

NOISES OFF

APS newsletter January 2013

2013
HAPPY
NEW YEAR



The New Year is upon us and so is our first important date: auditions for our spring production 'Heatstroke'. This is a wonderful farce by that master of comedy writing, Eric Chappell (of TV's Rising Damp fame).

It is set in a Spanish villa in summer so it should help dispel those winter blues! See Page 2.

Heatstroke Auditions

Wednesday 9 January
at 7 pm in our Clubroom

Christmas Party 2012



Our Christmas Party at The Cider House sparkled with merry talk and happy laughter in an evening of good food, drink and festive cheer.

Many thanks to our hosts Myoko and Adrian Thorpe for their warm hospitality.

Members Meeting: "relook at ourselves and move forward in the best possible way"



Near half our membership (i.e. 40) packed into the Clubroom for the Members Meeting last month.

Our Chairman, Stuart McCreadie, opened by giving a brief outline of the events as they unfolded and the decisions that were taken by the Committee.

He also recounted the efforts of a Radio 4 reporter rooting around by phone and by door-stepping, trying – and failing – to dig up a story.

He then invited members for their comments and any points they wished to raise.

There followed a discussion in which some 18 members chose to speak. Many spoke on aspects of 'child protection' and the need in the future to demonstrate more clearly our policy.

There also seemed to be general support that Charles be welcomed back as a member at some time in the not-too-distant future "when the dust has settled."

There was also a call for the revival of 'The Winter's Tale' – fairly soonish while the cast still remembered their lines!

The meeting, which lasted just over half an hour, ended with Stuart promising that we "relook at ourselves and move forward in the best possible way."

Oh, and a plea for someone to step into the role as Treasurer!

The meeting ended with a round of applause of thanks to the Committee.

APS 2012-2013 season Upcoming Events

Wednesday 9 January
'Heatstroke' Auditions 7 pm

Wednesday 30 January
TBC

Friday 22 February
Variety Evening to name Jenny Ward Room

Thursday 7 March
Visit to Dorset Drama League at Shaftesbury Arts Centre

Sat 13 April-Sunday 21 April
Heatstroke Production Week
Performances 18-20 April

Friday 17 May
Annual Dinner at Castle Gardens with Murder Mystery. TBC

Tuesday 11 June
Part rehearsed drama of Hemingway's short story *The Killers*.

Friday 19 July
AGM and Summer Party.

All events take place at 7.30 pm in our Clubroom unless indicated otherwise.

Heatstroke Auditions

Wednesday 9 January At 7 pm In our Clubroom

Cast: Sam Spencer
Fay Spencer
Howard Booth
Dodie
Raynor
Mad Dog Moon

SYNOPSIS: Sam is your typical middle-aged angst-ridden man. Life hasn't been too good to him lately and he needs a lucky break. A mix-up of holdalls at the airport leaves him in possession of one packed with half million. Just what he needs.

Fay, his wife, is the sensible one who has done the one daring thing in her life by arranging a sneaky and free holiday in her boss's Spanish villa. She tries to be the voice of reason among the mayhem that ensues.

But the villa has been double-booked! Howard is a middle-aged actor, thrice married, who never quite made it because his talent is far less than he thinks it is. There's a strong smell of ham about this character.

Dodie is the young actress Howard has tempted on holiday; she has a sharp line in sarcasm. She's not really sure why she came, but is more than willing to join the plot to get her hands on a decent share of the money.

Raynor has a sense of mystery when he first appears, but is really a bog-standard detective who is not as resourceful as he thinks he is.

And then there's Mad Dog Moon, the gangster with the twitch he doesn't realise he has. Threatening, sadistic, and twitchy, a performance of this character needs to be funny without going over the top.

The assumed identities, breakneck pace and hilarious mishaps of farce mix with the tension, mystery and startling plot reversals of a thriller in this clever and amusing play.

Interested? Copies of the play are available now from director, Stuart McCreadie 01963 210548 email: StuLesMcC@aol.com

NODA SUMMER SCHOOL 2013 SAT 3 TO SAT 10 AUGUST

NODA announces that you can now book your places on the 2013 Summer School. Once again it is being held at the University of Warwick with more courses than ever.

It offers an unrivalled training opportunity for all those involved in amateur theatre.

Following the latest trends in professional theatre, there is a wide variety of week long and 3 day courses in a mix of disciplines for performers, directors and technicians.

With competitive course fees and top class residential facilities

at the University of Warwick (see above) you are guaranteed a fun-packed week of top quality training.

Courses for 2013 include many aimed at Musical Theatre but also: An introduction to Acting and The Method.

Short Courses:
Costumes
Design for Directors
Working with text for Directors
An introduction to Stage Lighting
An introduction to Stage Lighting Design
RSC - Voice and Text
Additional Shakespeare Short course TBC.

For full details about the NODA summer school 2013

courses, the tutors, the terms and conditions and booking go to: www.noda.org.uk/summerschool

**"THE PLAY'S
THE THING!" ***

Our President, Eve Simmonds, has come up with a new initiative to aid our selection of plays we might produce in future.

So, we're looking for your ideas of plays you think are worth considering (no commitment to direct.) All you have to do is pass them on to Eve who will read the plays you suggest and present her opinion to your committee.

Do contact Eve on 01935 812933. * *Hamlet Act 2, scene 2*

What's On

A selection of what's on around and about

DANGEROUS CORNER AT SALISBURY PLAYHOUSE

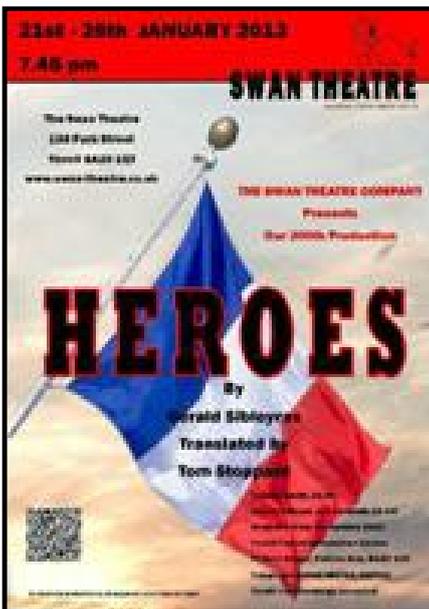
It's 1932, and at their stylish country retreat, Freda and Robert Caplan host a dinner party for their colleagues and friends, all executives at a transatlantic publishing company. Young, beautiful and successful they have the world at their feet.



Gradually, however, events turn a dangerous corner and a relentless series of revelations expose the darkness that lies beneath the glamorous facade. As truths and secrets tumble out, the cost of professional and social success is laid bare.

Performances: Thurs 31 Jan to Sat 23 Feb. Monday to Saturday evenings at 7.30pm. Matinees on Thursdays and Saturdays at 2.15pm (exc. 2 Feb) Box Office: 01722 320333 www.salisburyplayhouse.com

200TH PRODUCTION FOR THE SWAN



The Swan Theatre Company presents their 200th production, 'Heroes' by French dramatist, Gerald Sibleyras, and adapted by Tom Stoppard.

Set in a French retirement home for three First World War veterans, "Heroes" is a heartwarming, witty comedy.

Henri, Philippe and Gustav, while away the hours complaining about the staff, dreaming about young women and arguing over whether a statue of a dog is alive. They also devise an escape plan - taking the dog with them.

Check page 4 for dates and booking details.

MICHAEL FRAYN IN CONVERSATION

In 2012 four of Michael Frayn's plays were revived in this country to great acclaim *Noises Off*, *Copenhagen*, *Benefactors* and *Democracy*, and his new novel *Skios* was nominated for the Booker Prize.

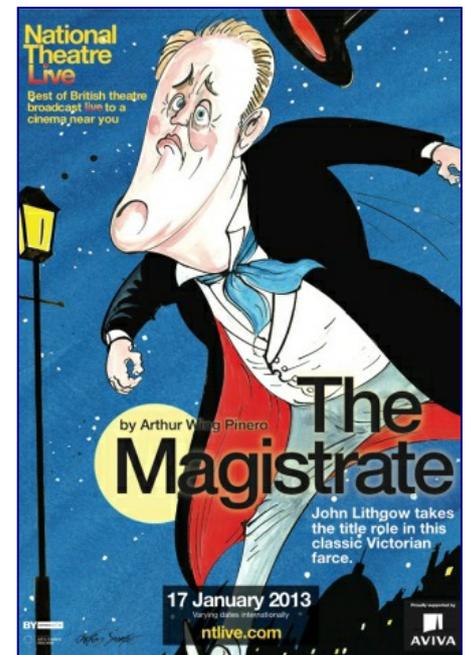
He will be discussing all of these, and much more, in this afternoon discussion with theatre writer John Miller at the Salisbury Playhouse at 2.15 pm on Saturday 12 January. Tickets £10. Box Office: call 01722 320333

www.salisburyplayhouse.com



NT Live at

 cineworld
Yeovil



Pinero's 'The Magistrate' a fast, furious and brilliantly plotted farce set in Victorian London kicks off NT Live 2013 productions.

Gently exposing the hypocrisy behind the well-upholstered manners and morals of the upper middle-class, The Magistrate follows the misfortunes of the Posket family in a tale of much dissembling. Having deceived her second husband - Aeneas, the magistrate - about her age, Agatha Posket has had to corroborate her story by telling him that her son, Cis, from her previous marriage, is 14 when he is actually 19. And when this secret is threatened by the appearance of the boy's godfather, Colonel Lukyn, Agatha is drawn further into mischievous plotting.

Thursday 17 January at 7 pm. Call 0871 200 2000 or Google Cineworld Yeovil. Save 10% booking online, plus no booking fees.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**JANUARY 2013**

Sat 12	Michael Frayn In conversation with John Miller	Salisbury Playhouse 2.15 pm
Thurs 14 to Sat 19	Quatermaine's Terms Pre West End tour	Theatre Royal, Bath Times vary
Thurs 17	NT Live: The Magistrate Pinero farce	Cineworld, Yeovil 7 pm
Mon 21 to Sat 26	Heroes Comedy adapted by Tom Stoppard	The Swan, Yeovil 7.45 pm
Mon 21 to Sat 26	The Mousetrap First UK tour	Theatre Royal, Bath Times vary
Tues 22 to Thurs 24	Caucasian Chalk Circle Heathfield Community School	Tacchi-Morris, Taunton 7.30
Wed 23 to Sat 9 Feb	Steptoe and Son From Galton & Simpson scripts	Bristol Old Vic 7.30 pm Mat Sat 2.30 pm
Fri 25	Frankenstein - the musical Miracle Theatre	Merlin Theatre, Frome 7.45 pm

FEBRUARY 2013

Thurs 31 Jan to Sat 23 Feb	Dangerous Corner J B Priestley	Salisbury Playhouse See Page 3
Tues 1	Romeo & Juliet Icarus Theatre Collective	Octagon, Yeovil 1 pm & 7.30 pm
Wed 6 to Sat 9	Knights in Plastic Armour A comedy	Warehouse, Ilminster 7.30 pm
Mon 11 to Sat 16	Surprises Alan Ayckbourn	Theatre Royal, Bath Mon/Wed 7.30 Thurs/Sat 8 pm
Wed 13 to Sat 16	Animal Farm Zenith Youth Theatre Co.	Mission Theatre, Bath 7.30 pm Mat Sat 2.30 pm
Sat 16	Creatures Arena Theatre	Shaftesbury Arts Theatre 8 pm
Wed 20 to Sat 23 Tues 26 to Sat 2 March	Going Postal From Terry Pratchett novel	Studio Theatre, Salisbury 7.30 pm
Sat 23	Jane Eyre Hull Truck	Merlin Theatre, Frome 7.45 pm

Shaftesbury: Box Office 01722 321744 www.shaftesburyartscentre.org.uk

Studio Theatre: Box Office 01722 334956 www.studiotheatre.org.uk

Octagon: Box Office 01935 422884 www.octagon-theatre.co.uk

Warehouse: Box Office 07943 779880 www.thewarehousetheatre.org.uk

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

Cineworld, Yeovil: Call 0871 200200 or save 10% by booking online

The Swan Theatre: from 30 October South Somerset Information Centre 01935 462781/462782

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

Theatre Royal, Bath: Box Office 01225 448844 www.theatreroyal.org.uk

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

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

NewsLetter
Deadline

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

February Copy Deadline: Mon 28 Jan

Last Word...

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

Bette Davis