

The Club News

New Season New Layout

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There will be some changes when you come to the theatre next time. We have been moving things round.

The coffee bar has been moved to where the book stall was, which has given us a lot more room in the bar and added about 12 extra seats. We have at the same

time incorporated the sweet stall with the coffee bar, so don't forget your sweets the stall is now in the corner of the bar.

We haven't got rid of the book stall we have just moved it into the upstairs foyer. The bar also has new chairs and we hope—time permitting it

will be painted. Elsewhere we are installing a new kitchen layout incorporating dishwashers. We are also intending to improve the hot water supply to the toilets and install new anti flood taps. There are many more smaller alterations being done to improve things for the audience.

Our FOH is Tops

This year at the Greater Manchester Drama Federation Awards night we won the 'Coffee Pot' Trophy for Best Front Of House Organisation. We were also nominated for the Adjudicator's Award for Triumph over Adversity for the play 'Pack of Lies' for how we coped the night the theatre lost all its electrics due to a local power cut. A BIG thank you therefore to all the people who have helped staff our plays as well as our outside lets. In particular we would like to thank the Front of House managers this season who were Val Harris, Janet Reidsma, Ian Bowden, Helen Corrie and Christine Heath. Thanks also to our Ticket Secretary Stella Blackburn.

We will be once again looking for a lot of help next season but in the meantime thank you and have a 'cup of coffee' to celebrate!!



400 Club Winners

The 400 Club was drawn on Wednesday 5th May 2004. The winners were

£50 Mrs J. S. Gregory

£30 Mrs S. Davies

£10 Mrs E. Gregory
Mrs B.J. Norman
Mrs E.M. Nall
Mrs J.A. Granger-Brown
Mr R. Prowse
Mrs M. Batten

£5 Mrs M. Nork
Mr & Mrs G. Evans
Mrs J.E. Sherry-Brennan
Mrs F.V. Rimmer
Mrs M. Burton
Miss W. Hayter
Mr P. Affleck
Mrs S.M. Phillips
Mr K.P. McCormick
Mrs S. Percy
Mr G. Lowe
Miss P.J. Derbyshire

There are still some 400 club winnings not claimed.

£50 Winner

Mrs J.S. Gregory

Goodies Galore!



We are delighted that so many of you have told us how much you have enjoyed the last few seasons. It is very hard trying to get a good original balance of plays and we know that cannot possibly hope to please everyone with every choice but we do try!

Again it has been a hard choice but we hope that you will enjoy what we have to offer.

'The Importance of Being Earnest'

Kicking the season off is the classic comedy by Oscar Wilde of 'The Importance of Being Earnest' which is being directed by Barrie Hesketh. Barrie has already directed at the theatre when he worked with Val Harris to produce 'Club Drama's' production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. However now it is the turn of the adults to experience Barrie's talents.

'The Snow Queen'

Following on from this is our Christmas play 'The Snow Queen' by John F. Banks. You may remember that John wrote and directed last year's Christmas play 'Mr Scrooge' which was so well received that he was persuaded to give us another offering this year. This

time he has written a new play which he was inspired to write after re-reading that well known fairytale 'The Snow Queen'. We hope that you will enjoy it as much as 'Mr Scrooge'.

'Deathtrap'

After the lightness of Christmas we turn to a thriller for the third play of the season. 'Deathtrap' was written by Ira Levin and is a tale full of twists and turns. After dealing with the laughter of 'Plaza Suite' director Jean Drinkwater is the lady who now turns her hand to dealing with this darker story.

'Natural Causes'

Another dark tale is our third play of the season but this is a black comedy. 'Natural Causes' by Eric Chappell has just as many light moments as dark ones. Last seen on stage in 'Plaza Suite' Peter Nawn who directed Ayckbourn's 'Absent Friends' takes the directing reins once again.

'Oliver Twist'

Then we have an addition to our season. Running for just

two nights 'Club Drama' present 'Oliver Twist'. This very talented group deserve your support and their production of this Charles Dickens classic will be a joy to see. If you missed their last play then don't miss this one at your peril!

'Harvey'

Our final production will be the Mary Chase play 'Harvey'. This delightful and gentle comedy of a man and his 6 foot white rabbit friend will be overseen by Val Harris. After a 12 month rest from directing duties Val will be rolling up her sleeves to bring this story to life on our stage.

Finally we will have the Hale One Act Festival, a week of plays that allows many societies from near and far to take the stage and bring for us to enjoy a huge variety of drama and talent.

Full details on all the plays can be found on our blue flyers. We look forward to seeing you and we hope you ENJOY!!!

**New Season
New Plays**

Flyers United

Oh sorry I have not made myself clear enough. Well no not quite that type of flyer. I am of course talking about our new blue season flyers. I just want to ask you to please help me with a little spot of advertising. I am constantly and slowly educating the local community that they have right here, on their doorsteps, in Altrincham an excellent theatre which a lot of people still seem unaware of and yet regularly pass on their way to Sainsbury's but still don't seem to recognize us for what we are. Therefore enclosed with this newsletter you will find two addition flyers as well as the one for you to keep. All I am asking is that you pass on these extras to friends not other members (it defeats the objective) or pop them through your neighbours door so we can spread the word. The secret is out and still needs to be spread that we are alive and kicking and open for business. In fact we never close!

If you know of any places that would be happy to display these or if you are happy to take some to your workplace then please give me a call at home or leave a message at the theatre for me and I will get some to you. Every flyer, every poster in any outlet helps! Thank you.

John F Banks— Press Officer



Awards 2003/4

This past season has again seen us successful with awards and nominations for the theatre. Starting with the Hale One Act Festival 'Club Drama's' Mark Dawson won Best Youth Actor for his portrayal of Silas Snaker in 'Hiss the Villain'. He repeated this feat at the Cheshire One Act Festival by winning the award for the Best performance by an Under-16 year old. There were also nominations in this category for Michael Ruff, Laurence Tratalos and Frances Waite. 'Club Drama's' productions of 'Hiss the Villain' and 'The Laundry Girls' received nominations for the Adjudicator's Award while the latter directed by Val Harris won the award for the Best Youth production.



At the Greater Manchester Drama Federation Awards night Daniel Nkrumah who played Aboo in 'Without Trace' received a nomination for Best Supporting Actor. We received a nomination for the Best Technical Presentation for our work on 'Plaza Suite' & 'Pardon Me Prime Minister' while 'Mr Scrooge' was nominated for the award for Originality. As mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter we were mentioned for the Adjudicator's Award for triumph over Adversity for 'Pack of Lies'. The theatre did win David Lane Trophy for Front of House Organisation.

At the Cheshire Awards Night there was a nomination for Best Actress for Hilary Slater for her role in 'Pack of Lies'. We also received a nomination for the Best Set Presentation for our production of 'Without Trace'. We were delighted to win another award for this play which was the Ron Gleave Shield for Best Lighting and Sound.

Finally at the Altrincham Festival our float which was manned by 'Club Drama' won the prizes of Runner Up for the 'Best Fancy Dress' and runner up for the 'Best Float'.

Calling All Hands!

As Steve Smith reported at this year's AGM the theatre has been involved in putting on 16 productions! And these have taken their toil on the building. So we now have approximately six weeks to get essential repairs, maintenance as well as selected jobs done before we gear up for the coming season. If you can help in any way be it for an hour or a day please contact the theatre or Steve. All help is really appreciated as it's always the same small crew who usually end up living at the theatre during this time. Whether it's just to dust, paint or build we would love to see you. The coffee/tea is free and the company is unsurpassed!!

**Summer Work
2004**

Film Society

I hope you all enjoyed last season's films and we have a very exciting line up for the forthcoming season. Here are the details concerning our first two films.

25th September 'Whale Rider' 105 mins. New Zealand 2003 cert PG. Dir. Niki Caro

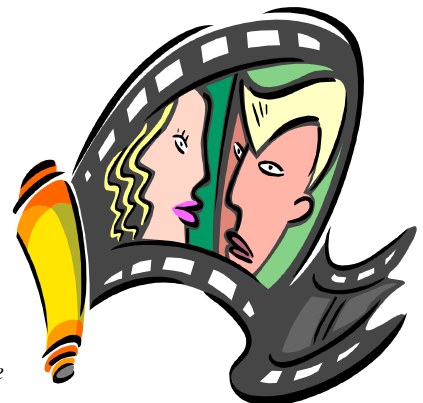
A magical story of a young girl's struggle to fulfill her destiny. In a small New Zealand coastal village, Maori claim descent from Pailea, the Whale Rider. In every generation a male heir has succeeded to the chiefly title. When twins are born and the male twin dies, Koro the chief is unable to accept his grand daughter, Pia, as a future leader. A few years later, Koro is convinced that the tribe's misfortunes began at Pia's birth and calls for his people to bring their sons to him, in the hope that a new leader is among them. Pia loves Koro more than anyone in the world, but she must stand up to him and a thousand years of tradition to reveal the true way forward.

23rd October 'Goodbye Lenin' 121 mins. Germany 2003 cert 15 Dir Wolfgang Becker.

East Germany in 1998, the mother of a young protester has a heart attack and falls into a coma when her son is arrested. Some months later, the GDR does not exist and the mother wakes. Forbidden any excitement, the son tries to recreate the GDR in their flat. But the world has move on. The film is in German with English subtitles.

All enquires regarding tickets for either of these films and details of this season's programme please telephone me, John Grieve on 0161 864 2151 (day) or 0161 928 7472 (eve).

John Grieve





THE CLUB THEATRE

17 Oxford Road
Altrincham
Cheshire
WA14 2ED

Phone: 0161 928 1113
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
Sponsorship	Val Harris	0161 928 2277
Treasurer	Roy Burman	0161 928 1477
Stage Director	Steve Smith	0161 941 2116
Costumes	Enid Holt	0161 928 1113
'Thursday Club'	Barry Swithenbank	0161 980 7743
Secretary/Press Officer	John Banks	0161 486 1843
Ticket Secretary	Stella Blackburn	0161 980 8572
Club Drama	Val Harris	0161 928 2277
Club Theatre Office		0161 928 1113

Titbits & Bobs

1. Want to be a little part of the theatre? How? Well you can purchase a seat plaque that will be attached to one of the theatre seats. This is a perfect way to leave your mark that you were here! Details can be obtained by ringing the Treasurer Roy Burman.
2. Interested in a play or know a good one? Think it would be nice to see it produced at the Club Theatre? Then get in touch with Val Harris and she will be happy to put it forward to the PRCC Committee for discussion.
3. Have you any good small quality items or books that we can sell on our stall? Give us a call or drop in one evening
4. After your own summer jobs if you have any spare pots of paint or materials we can use please let us know. Every little bit helps us here at the theatre.
5. If you have any small pieces of furniture let us know before heading for the tip. We are always on the lookout for fresh bits for our sets. This also applied to props but they must be in good condition. It shows even on stage if they are not.

The End Bit

The CIA had an opening for an Assassin. After all the background checks, interviews and testing were done, there were three finalists..2 men and a woman.

For the final test, a CIA agent gave the first man a gun and said "We must know that you will follow instructions no matter what the circumstances. Inside this room, you will find your wife sitting in a chair. Kill her!"

The man said, "You can't be serious. I could never shoot my wife". The agent said, "then you're not the right man for this job. Take your wife and go home."

The second man was given the same instruction. He took the gun and went into the room. All was quiet for about five minutes then he came out with tears in his eyes. "I tried, but I can't kill my wife". The agent said " You don't have

what it takes. Take your wife and go home".

Now it was the woman's turn. She was given the same instructions to kill her husband. She took the gun and went into the room. Shots were heard, screaming, crashing and banging on the walls. After a few minutes, all was quiet. The door opened slowly and there stood the woman. She wiped sweat from her brow. "This

gun is loaded with blanks", She said. "I had to beat him to death with the chair".

Moral: Women are evil. Don't mess with them.

