



OH WHAT A NIGHT!

IT WAS A NIGHT WHEN WE ALL CAME OUT TO PLAY AND THOROUGHLY ENJOY OURSELVES



Such a beautiful evening for an 'Opening Night' and with so many members there, too. There was the irresistible savoury aroma of Kris Wessels' barbeque on the green outside Nether Compton Hall and then a reprise of our 150th railway anniversary contribution. Good food, good company, good entertainment, who could ask for anything more!



[Exclusive APS photo by Kris Wessels]

COMING SOON



Pinter's 'Celebration' is a riotously funny play. It is set in "the best restaurant in Europe". At one table, Lambert and his brother Matt dined with their wives, Julie and her sister Prue, celebrating the anniversary of Julie and Lambert. At a second table, Suki chats with his wife Russell.

As the play progresses, the characters get progressively more drunk, make appalling revelations without realising it, divulge their infidelities, and yet stay oddly content and glad-hearted.

Among the tables roam Richard and Sonia, the owners, and a hilarious intrusive waiter.

That's the gist of it but to take a part in our unrehearsed play-reading led by Maurice Freeland you'll have to be **upstairs at The Mermaid at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 20 October.**

Thinking Ahead

It's time to think ahead and come up with a programme of future productions. Directors, aspiring directors and folk with ideas gather at Charles's house, **Runnymede, 69 Newland at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 13 October.** All ideas for plays and social events very welcome.

See 'Notes on Directing' feature on page 2 overleaf.

Busman's Honeymoon March 31 to April 2, 2011

No need to get excited just yet, This is just a little advance info to let you have an idea what our Spring 2011 production is all about.



Wedding bells have finally rung for amateur sleuth Lord Peter Wimsey and crime writer Harriet Vane! But their quiet, country honeymoon at Talboys becomes a series of misadventures with exploding chimneys and unwanted guests, including a body found murdered in their own home. This inauspicious beginning begs the question: when life gets in the way, can love persevere?

Characters in "Busman's Honeymoon"

- Lord Peter Wimsey: - an aristocratic amateur detective.
- Harriet Vane: - now Lady Peter Wimsey, a mystery writer.
- Mervyn Bunter: - Lord Peter's manservant.
- Honoria Lucasta: - Dowager Duchess of Denver, Lord Peter's mother.
- Noakes: - previous owner of Talboys and murder victim.
- Miss Agnes Twitterton: - niece of the murdered man.
- Frank Crutchley: - a motor mechanic and gardener.
- Mrs Martha Ruddle - neighbour of Noakes and his cleaning lady.
- Bert Ruddle: - her son.
- Inspector Kirk: - a police inspector.
- Joseph Sellon: - a police constable.

SHERBORNE 2nd INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Sherborne will host its second International Film Festival from Friday, 22 October to Sunday, 24 October at the Powell Theatre.

Three films will be screened daily with a wide-ranging choice from all over the globe. Many award-winning films are being featured including this year's Oscar winner for Best Foreign Film, "The Secret in their Eyes", from Argentina, and the most recent Grand Prix winner from Cannes, the French prison film, "A Prophet". The mix of films includes a lyrical love story set during China's cultural revolution, an amusing tale of a Japanese businessman's attempt to dance, a gripping spy thriller about the Dutch Resistance movement during WWII plus two German films and a Danish film.

Tickets cost £5 per film and a season ticket for all nine films at £32. New this year is an official opening party before the official launch film on Friday 22 October, the sumptuous Italian film, "I am Love"; tickets for the films and for the reception are on sale at the Tourist Office, Digby Road.



LES MIZ COMES LIVE TO YEovil

'Les Miserables' celebrates its 25th anniversary live from The O2 in Cineworld, Yeovil at 7 pm on Sunday 3rd October. Tickets £15 + 70p booking fee. Call 0871 200 2000.



MRS MALAPROP STRIKES ILCHESTER WAREHOUSE

'The Rivals', Sheridan's comedy of manners plays at The Warehouse, Ilminster 5th to 8th October. See Diary Dates for contact details.



It follows the meddling Mrs Malaprop on her quest to marry off her spirited niece, Lydia Languish. But with the handsome Captain Absolute and the poetic but penniless Beverley vying for her hand, Lydia has ideas of her own. Little does she realise that these rivals are one and the same man! <> <> <> <> <> <> <> <>

George Bush malapropisms

"We need an energy bill that encourages consumption."

"I am mindful not only of preserving executive powers for myself, but for predecessors as well."

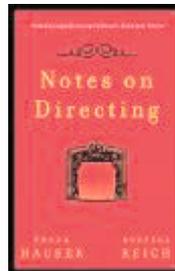
DIRECTING - READ ALL ABOUT IT

Frank Hauser's glory years covered nearly two decades (1956-73) at Oxford's Playhouse Theatre when his Meadow Players companies included Judi Dench, Constance Cummings, Elisabeth Bergner, Prunella Scales, Barbara Jefford, Leo McKern, Ian McKellen, Ronnie Barker, Alan Badel, Alan Howard and Edward Woodward.

In the late 1980s Hauser handed Russell Reich, his assistant director, notes he thought might find helpful: *"Put actors at ease, but don't befriend them. You cannot expect the actor's best work in an audition situation. It's too early in the process and too stressful."*

They first appeared as 'Notes on Directing' in 2003 and most recently this year. *"This book is a gem, witty and full of insight. It should be compulsory reading for every aspiring director."* Dame Judi Dench. It's even got its own website at www.notesondirecting.com

The cheapest you can buy a (used) copy is from Amazon UK. £3.65 + £2.75 p&p.



Mr Toad's Blog

Here I am again, bringing you all my inestimable words of wisdom about the world and everything.

But first, with my 'Access All Areas' pass (only the most important are awarded one) I must report on 'The Wind in the Willows' rehearsals. One is astonished to see created before one's very eyes not only my good self, but also all my friends and even those utterly despicable stoats and weasels. Now, if I had my way... Anyway, truth to tell, I shed a tear or two.



Actually, I could have been an actor, I suppose, though it's not really a job for someone of my intelligence.

Chatting to Moley the other day about my exciting world of travel and adventure and he came out with something quite surprising - and it's not often I'm surprised. There are no moles in Ireland! No distant relatives, not one of any kind at all, apparently. Probably because it's so very cold and wet, I think.

Now, here's some important news for you to spread around. As you know, 'The Wind in the Willows' is a play that can be perfectly enjoyed by 'children' of all ages. So, it will come as no surprise that, in addition to our regular evening performances, there will also be a **matinee at 2.30 pm on Saturday 20th November.**

Well, that's all for now. Next time I will have lots more exciting news to tell you in my bloggy thingy. See you then.

A Brief History of Theatre - in several parts 2

Euripides introduces a more unconventional view of Greek myth, seeing it from new angles or viewing mythological characters in terms of their human frailties. His vision is extremely influential in later schools of tragic drama. Racine, for example, derives 'Adromaque' and 'Phaedre' from the 'Andromache' and 'Hippolytus' of Euripides.



From 486 BC there is an annual competition for comedies at Athens - held as part of the Lenaea, a three-day festival in January. Only one comic author's work has survived from the 5th century. Like the first three tragedians, he launches the genre with great brilliance. He is Aristophanes, a frequent winner of the first prize in the Lenaea (on the first occasion, in 425 BC, with the 'Acharnians'.

Eleven of his plays survive, out of a total of perhaps forty spanning approximately the period 425-390 BC. They rely mainly on a device which becomes central to the tradition of comedy. They satirize contemporary foibles by placing them in an unexpected



Epidauros, built in about 340 BC, provides the best example of a classical Greek theatre. In the centre of the orchestra is the stone base on which an altar stood, reflecting the religious aspect of theatre in Greece. The

rising tiers of seats, separated by aisles, provide the pattern for the closest part of the auditorium to the stage in nearly all subsequent theatres - where these seats are still sometimes called the orchestra stalls.

context, whether by means of a fantastic plot or through the antics of ridiculous characters.

A good example is 'The Frogs', a literary satire at the expense of Euripides. After the death of the great man, Dionysus goes down to Hades to bring back his favourite tragedian. A competition held down there enables Aristophanes to parody the style of Euripides. As a result Dionysus comes back to earth with Aeschylus instead.

In 'The Wasps' the Athenian love of litigation is ridiculed in the form of an old man who sets up a law court in his home, to try his dog for stealing cheese. In 'Lysistrata' the horrors of war are discussed in a circumstance of extreme social crisis; the women of Greece refuse to make love until their men agree to make peace.

Greek theatre: 4th century BC

An exclusively Greek contribution to architectural history is the raked auditorium for watching theatrical performances (appropriately, since the Greeks are also the inventors of theatre as a literary form).

The masterpieces of Greek drama date from the 5th century BC. At that time, in Athens, the audience sit on the bare hillside to watch performances on a temporary wooden stage. In the 4th century a stone auditorium is built on the site, and there is still a theatre there today - the theatre of Dionysus.

In the first Greek theatres the stage is a full circle, in keeping with the circular dance - the 'choros' - from which the theatrical performance has evolved. This stage is called the orchestra (orchestra, a dancer), because it is the place where the chorus sing and dance.

History of Drama Timeline

- 454 BC: Euripides enters the drama contest at the City Dionysia for the first time.
- 425 BC: Aristophanes wins first prize for the 'Acharnians'.
- 423 BC: Socrates is now sufficiently prominent to be satirised in 'Clouds', Aristophanes' comedy.



STUMBLING IN: In the English theatres, to trip on entering the scene on the first night of a play is a sure sign of success. Also, if an actress trips over the hem of

her dress, she should pick it up and kiss it. This, it is said, will bring a contract for the actress.

The Origin: Actresses should kiss the hems of their dresses after tripping on their first entrance in order to placate the faeries who tripped them up.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**OCTOBER 2010**

Tues 28th Sept to 2nd Oct	Romeo and Juliet Pilot Theatre	The Octagon, Yeovil 7.30 Mats Wed/Thurs 1.30 Sat 2.30
Thurs 30th Sept to Sat 23rd Oct	The Misanthrope Moliere's comedy of manners	Bristol Old Vic 7.30 Mats Thurs/Sat 2.30 - not 30th
Mon 4th to Sat 9th	West Side Story Taunton Amateur Operatic Society	Tacchi-Morris, Taunton 7.30 Mats Thurs/Sat 2.30 pm
Wed 5th to Fri 8th	The Rivals Ilminster Entertainment Society	The Warehouse, Ilminster 7.30 pm
Tues 5th to Sat 9th	Lloyd George knew my father William Douglas Hume comedy	Studio Theatre, Salisbury 7.30 pm
Wed 6th	Frankenstein: a year without summer Dorset Corset Theatre Company	Bridport Arts Centre 7 pm
Thurs 14th	A Disappearing Number NT Live	Cineworld, Yeovil 7 pm
<i>APS event</i> Wed 20th	Celebration by Pinter Led by Maurice Freeland	Upstairs at The Mermaid 7.30 pm See page 1.
Sat 30th to Sat 27th, November	The Picture Renaissance epic	Salisbury Playhouse Times vary
NOVEMBER 2010		
Fri 5th	Comedy Club Trevor Lock	Powell Theatre, Sherborne Doors open 7.30. Show 8.30
Tues 9th to Sat 13th	GamePlan and RolePlay Taunton Thespians	Tacchi-Morris, Taunton 7.30 pm Mat Sat 2 pm
Wed 10th to Sat 13th	The Ghost Train Classic ghost story	Mission Theatre, Bath 7.30 pm
Mon 15th to Sat 20th	The Memory of Water A comedy	Swan Theatre, Yeovil 7.45 pm
<i>APS event</i> Thurs 18th to Sat 20th	THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS Amateur Players of Sherborne	Digby Hall, Sherborne 7.30 pm Matinee Sat 2.30 pm
Sun 28th	A Christmas Carol Chapterhouse Theatre Company	The Octagon, Yeovil 2 pm and 7 pm
Sun 28th & Mon 29th	Intimate Exchanges Alan Ayckbourn comedy	Powell Theatre, Sherborne 7.30 pm

Powell Theatre: Call 01935 810579 www.powelltheatre.co.uk

The Warehouse: 07502 189717 Mon-Sat 10 am - 4 pm www.thewarehousetheatre.org.uk

Merlin Theatre: Call 01373 465949 or www.merlintheatre.co.uk

Cineworld, Yeovil: Call 0871 200 2000. Google Cineworld, Yeovil then selected advance booking.

Bristol Old Vic: 0117 987 7877 www.bristololdvic.org.uk

Swan Theatre: Tourist Information Centre 01935 845946. Tickets available from Wed 13th October.

Bridport Arts Centre: Call 010308 424204 or www.bridport-arts.com

Studio Theatre, Salisbury: Call 07789 858124 or www.studiotheatre.org.uk

Salisbury Playhouse: Call 01722 320333 www.salisburyplayhouse.com

Tacchi Morris Arts Centre: Call 01823 414141 or www.tacchi-morris.com

The Octagon, Yeovil: Call Box Office 01935 283884 or www.octagon-theatre.co.uk

Mission Theatre, Bath: Call 01225 428600 or www.missiontheatre.co.uk



If you would like any local performances advertised in the **Dates for your Diary** section please send any details to me at: jim.reville@btinternet.com or give me a ring on (01935) 814626. If I'm not there, leave your message and I will ring you back.

November Copy DEADLINE: Tuesday 26 October

Last Word...

It is a hopeless endeavour to attract people to a theatre unless they can be first brought to believe that they will never get in.

CHARLES DICKENS