

The Club News

Welcome

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Welcome to you all for this our 107th season. I am gratified that within 3 weeks of sending out the renewals two thirds of you had renewed your membership. This must mean we are doing things right.

In the newsletter sent out

with the membership renewal I mentioned the increase in insurance. Well we have managed to shave a little off by careful negotiating and as a result the current years insurance is £5138.27, not a small amount but one of the necessary costs of running a theatre these days. The old

lets put on a show has unfortunately been overtaken by what will it cost. The Club Theatre is one of the fortunate theatres that can pay it's way and survive in the modern world thanks to the support of it's members and patrons.

Film Society

Some of you may still be unaware that we have a film society that uses the theatre to screen its films. They have a very interesting season that starts soon and have asked us to publish the following which we are delighted to do.

27th September.

We are showing 'Rabbit-Proof Fence'. An Australian film Cert. PG 94 mins.

The true story of three young aboriginal girls who escape from an official government training camp. With grit and determination the eldest, Molly, guides the girls on an epic journey over 1500 miles of Australia's outback in search of the rabbit-proof fence that will lead them home.

This is a film you really must see.

Guest tickets for Club Theatre members are only £4.50 each. Membership to see all the films is £27.00 to Club Theatre members.



If you want tickets to see this brilliant film ring John Grieve 0161 928 7472 (evening) or our Treasurer Dr E. Ernstbrunner On 0161 431 9872.

'It Could Be
You!!'

400 Club News

Important news for people who dream about becoming millionaires!!

The National Lottery is wishful thinking but the Club Theatre 400 Club is a much better bet and helps the theatre as well as giving you a great chance of winning some money. Okay, maybe not thousands, but you have to start somewhere! There are only 21 shares left up for grabs at £5.00 each so contact our Treasurer Roy Burman NOW if you don't want to miss out.

Busy New Season

Book early to avoid disappointment. I know we have said it before but it's true and last season proved the point yet again. We were delighted to put up 'Sold Out' signs during each one of our play weeks.

May we remind members that extra tickets are now £6.50.

Please also remember to include your vouchers and a stamped addressed envelope when you send your order forms in which will guarantee the quick return of your tickets.

This does make Stella's job so much easier but please

don't go knocking on her door if you have a problem. A quick ring and Stella will deal with that problem or query as quickly as she can. If she is not available then don't despair but please do leave a message.

Thank you and enjoy the plays.

Theatre Proud

**It's Good
To Talk!**

We are very proud of our theatre, it's history, tradition and unique atmosphere. As you know, it is run and maintained by a very small and very dedicated group of people. Their unpaid efforts are appreciated by the full houses that we have been getting and all monies that come into the theatre go straight back into keeping costs reasonable and standards high.

The programme is a perfect example having changed into an excellent keepsake and for just 50p! Go anywhere else and it will cost more and/or you will get a lot less. However, as you have read last time, costs go up and we are constantly trying to

find new ways to bring money into the theatre. This is not an easy task. How can you help?

Well, talk about us. We have already mentioned that people can sponsor a seat, a page in the programme or place an advert. Are there any places we can approach for grants? We don't know all the places by any means.

Are there any businesses or individuals who may be interested in supporting the arts and in turn their local theatre?; who are happy to display posters of our plays, and/or take our leaflets?



Last time we mentioned this, out of over 650 members, only two people responded with suggestions.

So please have a think, talk about us, and do let us know your thoughts and ideas. In this way we can continue to produce the high quality entertainment that you have come to expect.

Plaza Suite Revisited

We start our new season with an old yet popular chestnut . Welcome back to 'Plaza Suite', by Neil Simon, which we last gave you in October 1975. Some of the cast then are still known to be around and about. Alan Simpson and Geoffrey Hinde took part in many of our plays before leaving for pastures new. Mike Shaw will still happily style you a new hairdo when he isn't producing lovely ladies gowns for another theatre in Altrincham (although I can't quite remember it's name!).

However two names are still with us. Ian Bowden was the lighting wizard 28 years ago, and of course the years have brought promotion to Chairman and a slightly larger trouser waistband. While as Jean McCormack then, and not looking a day older now was Val Harris, who is now our Play Reading and Casting Chairman. Does she still remember her lines?

I hope you will enjoy this production as much as you enjoyed it the first time we did it.

David Eastwood



Club Drama - A New Year

Recently the drama school better known as 'Club Drama' started back and we are delighted to say that nearly everyone from last year has returned. However, due to the successes that this group has achieved, their numbers have, with new arrivals, swelled to 26!

Tutors Val Harris, Barry Hesketh, Ian Bowden and John Banks are pleased to welcome back both old and new students.

For those who missed 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' last year they are strongly recommended to mark the date of the next production once it is announced. The group won awards and plaudits from adjudicators at both festivals and high praise from Rick Bowen of the Messenger.

Watch this space for more news.



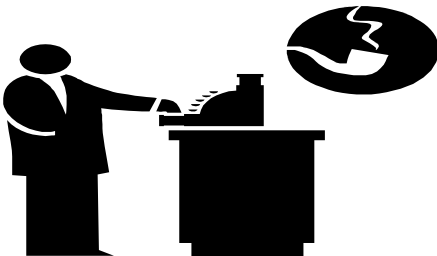
Pictures and Paint Pots

Amongst the many jobs that we have been doing at the theatre over the summer is sorting through the collection of pictures that we have and are used to decorate our sets. Sadly quite a few have become damaged and have had to be discarded. We are therefore in need of new ones and would be very grateful for any you may have any that you no longer need or have no longer any room for. We are interested in pictures of any subject, period, shape or size, as long as they are in good condition. So if you have a Van Gogh hidden up in your loft or a Picasso in your cellar then let us know and it could next be seen adorning the wall of one of our future play sets.

We have also been busy with our brushes and paint pots repainting parts of the theatre which, this year, has included giving our dressing rooms a long overdue spruce up! If you have in turn been busy painting your own home or someone else's and have any now unwanted tins of paint left over then we would be happy to have them as we are always in need of paint for the sets and theatre.

A picture paints a thousand words.

"Don't Spend What We Haven't Got"



In the last newsletter you will have read about the new Committee that runs the Club Theatre. What a motley crew! But an interesting lot and without giving out a full biography it may interest you to know just a little more about each person.

The first person we feature is our Treasurer Roy Burman. His grip on the theatre purse strings is legendary but it is this tight hold that has enabled the theatre to grow within its means. When not poring over the accounts Roy can be found in the bar peacefully smoking his pipe while at the same time nursing a cup of tea. A man happy to talk about money, as long as its money that is being given to help the theatre. The subject of signing cheques however is not a subject to be broached.

His first link with the Club Theatre was as an audience member in the early 1950's. On retiring in 1984 he joined the stage

crew and a little while later joined the Committee. In 1993 he agreed to become the theatre Treasurer, a role which he still holds today.

Before retiring from the TA where he was very active he was awarded the MBE and he also earned the Long Service Award of Territorial Decoration. In turn he was designated the Regimental Historian. So with his Club Theatre duties, the TA and also as PCC Secretary he is still kept very busy.



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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
Drama School	Val Harris	0161 928 2277
Club Theatre Office		0161 928 1113

Buzz..Buzz..Busy Bees But No Time For Honey.

As usual the theatre's summer break is very short but there is no rest for the barmy army?...no change that to the wicked!! Once you are struck with the incurable disease 'Clubus Insominal Theatranus'!! (Latin computer spell check struggling here) there is very little hope for you. You live, breathe, eat and sleep (if you are lucky) Club Theatre. You also swear, smoke, drink and bleed a lot.

During this brief period people have been working hard to reduce the list of new and overdue tasks in readiness for the new season. As mentioned in the last newsletter the back wall of the stage has been redone, the wood store has been cleared out, both our dressing rooms have been repainted and the sound side of the perch has had a new soundproof window fitted and a complete new layout. The office has had a spring clean of sorts (don't mention the Chairman's desk, that forbidden jungle of paper) and the furniture store reorganised. While various pipes have been cleaned, wires rewired and bits repainted. Busy? Just a bit.

There is always a vast amount of work needed to be done behind the scenes, never seen by any audience, but essential in keeping the theatre running. So raise your glass to these 'bees' next time you are in the bar.....oh and by the way mime's a double Barcardi!!



How Do You Get it Right?

Is acting an art form? Is it difficult? How does one get it right? Is it just a matter of rehearsing a lot? Questions that are often asked by students who study drama in one form or another .

In our last newsletter we reported the death of our ex-patron Dame Wendy Hiller who had an interesting answer to this sort of inquiry. She was asked such a question at the height of the 'method' vogue. At the time Dame Wendy Hiller was appearing with Geraldine Page in Lillian Hellman's 'Toys in the Attic'. When she was asked to define her 'method' her answer was ' Well I have a bash at it, and if it doesn't go. I have another bash at it.'

Does this ring true with any of our actors and actresses?