staring rehearsals for the first play of the season. After that it will be downhill to another Christmas rapidly followed by another looming New Year and no one is getting any younger! I read recently that Stephen Fry replied to a question about age with the following witty? answer. "I don't need you to remind me of my age. I have a bladder to do that for me." In the same article George Bush Snr replied to a similar question with this comment. "I just sit there and do what I vowed I would never do - talk back to the television". The father of an ex-girlfriend of mine does that and he's a lot younger than Bush Snr! However, staying with that in mind, I came across amongst my papers the following which I hope will amuse those of 'a certain age'! Enjoy.

'Did you know that we old folks are worth a fortune? We have silver in our hair, gold in our teeth, stones in our kidneys, lead in our feet and gas in our stomachs.

I have become older since I last saw you and a few changes have come into my life. Frankly I have become a frivolous old woman!! I am seeing SIX gentlemen every day! As soon as I wake up Will Power helps me out of bed, then I go to see Jimmy Riddle and then it's time for breakfast with Mr Kellogg, closed followed by the refreshing company of Mr Tetley or my other friend who I who I only know by his initials—"P.G."! Then comes someone I don't like at all - Arthur Itis - he knows he is not welcome, but insists on being here. What is more he stays for the rest of the day, although sometimes he does not like to stay in one place so he goes from joint to joint.

After such a busy day I am glad to get to bed (and with Johnny Walker too!). What a hectic life! Oh yes! I am now flirting with Al Zheimer too.

The vicar came to call the other day and said that at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter. So I told him I did, all the time. For no matter where I am, the bedroom, the kitchen, the sitting room or the garden, I ask myself, "Now what am I here after?"

Well I'll close now and I hope that Will power is your constant companion too, but do make sure that his friend Emma Royd does not creep up on you from behind! And one last word of warning. Watch out for that crafty one - Gerry Atric!



FOOTNOTE: Don't be shy. If you see something of interest that you think would fit 'The End Bit' or any bit of the Newsletter then send it in to the theatre c/o of the Secretary . We now look forward to a flood of articles!!!!