

The Club News

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Chairman's Chat

What happens in the theatre once the season ends. Usually we start working on clearing up and improvements to the theatre ready for next season. This year nearly all our efforts have been behind the scenes. The main job for this summer are the clearing of the wood store the replacement of the windows in the rehearsal room and the replacement of the canvas on the stage dropcloths. In

addition there are several smaller projects which we hope to carry out if time permits. During the season the stage crew work tirelessly to build the sets and do all the small repairs that crop up from time to time. They also work hard during the summer to make the place ready for each season. If anyone has some spare time and would be interested in helping with this work please contact the

theatre on 0161 928 1113 or just call in any Monday, Wednesday or Friday after 7.30pm. At the last AGM there was a proposal that the playing of the National Anthem should be dropped. It was decided that this would be placed before the full membership and you will find with this newsletter a voting form to allow you to register your preference.

Ian Bowden

Make My Season!



I have for several years been doing the job of House Manager for all our productions. There are some people who are very loyal and will always help but this number has dwindled over the past couple of years with illness and people moving away. For this season I have agreed to carry on but I do so reluctantly because it is getting harder and harder to find members willing to help in this way. There is clearly marked on the booking forms a section where one can indicate whether they can help or not and which evening or evenings they are available. Sadly very few members fill this in and I am left to

ringing around for helpers. Please if you can help don't wait to be asked but let me know either via filling in the form or contacting me directly in advance (Val Harris 0161 928 2277)

For health and safety reasons we have to have 7 people on duty every evening. You may not want to act, build sets or take a very active part in the theatre but by helping front of house now and again you will be supporting your theatre.

We have an excellent reputation for our friendly greeting and efficient service which has been recognised with awards on more than one occasion. Please help us to maintain this record and help me ensure that the welcome at the Club Theatre is always a warm one and one that you and all our patrons remember and appreciate.

Val Harris—Vice Chairman

**A Hello
+
A Smile =**

A Warm Welcome

Our Floating Helpers

Many thanks to the following who worked so hard to get our float ready for the Altrincham Festival, manned it and came back to help us dismantle it as well. John Fitch, Mr Sutter and his son Sam, Mrs Gibson, Mr Unwin Andrew Hills, Nick and Beatrice, Lucy, Claire Roscoe, Ian Bowden and John Banks. We just could not have done it without them. Our thanks to Steve Smith who recorded the music that was never heard on the day due to our music system crashing!!! Better luck next year.

Coming Up! This Season



You can never please everyone all of the time but we do strive to please most people most of the time!! We are always trying to give our audiences something different and entertaining as well as presenting them with new and interesting plays. It's nice to see new as well as old faces and to give new challenges to our

directors, actors and stage crew. This is what keeps things fresh and exciting! We don't always succeed but we hope that you will enjoy what we have to offer you all this season.

'And A Nightingale Sang'

We welcome to The Club Theatre, *Yvette Harper* who makes her directing debut here with our opening play. This drama charts the life of a family during the Second World War. We see and share their worries, their hopes, tears and joys. Full of feeling and laughter we are pleased to be able to present this play especially as it was suggested by one of our members.

'Yonder Peasant'

December is the month for family and feel good productions. We are therefore delighted to be presenting another world premiere with a new play by writer and director, *John Banks*. Directing his own work, John's comedy tells the true story of how that well carol 'Good King Wenceslas' really came about. This is not a pantomime but a play that will appeal to young and old alike.

'Mr Wonderful'

Now it all seems to be internet dating but how many people remember the 'lonely hearts' adverts and agencies? For our third play of the season this light drama/comedy we welcome another new director to The Club Theatre, *Elaine Hughes*. Elaine who has directed at Wilmslow Guild Players is now making her directing debut here with this story of a woman seeking her, 'Mr Wonderful'. Does she find him and does Mum approve or see more?

'The Dresser'

One of our resident and well known directors, *Val Harris* takes charge of this next play. Set in the days when there were many travelling drama companies and where everyone mucked in this tells the tale of the last of the great English actor-mangers, Sir. He is to take the stage yet again as King Lear, but will he? The whole the society he runs relies on him but it is left to his dresser Norman to see that he does.

'Toad of Toad Hall'

Not content to let the moss grow under her feet director, *Val Harris* will be putting 'Club Drama' through their paces as she gives us their version of this wonderful story. Share the adventures of the redoubtable Toad and meet his friends, Ratty, Mole and wise Badger. So introduce your children to this beautiful story and let it bring back to you your own childhood memories. This is a production that will allow 'Club Drama' to again display it's many talents that have won this group several awards over the years.

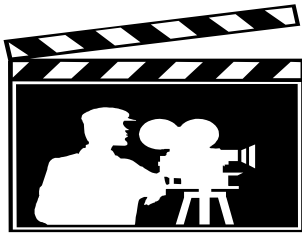
'Anyone For Breakfast'

His last production thrilled us but our sixth production sees director, *Mike Russell* turning his hand to comedy. We finish our season off with an almost farcical comedy. Here we see that best friends will help each other which ever way possible, as well as maybe helping themselves! For when Shirley lends her house to best friend, Jane to meet , Mark it gives her the chance to get away to deal with some personal business of her own! However all would have gone well if husband Gilbert's plane had not been delayed by fog causing him to come home. Enter confusion with a capital C! An evening of great fun is in store for you all.

'Hale One Act Play Festival'

If you love theatre like we do then don't miss this. A whole week of plays and a whole week of variety. Groups, old and new from all over the county and abroad (Holyhead!!!) coming to present their productions for your entertainment. The 'Friendly Festival' a guaranteed week of enjoyment.

Film Society



The Film Society starts back with the following two films.

22nd September **Little Miss Sunshine** USA 2006 101 minutes Cert 15

Cast, Toni Collette, Greg Kinnear, Allen Arkin, Steve Carrell, Abigail Breslin.

Little Miss Sunshine is an American family road comedy that shatters the mould.

Shamelessly satirical and yet deeply human, the film introduces audiences to one of the most endearingly fractured families in recent cinema history; the Hoovers, whose trip

to a pre-pubescent beauty pageant results not only in comic mayhem but in death, transformation and a moving look at the surprising awards of being losers in a win-at-all-costs culture.

A runaway hit at the Sundance Film Festival, an audience favourite in many polls and an Oscar winning performance from Allen Arkin in a supporting role.

27th October **Volver** Spain 2006 120 minutes Cert. 15 Dir. Pedro Almodovar

Cast. Penelope Cruz, Carmen Maura, Lola Duenas, Bianca Portillo, Yohana Cobo.

The film opens with a scene in a graveyard – appropriate for a ghost story. Women are seen cleaning off headstones that are being covered in dust from a relentless dust storm. Here we meet Raimunda (Penelope Cruz); her sister, Sole (Lola Deunas); and her teenage daughter, Paula (Yohana Cobo). They are caring for the graves of their mother and father who died together in fire four years previously. Also among the tombstones is Augustina (Bianca Portillo) who is cleaning off the future site where she intends to be buried. She is an old neighbour of Raimunda and the two have a shared past.

From this point, the plot spins off in numerous directions. There is a murder and Raimunda has to work out what to do with the body. There is a death in the family that further complicates matters. Raimunda finds her true calling operating a restaurant, but is doing so illegally. Then there is the surprise appearance of Raimunda and Sole's mother, Abuela Irene (Carmen Maura), who makes her return in the boot of Sole's car in order to fix the situations she couldn't resolve during her life.

As usual, Almadovar draws strong performances from all his actors. Returning "regulars" Penelope Cruz and Carmen Maura are in top form. Neither has any difficulty with the frequent shifts in tone. With her wide eyes and bemused expression, Lola Duenas is a solid addition. Newcomer Yohana Cobo is a real find. Her dialogue is limited, but she is on screen for a large percentage of the scenes, and leaves an impression.

As usual more details about the society and tickets can be obtained by contacting John Grieve on 0161 928 7472.

Hard Work Recognized

Well done to Peter Nawn, his cast and crew on producing a good end to last year's play season with 'Charley's Aunt'. In particular praise was given by the adjudicator's to the sets and the well researched costumes. We were very pleased to receive from the GMDF an award for the set and technical side for this production and that Sammi Waring received a Certificate of Merit for her role.

Furthermore we received from the Cheshire Guild the Adjudicators Award for promoting young people in our senior productions. It is without doubt that this would have brought a big, happy and contented smile to Vicki Lane's face as she was the first to set up the drama schools and never stopped telling people that the youth

was our future. Our thanks to the 'Club Drama' tutors under Chief Tutor, Val Harris for ensuring her work continues.

Congratulations to the following for being nominated for their acting skills. Ryan Ellershaw, Fred Yeomans, Carmel Bird, Kathy Russell and Sammi Waring, Jack Corcoran, Lauren Boone, Will Roddy, and Martin Thelwell.

We also received nominations for both our youth productions, Val Harris for her directing, lighting in the 'The Lion In Winter', Front of House Organisation and for the posters for '84 Charing Cross Road' and 'Dead Guilty'.

Well done and thank you to all of you.





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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	Lucy Wilson-Barnes	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

Art For Sale

You may have noticed that in our lovely new look bar area we have on display some original paintings. These are produced by one of our members, Gill Cope and very talented she is too. All the paintings are for sale and Gill is kindly donating part of each sale to the theatre. So next time you are admiring her work think about that empty space at home and the thing you need to fill it may just be staring right back at you!



The End Bit

Yes it’s back!! That famous bit of the newsletter that some people read first!! My thanks to member *Tom Harvey* who has sent in a whole batch of stuff.

Wanda’s dishwasher quit working so she called a repairman. Since she had to go to work the next day, she told the repairman, “I’ll leave the key under the mat. Fix the dishwasher, leave the bill on the counter, and I’ll mail you a cheque. Oh, by the way don’t worry about my bulldog, Spike. He won’t bother you. But, whatever you do, do NOT, under ANY circumstances, talk to my parrot! I REPEAT, DO NOT TALK TO MY PARROT!!!”

When the repairman arrived at Wanda’s house the following day, he discovered the biggest, meanest looking bulldog he had ever seen. But, just as she said, the dog just lay there on the carpet watching the repairman go about his work.

The parrot, however, drove him mad the whole time with his incessant yelling, cursing and name calling. Finally the repairman couldn’t contain himself any longer and yelled “SHUT UP, you stupid , ugly bird!”

To which the parrot replied, “Get him, Spike!”

Some people never listen!

Thank you Tom and more from him in later issues. However don’t forget we are also always on the look out for articles for the programme so do send in anything you may think would be interesting

