

NOISES OFF

BILLY LIAR

As you already know, our major summer production is to be *Billy Liar* by Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall. Performance will take place on July 6th-11th. We will hold a read-through of the play at an informal **Interest Meeting** at 7.30pm on Tuesday March 10th. This will be followed by an open **audition** process starting at 7.30pm on Wednesday March 11th, with a further opportunity to audition at 10.30am on Saturday March 14th.

This is a popular and very funny play, and we very much hope to recruit a strong cast. We include below some thumbnail sketches of the characters; the ages shown should be regarded as guidelines only - we recognise that considerable flexibility is often required!

Florence Boothroyd

Old lady around 80, mother of Alice, lives in the past, largely ignored by her family. A source of huge irritation to Billy.

Geoffrey Fisher

40s/50s Billy's father. Blustering character, short temper, but otherwise rarely shows emotion. Relations between Geoffrey and Billy have broken down.

Alice Fisher

40s/50s Billy's mother. Simple uncomplicated woman but hub of the family She rarely sits down in the play, constantly working hard to keep the house tidy and look after her husband, her mother, and Billy.

Billy Fisher

Teens/20s, living with his parents and grandmother. A compulsive liar who lives in a fantasy world to get himself away from his complacent cliché-ridden background. He is simultaneously engaged to two girls and in love with a third.

Arthur Crabtree

20s. Billy's best friend, who works at the same undertaker's. Engages in much tomfoolery with Billy.

Barbara

One of Billy's fiancées. Barbara is prudish, always eating oranges, lives in a woman's magazine world and sees life through rose-tinted specs. Harbours romantic illusions of Billy.

Rita

Outspoken, working class, challenges Billy, particularly over her engagement ring (usually worn by Barbara).

Liz

The one who truly understands Billy and the only one in which he's genuinely interested.

(All 3 girls of an age to be of romantic interest for Billy)

THEATRE DEVELOPMENT

In the last issue of "Noises Off", we gave details of the various developments which had taken place in previous months. Most significant of these was the installation of raised and tiered seating in rows D-G. Many of you will of course by now have experienced the benefits of this, or at least will have seen others enjoying the benefits! It was most gratifying to hear the positive and enthusiastic comments from our audiences at "Table Manners", convincing us that this was indeed an excellent investment.

Amongst other developments, we omitted to mention the improved lighting above the main entrance, making access up and down the steps much safer in these dark winter months, and also illuminating our very handsome name-board above the door.

All of these things represent our ongoing efforts to give our audiences as comfortable an experience as they would expect of a professional theatre.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed March 18th Quiz night
Tue March 10th - *Billy Liar* read-through
Wed March 11th - *Billy Liar* auditions
***Sat March 14th 1030-** *Billy Liar* auditions
April 9th - 11th *Waiting for Godot*
Wed April 15th Quiz night
Tue April 28th Drama event
Wed May 25th Quiz night
Tue May 26th Drama event
Wed June 17th Quiz night
Tue June 30th Drama event
July 6th - 11th *Billy Liar*
Wed July 15th Quiz night

All events (except *) begin at 7.30pm

QUIZ NIGHT

This is a further reminder that our next Quiz Night will be held on Wednesday March 18th, at 7.30pm hosted by Geoffrey Martyn. Entry is £2.50 per person (in support of APS funds), and there is the opportunity to order a fish & chip supper. Do please come and support, and take part in a relaxing sociable and fun event.

WAITING FOR GODOT

Our next production is Samuel Beckett's masterpiece, performing at the Theatre from April 9th-11th. **TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW** through the three usual routes (www.aps-sherborne.co.uk, or the Tourist Information Centre, or - if necessary - 07585 278722)

With a highly experienced director and cast, we expect this to be a memorable and thought-provoking evening. A considerable step away from the sitting-rooms and costume dramas with which we have established such an outstanding reputation, we intend this show to demonstrate our strength in breadth as well as depth, and our ability to include smaller-scale, intimate productions within our repertoire.

The run is for only three nights, and so it is probable that the demand for tickets will outstrip supply, and, as always, you are urged to book early. For those unable to attend in Sherborne on 9th-11th, there are to be two preview performances at Shaftesbury Arts Centre, on April 3rd and 4th.



Martin Williams - Vladimir; **Carl Davies** - Estragon;
Adrian Harding - Pozzo; **Graham Smith** - Lucky

Photography - **Evie Wareham**

TABLE MANNERS

Our winter production of *Table Manners* played to packed houses in the last week of February, and was very warmly received. We feel our reputation will have been enhanced even further in the local community, with full houses every night roaring with laughter, and clearly having the most enjoyable of evenings - cold and wet outside, but warm and convivial inside.

We await the adjudication reports from the visits we received from both the Rose Bowl Award and NODA - these will be reported in the next "Noises Off", and also posted on the website. Meanwhile, a highly complimentary review from professional critic Fanny Charles appeared in the "Fine Times Recorder" (a website which is well worth exploring, containing as it does a wealth of information about local artistic, musical, theatrical,

literary, cinematic and culinary events). Here is a flavour of the report:

APS director, stage manager and designer John Crabtree is blessed for this hilarious production of Table Manners with a Norman who inhabits the role. Cameron Thrower makes Norman credible, attractive, infuriating.....

....a lovely sympathetic performance from Jane Pitts...

....Bev Taylor-Wade finding the humanity under the fixed coiffure and table etiquette....

....Rachael Alexander, crisply embodying the wittiest but nastiest character....

....Richard Culham gives an unexpected warmth to Reg....

....Roger Chadbourne gets right inside the emotional repression of the hopeless Tom, flapping his arms constantly and never quite making eye-contact....

It's a terrific production, with a good set and all-round convincing performances.

Even the performances in the early part of the week were sold out. We very much hope that all APS members heeded our advice to book early - the phone was ringing right up until the final show with people trying to get their hands on tickets.

And, as mentioned earlier, the new seating arrangements were also much appreciated!





Richard Culham - Reg	Roger Chadbourne - Tom	Cameron Thrower - Norman
Bev Taylor-Wade - Sarah	Jane Pitts - Annie	Rachael Alexander - Ruth