



# News & Views

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## Chairman's Chat

It only seems a few weeks ago that I was wishing you a happy holiday. We have been busy over the summer, as usual. We have had several groups hire the theatre out for their productions and we will have several more during the season.

Most of our effort this summer was concentrated on tidying up the storage areas and painting the upstairs foyer. New softer lighting has also been installed.

The first play has three separate sets and quite a lot of time has been devoted over the summer to sourcing the three kitchens and then constructing the sets. We are in need of a couple of additional stage workers to assist on the construction of sets. The work is not too demanding and there is no need to come every night, just when you want to. If you are interested please call Barry Swithenbank on 0161 980 7743 or contact the theatre and we will tell you more about it.

*Ian Bowden*

## 1st Play 'Absurd Person Singular' by Alan Ayckbourn

Here we are already on the verge of the first play and what a wonderful start to the season! 'Absurd Person Singular' by Alan Ayckbourn was written in 1972. Divided into three acts, it documents the changing fortunes of three married couples. Each act takes place at a Christmas celebration in one of the couples' homes on successive Christmas Eves. We start the play in the kitchen of Sidney and Jane Hopcroft's small, suburban house. For Christmas Eve the following year, we move to the fourth floor flat of Geoffrey and Eva Jackson and the third Christmas Eve is spent in the rather cold kitchen of the Brewster-Wright's big, old Victorian house.

Sidney is an ambitious tradesman who hopes to persuade the other two men to invest in his business — Geoffrey the architect and Ronald the bank manager. Their three wives are very different: Sidney's wife, Jane, is never happier than when she is cleaning and polishing; Eva, wife to Geoffrey, has problems which the numerous pills she takes don't seem to cure; Marion, Ronald's second wife ..... well, she rather likes gin!

As you can imagine, building three very different kitchens on our not-very-large stage has created innumerable headaches for Stage Director Barry Swithenbank and his incredibly hardworking stage team, starting with trying to acquire the kitchen cupboards and sink units (our thanks to those who responded to our appeals in the press for help). Then Barry had to work out how to change from one to another in the shortest possible time. It normally takes a week or two to install a new kitchen—Barry and his team are attempting to do it in under ten minutes!

The cast of this play is a mix of old favourites and new faces. Lisa Barker, Ian Fensome and Meg Cooper will be familiar to most of you, Paul Reid and Rani Jackson are appearing here for the first time in a full length play though they were in the award-winning one-act play, 'The Lover' by Harold Pinter in the Hale Festival a couple of years ago, and Norman King is making his first appearance on our stage. Director Garth Jones needs no introduction to any of our audiences, having appeared here as an actor and a director on many occasions.

Watch out, too, for significant contributions by Dick and Lottie Potter, not to mention George, a very vocal (and large) individual.



## Increasing Ticket Sales

Research has shown that the best way to sell tickets for our shows is either by word of mouth (i.e. tell everybody you can about our shows, and offer to get tickets for them if necessary) or by making sure as many people as possible see our **Green Season Flyer** for the shows.

We are doing our best to cover the area with them but with your help we can do even better and we would be extremely grateful.

### **Can you think of an outlet where we could display them?**

We have thought of places such as Doctors' surgeries, Dentists' waiting rooms, local shops which might accept a few to display on the counter.

- Are you a member of a club, organisation, class or group?
- Could you distribute them to people where you work?

How about taking a handful of the green flyers distributed around the club to put through your neighbours' letterboxes?

## Altrincham Youth Theatre

**Bored?**

**Interested in acting?**

**Want to know more about theatre and all that it entail?**

**At a loose end on Sunday mornings?**

**Want to make new friends?**

**Aged between 10 and 18?**

Why not come down to The Club Theatre, Oxford Road, Altrincham, this Sunday morning at 10.30am?

Experienced Tutors will be covering all aspects of theatre including the technical side of putting on a production (lighting, sound, set-design and building, wardrobe and make-up) as well as acting.

This year the main production will be Back to the 80's. Also youth theatre members will be putting on a one act play in local festivals and taking part in other stage productions.

Cost £35 a term (£90 a year)

For further information contact Ian Bowden (0161 928 1113)

## 300 Club Shares

For those of you who are yet to renew your membership please be aware that the shares are going fast and you need to get your request in and not miss out.

Just a quick reminder that each share is £10 to buy and there will be a draw during each of the 5 main plays and the prizes are:- 1<sup>st</sup> £100.00; 2<sup>nd</sup> £50.00; 3<sup>rd</sup> two at £30.00 and 4<sup>th</sup> six at £15.00. This totals £300.00 prize money for each play.

It's not too late for those who have renewed but forgot to get your shares just let us know and you can be included.

So don't miss out on the fun.

## Manchester & Salford Film Society

The Film Society is back with a very full and exciting programme. Please make a note of the dates and contact John Grieve if you require any further details. Guest tickets are £5.00.



**24 September 2011**

**Made in Dagenham** Nigel Cole UK 2010 113m

A dramatisation of the 1968 strike at the Ford Dagenham car plant, when female workers walked out in protest against sexual discrimination. Nominated for three Bafta awards. With Sally Hawkins and Bob Hoskins

**21 October 2011**

**Of Gods and Men** (*Des Hommes et des Dieux*) Xavier Beauvois FR 2010 122m

In the face of threats by fundamentalist rebels, a group of Trappist monks living in a poor Algerian community must decide whether to leave or stay. Won César 2011 for best film, Grand Jury prize Cannes 2011, and four international awards, including London Critics.

With Lambert Wilson and Michael Lonsdale



**12 November 2011**

**All Quiet on the Western Front** USA 1930 145m Lewis Milestone

This classic film follows a group of German schoolboys, talked into enlisting at the beginning of World War 1 by their jingoistic teacher. The story is told entirely through the experiences of the young German recruits and highlights the tragedy of war through the eyes of individuals. Won two Oscars. English dialogue.

**Tickets may be obtained by ringing John Grieve on 0161 928 7472 Email [johnpmgrieve@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:johnpmgrieve@tiscali.co.uk)**

## Useful Numbers

### THE CLUB THEATRE

17 Oxford Road  
Altrincham  
Cheshire  
WA14 2ED

Phone: 0161 928 1113  
E-mail: [secretary@clubtheatre.org.uk](mailto:secretary@clubtheatre.org.uk)  
Website: [www.clubtheatre.org.uk](http://www.clubtheatre.org.uk)

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 **0161 928 1113**

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Ian Bowden</b>
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	<b>Steve Smith</b>
<b>Acting</b>	<b>Carmel Bird</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Peter Ball</b>
<b>Stage Director</b>	<b>Barry Swithenbank</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Meg Cooper</b>
<b>Altrincham Youth Theatre</b>	<b>Club Theatre</b>
<b>Wardrobe Mistress</b>	<b>Lisa Barker</b>
<b>Publicity Officer</b>	<b>Meg Cooper</b>
<b>Front of House</b>	<b>Alan Reidsma</b>
<b>Ticket Bookings &amp; Club Theatre Office</b>	

## Occasional Help Needed.

There are times during the season when we should be grateful for some extra help with work involved in running the theatre. Secretarial help with jobs such as: folding newsletters and booking forms and stuffing them into envelopes before each play: replenishing the stocks of green flyers from time to time (we print them but they need folding into three). We always need volunteers for front of house duties during each play and we also need help from time to time cleaning the theatre so that it is spic and span for our audiences. We are not looking for a long-term commitment (though that would be nice) but if you would be willing to have your name added to a list of those we could contact at reasonably short notice for an evening's help, we should be extremely grateful. (We will gladly provide coffee and biscuits as an enticement!) We already have a small band of willing volunteers but we could always do with more, so if you are able to help in any way, please leave your name and contact details with one of the front of house staff or ring the theatre on 0161 928 1113 and leave a message.

## Contacting You

We have made this request before but make no apologies for repeating it. Our mailing list is extensive and postage charges have risen yet again. We are spending money on stamps we would much rather spend on our productions, so if you have an email address please could we use it to contact you? If you don't have a computer (or access to one) don't worry, we will continue to send you information the old fashioned way, but the more we can send out digitally, the fewer 'folders and stuffers' we need before each show!

## Bring a Friend

Finally, can we set you all a challenge for the new season? It's very simple — just bring an extra friend to the first play of the season (one who doesn't usually come already). If everybody would do that we could, in theory, double the number of people in the audience. Wouldn't it be nice to see people queuing down Oxford Road to get in to see 'Absurd Person Singular' at Altrincham Little Theatre.