

APS Newsletter

June
2008

FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN

Summer is here, I think, although by the rainfall happening this week I am not so sure. Your Committee has been busy deciding your fate for the next year! A sub-committee has looked into the move from the Clubroom and although it is very sad to be moving there is something to be said for a bright, warm space with no hovering or dusting. They have decided what will happen to the contents of the Clubroom and if anyone wants to know about this or would like a personal memento please contact a Committee member. The play posters will be put in store as will the books, once they have been 'weeded out'. The screens and some other items will move to the costume store. If anyone has room for some small items please let us know.

'Give Us a Clue' fell on the same day as Willard White sang in the Abbey and as many people wanted to hear him and the fact that Stuart was working there that night we decided to cancel that evening. If anyone had trouble with receiving that information please let someone know.

Please read the letter concerning the AGM which you will receive from the Secretary and do put forward nominations for the Committee next year. Talking of which it will seem so strange without Elaine and our loss is Canada's considerable and lucky gain. Elaine has been involved in so many ways and I for one will miss her skills not only as a Stage Manager but she can yield a mighty hammer in more ways than one. I'm sure everyone has enjoyed her new style and humorous Newsletter. Jim also will be sorely missed as he has enabled us to have some brilliant photographs of productions. We wish them well in their new Country and hope that they will keep in touch and let us know what they are doing, as long as they are not snowed in and the bears are not around!

Patricia



LAST MONTHS CLUB SOCIAL EVENTS

Joan Freeland's 'Bestiary' night was a great success and was very well attended. The audience were treated to an interesting and unusual mixture of song and verse about various animals, some very unusual! It was so nice to see and hear Sue Francis and Patricia Stewart entertaining us again. We must thank Joan for devising such a good evening and for her wonderful attire!



SOCIAL EVENTS IN JUNE

There is only one event this month. Please note that the date of the **Unrehearsed Playreading**, to be led by Adrian Thorpe, has been changed: it is on the programme as Thursday 12 June, but is now taking place on **Tuesday 10 June**. It is in the Clubroom: start at 7.30 p.m. You may like to know that Adrian has chosen The President's Holiday by Penny Gold. This drama concerning the attempted coup against Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union in 1991 had its first performance at the Hampstead Theatre on 17 January 2008, so no one can say the Players are not fully up-to-date with the latest plays! The reading will provide opportunities for our younger members: there are parts for Gorbachev's two young grand-daughters (12 and 9) who are caught up in the coup attempt along with the rest of the family.

FUTURE EVENTS

There will be only two more events this season. The first on Wednesday 2nd July which is 'A correspondence between' led by Eve Simmonds. Please note that as we will have left the Clubroom, this will take place at Nether Compton Village Hall, starting at 7.30 pm. The final event will be our Annual General Meeting and Summer Party. It will take place at 7.30 pm on Friday 18 July. Jim and Gwyneth Schofield have very kindly agreed to host the event again at Gainsborough House, South Street, Sherborne. The charge will be £3.00 a head – payable at the door – to cover food

(weather permitting a barbeque, but other things as well) and a first drink. Please bring a bottle – alcoholic or otherwise – for second drink onwards.

Adrian will send out the formal notice of the meeting, and details of the party, nearer the time. But please make sure you have it in your diaries now! It's your opportunity to tell the Committee what you think of the way they've managed the society and give them your ideas for the future.

It's also your opportunity to vote for new Committee Members and Officers and, if you like, to propose and second candidates of your own. This year there'll be vacancies for Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary and two Ordinary Committee Members. There's at least one candidate for each job but that doesn't mean there couldn't be more! You will get nomination papers with the AGM notice.



OTHER EVENTS

For our **Autumn production** (November 20th – 22nd) I am hoping to put on “The Love of Four Colonels” by Peter Ustinov – a play which is difficult to classify other than as a historical/comedy/romance/pantomime/fairy-tale. Auditions will be held in the clubhouse at 7.30 on Tuesday/Wednesday June 17th and 18th: very early, I know, but I want to give the actors plenty of time over the summer to learn their lines. There are seven major characters with roughly similar-length parts, so nobody will have an impossibly long part to learn (we can't all aspire to Fizz's standards!), and five smaller roles. Please come along and try out for a part: but if you can't make either of those dates and would still like to be considered, let me know.

Major parts

The Colonels (all middle to late middle age – say 40 to 70-ish)

Col. Desmond de S. Rinder-Sparrow: English accent. Landed gentry: a decent fellow but rather dim.

Col. Wesley Breitenspiegel: American accent. New York neurotic.

Col. Aimé Frappot: French accent. Sophisticated, cynical, world-weary.

Col. Alexander Ikonenko: Russian accent. A devout Stalinist. Humourless. A stickler for protocol.

The Immortals

(All speak at various times in English, American, French and Russian accents)

Donovan, the Good Fairy (female): Very young, very sweet, very kind.

Carabosse, the Bad Fairy (male): Very old. Very, very wicked.

The Sleeping Beauty: Every man's ideal of his perfect woman.

Smaller parts:

The Wives

Mrs. Rinder-Sparrow: English accent. Brisk and unemotional.

Mrs. Breitenspiegel: American accent. Modern, brittle and outspoken.

Mme. Frappot: French accent. Gentle and resigned.

Mme. Ikonenko: Non-speaking part (breast-feeds her baby -- discreetly).

And

The Mayor of Herzogenburg: Central European accent. A prophet of doom.

Scripts are available if anybody would like to read the play in advance: call me on (01935) 812698 or e-mail charlesnapier@hotmail.com. Also, do please let me know if you would be prepared to take on one of the many back-stage jobs. Costume is going to be particularly tricky, with several quick-changes.

Charles

The Voyage by Lee Stroud will be at Cerne Abbas Village Hall on Thursday 5 June.

Also at Dorchester Arts Centre on Saturday 7 June.

All performances start at 7.30pm.

Tickets £5 on the door or phone 01305 259308.



REVIEWS OF JULIUS CAESAR AND OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND PUBLISHED IN THE NODA MAGAZINE

Yes folks a review of both plays has been published nationally in the latest NODA magazine, a bit late, but its there. I have attached a copy of these below

NODA South-West Regional Magazine – Spring 2003
District 11 – West Dorset – Peter Waecklin

JULIUS CAESAR	Amateur Players of Sherborne	Cheap Street Church
<i>Director: David Smith</i>		<i>26th July</i>

All else apart, it is no small achievement in itself to cast Julius Caesar, let alone perform it. Needing at least nineteen men, many of whom would have to play two parts, how many societies could field this number from their membership who were capable of playing Shakespeare? The Amateur Players of Sherborne can, and most effectively so. Director David Smith's performers did him much credit by delivering some accomplished acting. Notable among these were Patrick Knox as Cassius and Charles Nugter as Brutus, whose powerful interchange in Act IV was particularly impressive. The grouping and movement of the characters were well choreographed, including the crowd scenes where the illusion of a mass of people was convincingly achieved by a handful of players. Visually the play was striking thanks to a large suite of authentic costumes and some effective lighting. Although played without set and the minimum of props, good use was made of the architecture within the Cheap Street Church to represent the Roman scenes. The action of the play was punctuated throughout by some well chosen music, gladiatorial in nature, which served to enhance the overall dramatic effect. All in all, this was a fine production deserving of a better audience support than it got.

OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MURDER	Amateur Players of Sherborne	Digby Hall
<i>Director: Anna Ward</i>		<i>29th November</i>

An original twist to the 'whodunnit' theme, where an author's prospective characters come to life in a thinkstair to help him over his writer's block, the characters having widely-varying ideas as to who should be the villain and victims in the eventual book. This highly entertaining American comedy-drama was superbly staged by the Players in every respect. An excellent setting by Charles Nugter, depicting a gloomy old mansion with spooky overtones, prompted spontaneous applause as the curtains opened at the start of the play. Under the expert direction of longstanding APS member, Jennie Ward, who also took part in the play, all nine members of the cast clearly revelled in the task of establishing their distinctive roles to produce an immensely engaging experience for the audience from start to finish. Whilst it may be tedious to pick out names, because all characters equally deserved an individual bow, I particularly enjoyed the expressions and mannerisms of Holly Burbage as Kay Kelsey and the straight-faced portrayal of spinster Miss Balkwick by Ruth Rice. Added by sterling work from lighting, wardrobe and sound personnel, this was a fine production and well worthy of the APS high pedigree. I have only one minor gripe – there were too many prompts.

81



SPRING PRODUCTION

As yet we don't have a play earmarked for next years Spring production. Get your thinking caps on and why not try your hand at directing! If you have any suggestions or would like to direct a play, please get in touch with Patricia.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO PRODUCE A FILM?

A small group has been formed called "The Sherborne Documentary Film Group" to produce films / DVDs that are of interest to Sherborne. The Group are currently copying and saving old cine films etc of Sherborne and are also learning how to work together as a team to produce a high technical standard of film. If you would like to join the Group or are interested in producing a film, please contact Jim Schofield on 01935 812051. A Producer will be expected to direct the whole production, undertake rehearsals prior to the filming and oversee the editing of the final film. The Documentary Film Group will provide all the technical equipment and expertise required but work under the direction of the Producer.

WARDROBE / PROPS at the CASTLE

Jakki has asked that folk contact her before taking anything up to the Castle as space is now at a premium due to the move and unfortunately we don't have room for duplicates. Please contact Jakki on 01935 389201 or drop an email to tandjax@yahoo.co.uk.

HELP WITH THE MOVE OUT OF THE CLUBROOM

The sub-committee formed to organise the move from the Clubroom, has met and sorted out where all our bits and pieces in the rooms at Sherborne House are to be re-homed. The dates for the move are fixed as 26th to 29th June. If you can offer any help with the move – physically or by providing transport, please get in touch with Adrian.

Adrian's contact details are

Phone - 01935 422141 (office), 431321 (home)

Email – adrianthorpe@tiscali.co.uk

APS MAILING LIST

For each and every production we send out mailshot leaflets, complete with a ticket order form, to all those on our mailing list. This list is revised on a regular basis, usually as a result of leaflets returned because people have moved away or died. The mailing list is important to us, as it is probably our most effective form of advertising.

However, the time has come to make a major revision and hopefully to increase the number of people on the list. Since the last major revision in 2001, numbers have fallen from about 400 to just over 300 and we really do not want the list to fall below the 300 mark. All those who have previously contributed to the mailing list have already received lists of names and addresses for verification or revision. If anyone else has any names and addresses to add to our list, please send them to Mark Lambert -- lambert.ridge@virgin.net (or by post to Ridge Farm, King's Stag, Sturminster Newton, Dorset DT10 2AU).

Please don't just add everyone you have ever known to the list -- that's a waste of time and money -- just the people you think would be interested in coming to our productions. Thanks in advance for your help.

NEWS FORM NODA

NODA, the National Operatic and Dramatic Association, will be running their annual Summer School at Loughborough University from 2 to 9 August 2008. This intensive week of training courses in amateur theatre is available to adult society members of all ages. Details on <http://domain992762.sites.fasthosts.com/summer.asp> or from our Secretary, Adrian Thorpe - 01935 422141 (office), 431321 (home). To make it easier for students to take advantage of this, NODA has a number of bursaries which effectively halve the cost of attendance.

A reminder that NODA (National Operatic and Dramatic Association) is organising a South-West Region weekend at Bicton Agricultural College near Exeter from Friday 29 to Sunday 31 August. The programme includes a big selection of workshops to choose from, ranging from Lighting to Armed Combat! The cost of the full package is £105 per person, including two nights' accommodation and meals. Bookings must be made by 31 July. Details from Adrian Thorpe on 01935 431321.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JUNE 2008		
Thurs 5th	The Voyage by Lee Stroud By	Cerne Abbas Village Hall ¹ At 7:30 pm
Thurs 5 th	Sherborne Comedy Jay Sodagar Sara Benham Earl Okin	Powell Theatre ² Sherborne Doors open 7.30 pm show at 8.00pm
Sat 7th	The Voyage by Lee Stroud	Dorchester Arts Centre ¹ At 7:30 pm
Tue 10th	An Un-rehearsed Play led by Adrian Thorpe	The Club Room at 7:30pm

Tue 17 th and Wed 18 th	Auditions for The Love of Four Colonels by Peter Ustinov	The Club Room at 7:30pm
Sat 21 st	'Run for your Wife' by Ray Cooney	The Lighthouse Theatre Poole
Tue 24 th	Committee Meeting	Club Room, 7:30 pm
JULY 2008		
Wed 2 nd	'A correspondence between' by Eve Simmonds	Nether Compton Village Hall At 7:30 pm
Mon 7 th to Sat 12 th	'Old Dogs' by Steve Raw	The Swan Theatre, Yeovil ³ At 7:45 pm
Fri 18 th	Annual General Meeting followed by Summer Party	Gainsborough House, South St, Sherborne At 7:30 pm

1. Tickets £5 on the door or phone 01305 259308.
2. Contact 01935 810579 or www.powelltheatre.co.uk for tickets
3. Contact Yeovil Tourist Information Centre for tickets

From the Editor, Elaine

If you would like to say goodbye to the Clubroom, remember to come along to our final event there on Tue 10th June, as the next event on July 2nd will be held in our new accommodation, Nether Compton Village Hall. If you would like a lift or are able to take others to Nether Compton, please get in touch with either Patricia or one of the committee. We understand that Nether Compton is not as convenient as Sherborne for some folk, but plenty of cars will be going and we do want you to come along to the events.

This is the penultimate Newsletter with me at the helm. However, I am pleased to say that Jim Reville is my willing successor (there was no arm twisting involved – honest!). Jim will be taking over as editor at the start of the new season in September.

Remember, if you would like any local performances advertised in the **Dates for your Diaries** section in future Newsletters, please send any details to me at elaine@grumpyhaggis.com or give me a ring -01935 817430 – if I am not there, I will call you back.

Elaine

