

NOISES OFF

APS newsletter April 2012

HAPPY EASTER!



NOW THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT!

Terry Pratchett may not be everyone's cup of witches brew but there's no denying that it has been a marvellous achievement in bringing his Wyrd Sisters novel to the stage.

A stunning set, atmospheric lighting, startling sound effects and all those 'divers alarms and excursions', and not for a moment forgetting all the countless rehearsal hours put in by the 21-strong cast all added up to a hugely enjoyable entertainment. A big round of applause to everyone involved, not least to Sylvie Lord in her directorial debut for APS.

"I don't want to direct again for a good while yet", said Sylvie at the After Show Party. "Give me a year off. But I really have enjoyed it. The first time I've ever directed adults - they're quite nice people really. A big thank you for all the support I have received."

Photos of the production to view or buy should be available shortly on Mark's website mark-lambert.co.uk



Somewhere over the Ramtops witches fly

A TALE OF TWO QUEENS, ONE CROWN IN OUR CLUB ROOM

For his part-rehearsed play-reading in our Club Room at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 17 April Charles has chosen Robert Bolt's fine historical play **Vivat! Vivat Regina!**

Briefly, it charts the stormy relationship between Mary Queen of Scots and her cousin Elizabeth I, from shortly before Mary's return to Scotland, through the romantic and murderous

scandals that surrounded her life, until her execution against the backdrop of the threat of the Spanish Armada.

There is a very large cast so do come along as you're sure to get a part - if not parts! It's a play well worth getting your teeth into!



Annual Dinner Friday 18 May

Our Annual Dinner will be held on the evening of **Friday 18th May** in the Arcadian ambience of the Butterfly House at Castle Gardens.

The time: **7 for 7.30 pm**. The cost: £17.50 for three courses or £14.50 for two courses. A menu choices form is either attached, for those receiving their newsletter by post, or available to print off from the Members Page of our website.

Please forward the completed form, together with your cheque, made payable to Amateur Players of Sherborne, to Gilly Savage, Mytern House, Thornford DT9 6QN Tel: 01935 872098 or email her at: gillysavage@hotmail.com

Do please book as soon as possible and **at the very latest by Friday 4 May.**

Preferred dress is smart. Wine and other drinks can be bought.



Programme of events

2011-2012 season

Tuesday 17 April:

Play-reading of Robert Bolt's *Vivat! Vivat Regina!*, led by Charles.

Friday 18 May:

Annual Dinner at Castle Gardens.

Wednesday 20 June:

Poetry evening *Life and Death on Mount Helicon* led by Maurice Freeland. In Paddock Gardens (weather permitting)

Friday 20 July:

AGM and Summer Party. Venue to be decided.

All events at 7.30 pm in our Club Room at The Old Chapel unless indicated otherwise.

SHERBORNE LITERARY SOCIETY LAUNCH

Sherborne's newest society - the Sherborne Literary Society www.sherbornelitsoc.org.uk launches on Monday 23 April.

You can join up by email or make a date for the launch party on **Monday 23rd April** at the Catholic Church Hall in Westbury.

There will be two sessions both ***by invitation only***. Numbers are limited for catering and accommodation reasons.

For an invite, contact them via email under their website **Contact Us** tab or write to Sherborne Literary Society c/o Coverack House, The Avenue, Sherborne DT9 3AH.

Invitations issued on a first-come first-served basis and issued at the end of March. After the event you can pick up membership registration forms at the Tourist Office.

AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE PROPOSED ARTS CENTRE



Let broadcasting legend, Valerie Singleton, take you on a very interesting eight minute virtual tour of the proposed Sherborne Arts Centre. In addition to the project's background, there's an animated walk-through of the building and the grounds. Click www.scat.org.uk

AGM

IMPORTANT NEWS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Every year, around the beginning of July, we send you a batch of material on the Annual General Meeting: the formal bidding notice, nomination forms for those who wish to propose candidates for election to the Committee, and details of the annual party which follows the AGM.

This mailing is expensive and is about to cost even more: you probably know that a 2nd-class stamp is going up from 36p to 50p. So this year we'll be sending the AGM papers by e-mail to those of you we know are willing to receive material that way.

Members who have told us they do not use e-mail will of course receive them through the post as before.

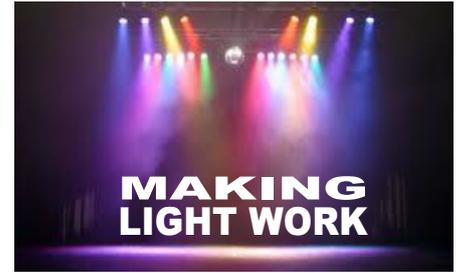
The AGM will be at 7:30 on Friday 20 July at the Village Hall in Nether Compton. Do please look out for the formal announcement.

The AGM is your opportunity to say what you think about the way the APS is being run, and an active membership is essential to a healthy club.

WATCH OUT FOR...

Artsreach Dorset summer programme of performing and visual arts events due out shortly.

Expected soon full details of NODA South West Regional Weekend at Bicton College Friday 20 to Sunday 22 July.



Lighting plays a key role in our productions, whether in establishing the background mood of a scene or in producing whizz-bang special effects for our more extravagant offerings (such as Granny Weatherwax blowing the Castle doors off in "Wyrd Sisters"). We are fortunate to have a highly accomplished lighting designer in Adrian Hole, but in recent years he has been struggling with increasingly outdated equipment. The control desk in the Digby Hall is an old-fashioned analogue design, for which spare parts are no longer available, and is incompatible with a lot of modern equipment.

We are therefore delighted to announce that we have been successful in a grant application to the Dorset County Community Fund, which has granted us £3,750 towards a new state-of-the-art digital lighting console and peripherals. Adrian has worked very hard to find the right model at the right price, and we are going ahead with his recommendations. The console is called "Solution", and is advertised as "the most versatile desk ever produced for the medium to small theatre". It will have its first outing at our Autumn production – look out for the automatically swivelling lights that can change colour in mid-performance!

We are extremely grateful to the trustees of the Dorset County Community Fund for their generosity. The new equipment should meet our needs for many years to come, and we are sure both our members and our audiences will notice that our excellent lighting effects have become even better.

Arts SCENE

A selection of what's
on around and about



Taunton Operatic Society stage
The Full Monty at the Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre, Taunton from Mon 23 to Sat 28 April.

In a desperate act to raise money to win back his son, Jerry enlists the help of his best mate Dave and 4 other unemployed steel workers, each with their own anxieties and fears to form a new male strip group. Six ordinary guys with one unique selling point ..The Full Monty.

A riotously funny, poignant and at times moving tale of friendship and camaraderie in the face of adversity will touch your heart. Will they or won't they, there's only one way to find out. See contact details page 4.

GRADUATE AT THE MERLIN

Frome Drama Club presents -
The Graduate at the Merlin Theatre, Frome 25 April 2012 - 28 April 2012 - 7.45 pm.

This classic story about a naive college graduate adrift in the social and sexual mores of the 60's captures with hilarity and the alienation of youth and the disillusionment of an era.

California in the 60's, Benjamin Braddock has got excellent grades, proud parents and, since he helped Mrs Robinson with her zipper, a fine future behind him. A cult novel and a classic film, now Benjamin's sexual odyssey is brought vividly to life onstage.

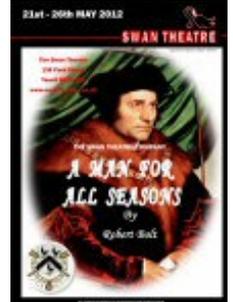
See page 4 for more info.

A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS AT THE SWAN

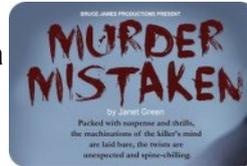
The Swan Theatre Company will be performing Robert Bolt's **A Man for all Seasons** from Monday 21 to Saturday 26 May.

This play, although about the historical events sparked off by Henry VIII's decision to divorce Catherine of Aragon, is also a great psychological drama. It focuses on the point at which a clever and sophisticated man is no longer able to compromise. Thomas More was no willing martyr, but was finally forced to recognise something within himself, to deny which would have made life valueless.

Doors open 7:15pm, show starts 7:45pm and finishes 10.00 pm.



Murder Mistaken is a mystery thriller set in 1950's



England. The charming Edward Bare is a cold, calculating man with a passion for older women, or more truthfully their money. So when his rich wife threatens to outlive her usefulness he has a decision to make. Having hastened her end, he discovers an unpleasant surprise in her will. Determined not to make the same mistake again, Edward marries a rich widow but when an attractive and wealthy lady arrives on the scene, will Edward revisit his murderous past?

Packed with suspense and thrills, the workings of the killer's mind are explored as the spine-chilling plot thickens.

It's on at 7.30 pm in the Octagon, Yeovil Monday 23 April and Tuesday 24 April.

OUTDOOR SUMMER THEATRE

Chapterhouse Theatre Company perform **Emma** on Friday 6 July at the Bishop's Palace, Wells. The Lord Chamberlain's Men will be there with **Macbeth** on Sunday 5 August.

The Festival Players bring **Richard III** to Shaftesbury Abbey on Wednesday 18 July and with

CIVIC PLAYERS AIM TO DELIVER US FROM EVIL

The Civic Players' next production at the Swan Theatre, Yeovil, is **Deliver us from Evil**, a thriller. It will run from Tuesday 5th to Friday 8th June.

There is a new Rector at Wychcombe Magna who is slowly gaining acceptance with the the locals. Then the unthinkable happens - there is a murder at the Rectory and it becomes apparent that not all is as it seems in the village.



Sat 7 April: **Manon** Massenet's operatic tale of a girl that's a little bit too attractive. At 5 pm

Sat 14 April: **La Traviata** Verdi's best known opera is graced by one of its most moving heroines. At 6 pm

Tues 17 April: **Rigoletto** David McVicar's lively production of Verdi's great tragic opera - live from the Royal Opera House. At 7.15 pm

Call 0871 200 2000 or Google Cineworld, Yeovil

Twelfth Night to Glastonbury Abbey on Thursday 16 August.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL 2012

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|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Tues 10 to Wed 11 | The Hound of the Baskervilles Oldham Colliseum Theatre | Brewhouse, Taunton 7.45 pm |
| Mon 16 to Sat 21 | Blue Remembered Hills Dennis Potter play | Mission Theatre, Bath 7.30 pm |
| Wed 18 to Sat 12 May | The Six Wives of Henry VIII Two man production | Bristol Old Vic Times vary see website |
| <i>APS event</i> Thurs 19 | Vivat! Vivat Regina! Play reading Led by Charles Napier | Club Room, The Old Chapel 7.30 pm |
| Thurs 19 to Sat 21 | Dead Guilty Psychological thriller | Warehouse Theatre, Weymouth 7.30 pm |
| Sat 21 | Born in the Gardens Creative Cow | Shaftesbury Arts Centre 7.30 pm |
| Mon 23 to Tues 24 | Murder Mistaken Tense psychological thriller | Octagon, Yeovil 7.30 pm |
| Mon 23 to Sat 28 | The Full Monty Taunton Operatic Society | Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre, Taunton Times vary see website |
| Wed 25 to Sat 28 | The Graduate Frome Drama Club | Merlin Theatre, Frome 7.45 pm |

MAY 2012

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| Wed 1 to Sat 26 | Epsom Downs Howard Brenton play | Salisbury Playhouse Times vary see website |
| Tues 8 to Sat 12 | The Winslow Boy Next Stage Theatre company | Mission Theatre, Bath 7.30 pm |
| Mon 14 | Hamlet Blue Apple Theatre | Tacchi-Morris, Taunton 7.30 pm |
| Mon 14 to Sat 19 | Third Week in August Peter Gordon play | Studio Theatre, Salisbury 7.30 pm |
| Thurs 17 to Sat 19 | Hi-de-Hi! SNADS | Sturminster Newton Exchange 7.30 pm |
| Mon 12 to Sat 26 | A Man For All Seasons Robert Bolt | The Swan, Yeovil 7.45 pm |

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

The Exchange, Sturminster Newton: Box Office 01258 475137 www.stur-exchange.co.uk

Studio Theatre: Call 01722 334956 www.studiotheatre.org.uk

Shaftesbury Arts Centre: Box Office 01747 854321 www.shaftesburyartscentre.org.uk

Octagon: Box Office 01935 845321 www.octagon-theatre.co.uk

Brewhouse Theatre: Call 01823 283244 www.thebrewhouse.net

Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre: Box Office 01823 414141 www.tacchi-morris.com

Salisbury Playhouse: Box Office call 01722 320333 www.salisburyplayhouse.com

Merlin Theatre: Box Office 01373 465949 www.merlintheatre.co.uk

Mission Theatre: Call 01225 428600 www.missiontheatre.co.uk

Warehouse Theatre: www.weymouthdramaclub.co.uk

Swan Theatre: Box Office 01935 462781 www.swan-theatre.co.uk

NB: As Diary Dates are compiled in advance, do check with the venue for any programme changes.



If you would like any local performances mentioned in the newsletter please send details to me at:
jim.reville@btinternet.com or call me on 01935 814626. Please leave your message if I'm not available and I'll ring you back.

April Copy Deadline: Wednesday 28 March

Last Word...

The real actor - like any real artist - has a direct line to the collective heart.

Bette Davis