

The Club News

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Welcome back!!

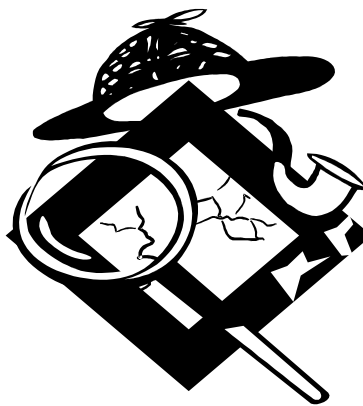
Welcome back to the new season at the Club Theatre: season 2001-2002.

I say welcome back, but that doesn't mean there's been a break. If anyone is still under the impression that The Club Theatre closes after the last play, read page three, as this tells you all about what's been going on since the last play! But welcome back anyway, to another exciting and entertaining season. The full run-down is on page four.

One fantastic piece of news is that our Patron, Brian Clemens, has given us the honour of presenting the WORLD PREMIER of his new play, The Devil at

Midnight. To say thanks to Brian, we are hoping to celebrate it in grand style, perhaps including a gala night with Brian Clemens himself. (My only complaint is that I managed to book my wedding and honeymoon so carefully that I won't be able to see any of it! Sadly neither party is willing to postpone either event, so I'll have to rely on your reports to tell me how it all went.)

Do read the rest of the newsletter for the other events, and for those of you who are new, or newish, or have just forgotten, there's a few hints on how the theatre



Find your clues to navigate the season inside this newsletter!

works on page 2. If I've missed something, or you've just got a niggly question, give me a ring on 0161 941 2116 and I'll try and answer it. Just don't call at the end of October because I won't be there!

New recruitment drive

We had one last year, and we did quite well, but we can do an awful lot better. I'm sure you all know one person who isn't a member yet! Our membership is currently around 625, which is fantastic, but do you remember how it used to be over 1000?

We don't expect to reach those dizzy heights again, but 700-800 would make an incredible difference. And remember, we're looking for all sorts of members – young and old, audience and technical, actors and directors, administrative and creative.

To add some incentive, if you introduce five new members, we'll give you a £5 voucher off your next season's membership fee!

So go say hello to your neighbours, and spread the word of The Club Theatre!

Special points of interest:

- Please send your membership fee back as soon as possible—the quicker you do, the quicker I get things done!
- Don't forget to send in your nominations for the committee and officers.
- Get those new memberships pouring in.
- And talking of pouring, don't forget the paint pots!



The Club Theatre's special features

400 Club

Now a long-standing feature – buy up to five ‘shares’ at five pounds each, and have a chance in each of the five draws throughout the season to win up to £50. Request your shares on your membership application.

Smart folks eat Smarties!

And then nice people fill the tubes with 20 pence pieces and donate the full tube to the Theatre. Not only do we give you

the Smarties free, but you get a smile from the Treasurer when you bring back the full tube – so it’s worth it all round!



Got it all worked out yet? More help below and on page 3 and 4!

Play Procedure

The curtains go up at 7.40pm each night, but it would help us enormously if you arrived by 7.30pm at the latest, so that we could make sure everyone is seated in time for a prompt start. Don’t forget you’ll need to buy your interval drink, programme and raffle tickets, and have a drink before you go in. It’s nicer if you don’t need to rush!

Hope this bit makes the organisation of The Club Theatre a little bit clearer!

Who does what?

I thought maybe I’d give you all a quick run down of who does what, and who to approach in certain circumstances. (I can’t give all the names until after the AGM (see your separate sheet on that matter), but the titles will remain the same.)

Chairman: Ian Bowden

In theory more of a figure head and overseer, making sure everything’s going as planned, ask for Ian if you’ve got any big concerns, major ideas or (though we hope this never happens) complaints. It’s also Ian who sorts out anyone who wants to hire some furniture or even the Theatre itself.

Vice-chairman

In effect, the Chairman’s deputy: if the Chairman’s unavailable, find the Vice Chairman, it’s as simple as

that!

Hon. Treasurer

If you want to donate some money, or suggest a way of making money, head this way and make someone extremely happy! If you want to take some money, for expenses for example, then again head this way, but a box of chocolates might sweeten the blow for the Treasurer.

Hon. Secretary

That’s the silly person



Who’s who on the Club Theatre catwalk?!

who reckons they wanted to do the administration: membership renewals, letters, filing, even the blessed newsletter. The best way of making this person happy is to send in some articles for the newsletter! (was that a big enough hint?). Any paperwork issues, call here!

Stage Director

Wanting to volunteer to work with the stage crew, or on maintenance, or sound, or lighting, or anything like that? The Stage Director is the person to see for any of these things, and also for Theatre hire if the Chairman isn’t available.

Chair of Play Selection

Responsible for sorting out the season’s plays, directors and casts with the help of the Play

Selection Committee, this is the person to approach if you want to act, direct or just suggest a play you’d like to see. Also, any comments about the plays you see should be sent to this person.

Librarian

Want to borrow a script from the “Script Crypt”? This is the person to ask.

Props Manager

If you’re doing a clear-out, and want to put those unwanted little bits to good use, ask the props manager if he or she wants them. You’d be surprised what sort of things we sometimes need!

General Committee

Try this lot for anything else, or if you can’t find any of the others!

The election results will be announced in the first

Hale One Act Festival

The Hale One Act Festival this year was again a great success. Divided by the General Election in the middle (giving the stage and house staff a well-earned break before the 'second half'), a total of 13 groups performed 15 one-act plays. Each play was adjudicated that same evening by Garth Jones, who really does excel in this role, giving constructive criticism where needed, and plenty of praise where it was due.

The variety of plays produced really was quite astonishing, from highly comic turns by Mossley AODS Juniors with 'Round the World with Class Six', to the painfully moving 'Art of Remembering' by Riverside Players. One thing that was noted was how many of the contributions were actually written by the performers themselves. And in this, though I say it myself, our very own Club Theatre Youth group excelled

themselves, writing their 'Pick and Mix', three one-acts in one, creating a hilarious performance with some excellent character work, which won them the Best Play Youth award.

The Organiser (Val Harris), Stage Director (Steve Smith) and all their team did a fantastic job, and I would like to issue my congratulations all round for a successful festival. Let's hope we can put on as good a show next year.



Well done to everyone involved!

The GCSE Drama Group

Many of you by now will know that Val Harris for several years has been teaching groups of teenagers GCSE Drama. With the Government's attention riveted to technical / scientific subjects, and creativity given a wide berth, many schools began dropping Drama from their curriculum. Val Harris

stepped in and has nurtured the importance of drama in many young people. Her skill and dedication to this is given due testimony by the outstanding results achieved by her students. Last year, demand was so great, she had to cope with over 30 students. This next year, sadly, will be the last. The exam board is changing the syllabus, and

Val can no longer continue.

On behalf of all her students, and those who value drama everywhere, I would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to Val for all her work.

And keep an eye out for both this year's and next year's results in the newspaper.

Val's students are a testimony to her skill and dedication in nurturing the importance of drama in local young people.

The Club Theatre's special features continued

Parking

Here's another way we've made things easier—as you know, parking on Oxford Road is a nightmare at the best of times. So park in Sainsbury's instead—they never lock the gate, and if one day they do, we've got the key because they've agreed to let theatre patrons use their theatre. So there you go!

Stalls and memorabilia

I'm sure you've all seen the book and bric-a-brac stall by now. Perhaps you might also want to bring a few bits and pieces down for us to sell on it. So long as it's clean and not broken, you'd be surprised what we've sold!

We've also got Theatre history books at just £2.50, well worth a read,

and can even supply you with Club Theatre ties, to say nothing of personalised T-shirts. There's a novel way for you to advertise us! We could have a parade of Club Theatre T-shirt wearers. Watch this space!

Membership deal

Have a look at the front page for a money saving deal for you!



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For further details, contact
Anna Dutson, Hon. Secretary
On 0161 941 2116

Bring out your paint! (and wallpaper)

We always manage to find somewhere to do some pleading, don't we? Normally, I'm asking for volunteers—for sound, lighting, stage crew, decorators, deliverers, you name it, I've probably asked for it.

Here's a new one for you. While of course we are still encouraging people to come forward to help actively, those of you who can't, whether because of time, frailty, or because it's just not your thing, may be interested in helping in a different way.

One thing that is always being done in the theatre, whether for sets or for general maintenance is painting and decorating. And one thing that therefore adds up to quite a lot of money is the amount of paint we get through. So what we're asking this time is for you to have a look in your sheds and outhouses and cellars and wherever else you hide those old paint cans, get them out and donate them to us. You know you're probably never going to use them again—but you'd be surprised how many uses we'd have for even the strangest colours. Just look at the set of the last play and you'll realise that! Not only will you have the fun of trying to spot where we've used that particular shade of mulberry crush or lime green, you'll have that lovely warm glow from knowing that you've helped save us some money.

So—get searching—every paint drop helps!

We're on the web!
www.clubtheatre.org.uk

The coming season—here's the run-down!

You see—we promised we'd tell you all about it! Here are the details of the five plays we've got in store for you this year.

14th to 20th October 2001.

The first play is an exciting event for us. Our patron Brian Clemens has offered us the World Premiere of his new thriller, "The Devil at Midnight". Most of you will know Brian better from his TV work, such as *The Avengers*, *Highlander II*, *The Professionals* and *Bugs* amongst many more. Expect this to be equally fantastic!

2nd to 8th December 2001

The second play will be *Toad of Toad Hall*, an adaptation by A A Milne of the famous Kenneth Graham book *The Wind in The Willows*. Additional music and songs have been written for this by Val Harris and John Banks.

I'm sure the story itself needs no introduction!

27th January to 2nd February 2002

The third play will be the hilarious farce *Move Over Mrs Markham* written by Ray Cooney and John Chapman, two well known and well respected writers of comedy and farce. Without giving too much away, imagine too many secret affairs in one room!

17th to 23rd March 2002

The fourth play is a powerful drama *Steel Magnolias* by Robert Harling. You may have seen the movie starring Julia Roberts—this is slightly different, obviously, but equally moving. The staff and customers of a Louisiana beauty parlour find a strength and purposefulness when one of them becomes terminally ill. Bring your handkerchiefs, and your smiles.

12th to 18th May 2002

The fifth play is a comedy *The Anniversary* by Bill MacIlwraith. Again, this has been made into a film starring Bette Davis and Sheila Hancock. At Mum's wedding anniversary (despite dad being deceased for several years now), her three sons have finally decided to mutiny—they have several surprises in store for mum, and it's highly improbable that she's going to like them!

3rd to 9th June 2002

Hale One Act Festival. Six nights of one act plays all by different theatre groups. There will be three plays each night with an adjudication of each play at the end of each night, a chance for you to compare your view of the plays with the adjudicator's. Please do try to come and support both your own and other theatres. We're all in this together.