

The Club News

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Chairman's Chat

We are delighted that you all enjoyed 'Quartet' and with our continued policy of giving you a varied programme we have coming up now a couple of completely different plays for your pleasure.

With this newsletter you will have two booking forms, one for 'Funny Money' and one for

'Under Milk Wood' which is not part of our regular season

The latter production will be performed for two days by 'Club Drama', our youth group. The group have been working on this play for some time and every time I see them rehearse I am impressed by the hard work they are

putting into the production.

During 'Funny Money' Barry Swithenbank, our lighting technician, will be laid up having his hip replaced. He intends to be back to supervise the setting up of the lighting for 'Under Milk Wood'. We all wish him a speedy return.



Do you have the Midas touch?

For the past three years John Banks has been working on this theatre's behalf in getting sponsorship and raising funds. Already heavily involved and now with added outside pressures he has had to give up this important role. So we are appealing to our members in the hope that one of you would consider taking up the mantle for this theatre. Being a charity we rely heavily on getting outside help, writing to companies and other bodies for financial sponsorship and help. Over the past few years we have managed to raise funds and spend thousands on the lighting and sound departments as well as refurbishing the theatre seats and revamping the bar area. Our next task is to improve the ventilation in the theatre. So if you would like to get involved or know of someone who would be prepared to help please let us know.

400 Club Winners

The 500 club was drawn on Friday 3rd February 2006, the winners were:

£50	Mr D Copley	£5	Mr J C Finlay
			Miss J Worrall
£30	Mr I Bowden		Mrs M Nork
			Mr R Lucas
£10	Mrs S Parkin		Mrs C Lucas
	Mrs J Astles		Mrs M Birchall
	Mr & Mrs P M Wyche		Miss E Holt
	Ms J M Pendleton		Mrs A Geggie
	Mrs J M Coldrick		Mrs B M Swales
	Mr L Schroeder		Mr C Coldrick
			Mr & Mrs R Benn
			Mrs M Mitchell

£50 Winner

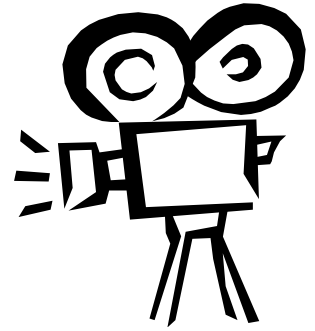
Mr D Copley

Film Society

The next film will be shown on the 4th March and will be a Spanish film called 'Solás' directed by Benito Zambrano. 1999 101 min (15).

An elderly woman leaves her Spanish village to allow her drunkard of a husband to mend in the big city. She stays with her daughter, who long ago accepted modern ways. Now mother and daughter are reunited when they decide whether to stay with the abusive men in their lives or move on, either alone or together.

Club Theatre members can obtain tickets and more details by contacting John Grieve on 0161 928 7472.



'Quartet' - A Musical Delight

"It's not over until the fat lady sings" or in this case when four actors and actresses gave us their wonderful rendition of Verdi's famous quartet from the opera 'Rigoletto'.

I challenge anyone to tell

me that an amateur society has ever produced a better version of this play with such a magical ending as this one, all 4 minutes 28 seconds of it. Our audiences loved it, they are the ones who are my true judges and the ones who decide if a production worked and was successful.

Thanks to everyone who made this such a wonderful experience for me. Full credit to Val Harris who oversaw the musical content and with the cast produced a finale that left audience members with tears in their eyes by its beauty. Yes, tears, I lie not as I was there as they left the theatre. It was a truly magical moment.

Congratulations to the cast who worked tirelessly on this play from day one and were one of the best casts I

have ever worked with. No divas here just four super people with no airs or graces. A joy for any director.

It is however not a time to rest on laurels as rehearsals are at present firmly under way for something completely different. This is the farce '**Funny Money**'. I hope that people will leave the theatre with tears of laughter this time and certainly the cast intend this to happen. I only hope that they will finally be able to stop laughing themselves on the night!! It is early days yet as I write this for the newsletter and a lot of hard work still lies ahead but then you only get out as much as you put in. So book early and come and see some more theatre magic.

Finally, talking of magic I am also overseeing 'Club Drama's version of '**Under Milk Wood**'. You see no rest for the wicked!! What have I done to deserve all this? The students are working steadily and will give you a very rewarding evening. So get those order forms filled, sent off and dates written in your diaries now!!

John F. Banks - Director



'Club Drama'..Who?

I was recently shocked and horrified when a long standing member of the theatre asked me who were 'Club Drama'. Many years ago Vicki Lane set up two drama schools, one for juniors aged 8-11 yrs and the other for seniors aged 12-16 yrs. When Vicki died the theatre tried to continue running both classes but this proved very difficult. Therefore it was decided to drop the juniors, revamp the seniors which was then renamed 'Club Drama' and this now caters for students between the ages of 11-16 yrs.

There are at present 23 members which is led by chief tutor Val Harris who is assisted by 3 other tutors, Ian Bowden, John Banks and Colin Wilde. The group

produce a full scale production each year as well as entering and representing the Club Theatre in the One Act Play Festivals. They have been very successful winning many awards and their next major production will be their interpretation of Dylan Thomas's 'Under Milk Wood'. An order form is enclosed for this play so if you still don't know who 'Club Drama' are then come and see them in action for we are delighted and very proud to have them as part of this theatre.

John F. Banks-Tutor

**From small
acorns great
acting oaks grow**

Let's put on a Show

What happens when we decide on a play? Well first we have to choose the play. There are several ways in which we do this: members suggest plays they would like us to do, directors approach us with plays and the play selection committee both see and read plays. A short list is drawn up and the plays are finally chosen to provide a balanced programme for the season. The copyright holder is contacted for permission to perform the play and a quotation of the cost per performance is obtained. If there is a professional performance planned in the locality, then quite often permission is denied, as in the case a few years ago of 'The Little Foxes'. We were refused permission as a touring production would be

visiting Manchester. This never happened and we were given permission the following year.

Individual directors are chosen and will then work with the set designer and stage crew to design the set around our stage. You may have noticed we almost always have the large openings, such as French windows on your Right. This is because the access to the stage from the audience Left is very narrow. Once the set design is completed the details of the actual staging are worked out by the set designer, while the director blocks out the moves for the actors. The props department also meets the director to agree on the props requirements, which will depend on the director's plans. Props then have to be

obtained either from our own extensive stock, or bought or hired for the occasion. Furniture and set dressings such as pictures have to be agreed on and obtained, sometimes from member's houses or other theatres.

Set décor including wallpaper and paint has to be chosen, period wallpapers being sometimes difficult to source. The scenic artist agrees the backdrop requirements with the director, and as soon as it is

possible starts painting. The sound and lighting departments meet the director to discuss what is needed and plan the final effects. Sometimes special effects have to be hired, or bought in the case of Gobos and pyrotechnics. Gobos are small metal discs with patterns cut into them and they are placed in some of the lights to project a pattern such as trees or clouds. Those of you coming to 'Under Milk Wood' will see several uses of Gobos.

Auditions are held, where anyone interested in a part in the play attends and the final cast is chosen by the director. Members of the play selection committee also attend the reading to assist the director if required. Rehearsals are planned and begin 6 weeks before the play is to be performed. While the play is in rehearsal, the stage crew builds the set, decorate it, the lighting is set up and the booking letters are sent out. The Front of House Manager collects all the offers of help from the booking returns and compiles the list of persons for each night. We need eight people each night to operate the front of house properly.

The week before the play arrives and a first dress rehearsal is run. Does the planned colour scheme work? Do the costumes look correct under the stage lighting? Later in the week there is a technical rehearsal where the play is not rehearsed fully just the bits that fit in with the technical side of the production, allowing the lighting, sound and stage manager to refine their plans and make alterations. The actors are able to polish their timing on entrances and use of props. Next comes the final dress rehearsal. Finally the theatre is cleaned ready for the show and all the bar stock, raffle prizes, coffee and milk are bought. The audience arrives and we hope that a polished production is performed. At the end of the week the cast and crew meet in the bar to wind down, and then...they all start the following week on the next one!!

The Middle Bit!

One often associates music with singing or dancing. With this in mind and after seeing the last play, Club member Winne Smart kindly sent in this amusing piece.

"A discovery in a sixteenth century Dublin house could change the way traditional Irish dance is performed for ever. Workmen renovating the property discovered a previously unknown manuscript, hidden behind some panelling: 'Irish Dancing, Volume II—What to do with your Hands'".

Bright as a Button



Thank you to the few people who always turn up to clean the theatre. If you can come and help the tiny few then the job gets done in half the time. It many appear to be a thankless task but it is very important and much appreciated! We always want people to see the theatre in its best light. 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 18th March at 12.30.



THE CLUB THEATRE

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Cheshire
WA14 2ED

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E-mail: secretary@clubtheatre.org.uk

Website: www.clubtheatre.org.uk

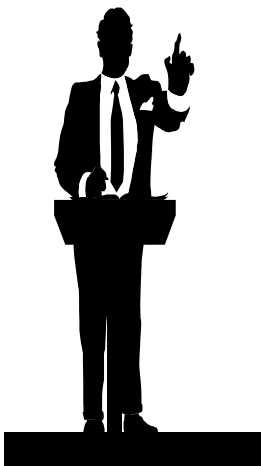
Useful Numbers

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

The End Bit

We blame others too quickly for not understanding the English language but in fact it isn't all that easy to understand. Thanks to member *Jean Clark* for sending in a piece that was sent to her by our puzzled American cousins. Just a small part of it can be published here but hopefully we will get the rest published at a later date.



English was invented by people not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all. That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out and in which, an alarm goes off by going on.

We have noses that run and feet that smell!
If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So one moose, 2 meese? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it/ is it an

odd, or an end?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship?

There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger; neither apple or pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat.

Quicksand works slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig. And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham.

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?

So you see what we say and believe to be is straight forward and easy can be to others a complete mystery!!



Thank you for all that you send in. Please keep them coming and do include any articles that may be of interest to our members. We will publish whatever we can space allowing.

Name

Address

.....

.....

.....

Telephone

**BOOKING FORM FOR
"Under Milk Wood"**

Please enter the number of tickets required per night, not just a tick.

	Friday 7th April	Saturday 8th April
No of Tickets		

Please make cheques payable to THE CLUB THEATRE

I am able to help Front of House on.....

You may send this form in with your Funny Money Booking.

Please return this form with a STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE to
Ticket Secretary, The Club Theatre, Oxford Road, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 2ED