

The Club News

Working hard and playing hard

We all know that proverb about playing hard and working hard. Here at The Club Theatre, we're very good at practising it as well!

Many of you, as our audiences, only see the end result – the play in its final form, the stage fully built, and lighting and sound cues already arranged. But sometimes those of us who work at the theatre three nights a week wonder how many of you know just how much work goes on to enable that to happen. The majority

of our regular workers are also in full time employment, have family commitments. The majority of them also come three nights a week



More hands make light work – so join us!

without fail. Many of us would like to be able to do other things as well, but because there are so few people working at the theatre, we can't. If there were more people helping, maybe most of us wouldn't have to give up three nights a week.

Please think hard about

whether you could do a little bit more to help your theatre. We know that many of you are elderly, or are physically unable to help out, and that's fine – you're still just as important to us as audience members! But to those of you who could come down maybe one night a week, to paint, hang pictures, even help with the administration or make tea for everyone, please consider coming down. We know it sounds just like hard work, but it is good fun too.

We are your theatre and we need your support – give us a call at the theatre on 0161 928 1113 or ring Anna Jarvis at home on 0161 941 2116 – we'd love you to join us.

Steel Magnolias

Welcome to our next play.

Many of you will have seen this on TV, with Julia Roberts playing the role of Shelby. We may not have Julia, but we do have our very own outstanding cast, who will bring this heart-warming, funny yet serious story to life here in Altrincham. Based in Louisiana, it follows the relationships of six local women, and explores how they cope when dealing with both life and death within their midst.

Our director for this play is Mike Donohue: a

long standing member of ours, whom you may recognise from My Three Angels, and who also directed that hilarious farce See How They Run. Most of his cast is equally well known, but we welcome for the first time Lucinda Whale in the role of Annelle, and Helen Donohue in the role of Shelby. We hope they enjoy their time here, and hope they'll come again!

So don't forget – book early to avoid disappointment, tell all your friends, and volunteer for front of house (see page 3 for Val's article).

Move Over Mrs Markham Postscript, by John Banks

What a week it was! Full houses nearly every night, lots of laughter and from most accounts a lot of fun had by all on and off the stage. Although I had the chance to say thank you to some people on the last night there a few not available so I would like to take the opportunity to say it here.

To the people who helped Front of House and who were kept very busy all week, thank you. You are needed and many hands do make light work. If you have never done it before please give it a go as often we find ourselves short, as some of the regulars tend to be up on stage. This is again the case with our next play, Steel Magnolias, where our 'Linda Lodge' will be swapping London for American shores joined by stage manager Val Harris and stalwart hairdresser Janet Reidsma.

My thanks also to Dee Fraser who helped with costume especially Anna's 'clashing with the sheets' red nightie. And we must not forget Charles Thomas our props master who did a lot of preparation work but was not able to do the week of the play due to home and work commitments.

Again thank you, to you the members who came and filled our theatre and made all the nice comments that we heard. As many of you said to me during the week you see and read enough about our world's problems and certainly don't want to be reminded of them by us at the Club. We are here to entertain you and help you forget about all that for a while.



What a laugh!
We had a wonderful time at the
Markham's flat!

Finally my thanks once again to the crew and cast who worked so hard to bring 'Move Over Mrs Markham' to life. It proves yet again that the Club Theatre is capable of professionally producing successful, different and varied types of drama.

I am sure there will be more exciting plays in the future and I hope that you will enjoy them as much as this last one.

John Banks – Director.

*Thanks from the Director
to the cast, the crew, the
helpers – and you!*

Music from Toad of Toad Hall

Some members did ask me if copies of some of the songs from Toad were available and I am pleased to say that they are.

Please contact me on 0161 928 2277 to say which songs you would like copies of and I will print them off.



Grab your copy of those
catchy tunes from Toad!

We are hoping to produce a tape and these will also be available at a nominal fee to go towards theatre funds.

Val Harris

Thanks for Front Of House, by Val Harris

First of all, I would like to pay tribute and give grateful thanks to those members of the theatre who, on a regular basis, help with every production.

They welcome audiences, sell programmes, raffle tickets and sweets, and also help make and serve coffee --- not to mention the washing-up! I am always impressed by the number of gentlemen who are prepared to get their hands wet – you are a credit to your other halves. Seriously, this team is vital --- more than some people realise, to the success of any production and we are extremely appreciative of their efforts and support.

But, of course, we always could do with more help from other members of the theatre. If you could all offer to do one night of the season, what a difference it would make! It really is not too onerous and you do meet other members and we also manage to have a laugh and a social chat after all the clearing-up is finished.

We do ask that staff dress in a fairly smart fashion, for example, the ladies in black and white and the gentlemen in suits or, if you have them, dinner-jackets. The latter can be borrowed from the theatre wardrobe if you want one. Having our Front of House staff dressed in formal clothing can not only give an extra special feeling to the theatre-going experience, it does also enable members to identify staff more easily.

I do hope that you will feel able to give your time and join our worthy band.

Val Harris



To all our house staff –
have a cuppa on us!

Quick Change Theatre comes to Altrincham

The Club Theatre is always delighted to host shows produced by other companies, providing it can fit into our own busy schedule. And now we're pleased to bring you news about our latest visitors – you'll be very impressed to know they're currently touring Canada!

Award winning international theatre company Quick Change will be appearing at the Club Theatre on Sat 3rd May (to be confirmed) with two plays: 'Thanks for the Mammaries' and 'The Men Commandments.'

"Hilarious script and must see performances... it's uproariously funny and painfully honest!"
Orlando Weekly

Is this a world where to BE someone you have to be WITH someone? 'Thanks for the Mammaries' tells the story of two girls, Andi and Rachel, and

their voyage of discovery, exploring the ever changing territory of sex, friendship, love, relationships and...er...sex! The Orlando Weekly gave this an excellent review stating "Hilarious script and must see performances...it's uproariously funny and painfully honest!"

What happens when you're proud to be single and you find yourself...IN A RELATIONSHIP!! Aaarrgghh!! The rules are very, very different. 'The Men Commandments' is a survival guide to relationships!

"These girls make Bridget Jones look like the poster girl for clean living!" Edmonton Journal, Canada.

We will bring you the finalised information when we have it , but we do hope you'll make a note in your diary now, and come and support Quick Change.



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Is anyone out there?

The Club Theatre has nearly 600 members. You all receive a copy of this newsletter. It is, in fact, YOUR newsletter: the Club Theatre is meant to be a community after all. So why, after numerous requests, is no-one sending in any articles? There were a few last year: Marian Williams sent in some poems, David Eastwood tickled us with Chaos in Three Acts, while this year Ian Haselgrove talked about a drama festival he'd been to. But what about the rest of you? We know you go to other theatres, see other productions – we're here to celebrate drama so tell us about it! Write in to Anna Jarvis at the theatre. PLEASE!

Manchester and Salford Film Society presents..... Sat 20th April, 7.30pm

Now here's an offer you won't be able to refuse.

Many of you will know that we host the Manchester and Salford Film Society, which meets at The club Theatre once a month. If you don't, shame on you for not reading the earlier editions of this newsletter!

Last year, the Film Society very generously gave us a number of tickets to sell to our members to see "East is East". Many of us came, and thoroughly enjoyed it. This year, the Film Society is yet again inviting us to join them for one of their screenings, on Saturday 20th April at 7.30 pm. This time, the film is "The Dish", based on the true story of some of the people behind the Apollo 11 flight mission.

In 1969 when Neil Armstrong took the first footsteps on the Moon, the whole world was watching on television. That such a momentously historical event could be witnessed so conspicuously was because some modest technicians in an obscure backwater of New South Wales managed to overcome daunting local difficulties.

Rob Sitch's congenial comedy shows the small, ordinary people taking on mighty odds, and out of chaos somehow managing to triumph. The little town of Parkes has among its sheep pastures a huge satellite dish, which happens to

be the only tracking station in the southern hemisphere capable of following the Apollo mission. Sam Neill plays its chief, trying to keep his casual, well-meaning lads up to professional scratch and the starchy NASA advisor (Patrick Warburton) sweet. Tolerance is strained when one of the team forgets to charge the back-up generator, so that after a power failure all the computer data is lost.

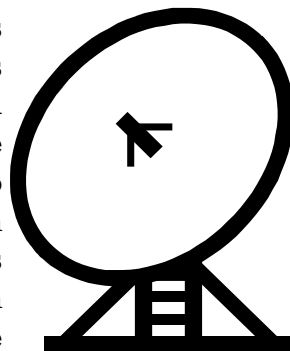
Filled with tension but also packed with laughs, this is a film well worth seeing.

To buy your tickets, simply complete the relevant section on the enclosed booking form, and add the cost to the overall amount. Send the cheque in to Stella with the booking form, and she'll make sure you get your tickets.

If you are interested in joining the Film Society, please ask for details when you come to the theatre or attend the showing. They'd be delighted to see you.

Please note: this offer is only available to Club Theatre members.

(All profits from these ticket sales have been donated to The Club Theatre by the Film Society, for which we give them our heartfelt thanks.)



The Dish – will it be working on time?!