

NOISES OFF

AMATEUR PLAYERS OF SHERBORNE

newsletter SUMMER 2016



GREAT EXPECTATIONS - DELIVERED!

A strongly visual production, the composite set was beautifully painted to suggest a jetty and with an excellent representation of a gentleman's study. Atmospheric lighting and mist enhanced the action, with scudding clouds and gobos, although despite the designer's best intentions, some actors avoided standing on their spot. The boat was very well done.

An excellent choice of music set the scene and an original 'Forge Song' written by Annabel Thornton brought another dimension to the play.

This was my first visit to see APS in action and the impression is of a sound company of actors, taking on a difficult text and making it work. It is difficult to co-ordinate the action with a narrator, but the Players worked hard to make it happen.

Magwitch was by turns menacing and appealing, building his relationship with Pip to a touching conclusion. Adrian Harding and Kit Stickland were particularly strong in the final act, with pain and passion running high. Lucy Bennett's Estella became more convincing as she thawed. Miss Havisham flouted and flattered, stormed and simpered. Colin Hart was an engaging Gargery. Jonathan Roberts and Steve Crumpler were a commendable partnership as lawyer and clerk. Peter Morris was a horribly smug and superior Drummle. Jack Evans brought energy, verve and skillful acting, to the character of Herbert Pocket. Rosie Taylor-Wade was excellent as the haughty Young Estella. Harrison Parks played a charming Young Pip and Austin Wookey was a cheeky Young Herbert!

A good effort all round – well done APS. Reviewed by Sylvia Coates, our NODA rep.

It takes a degree of courage and masses of talent and hard work to stage Charles Dickens' wonderful novel Great Expectations.

But the Amateur Players of Sherborne rose to their own challenge with this adaptation by Declan Donellan and Nick Ormerod. The seamless style with merging of scenes and a helpful narrator allows the story to flow through the years and settings, from young Pip's shocking meeting with Magwitch in the churchyard to the obligatory happy ending.

But this production demands more than just a gripping story well told and this fine am-dram company pulls out all the stops on costumes, lighting and everything else. The attention to detail is admirable.

Success ultimately depends on the actors and the Players seem to be blessed in both abundance and ability. The Digby Hall stage is barely large enough as Dickens characters galore take their curtain call. Director Bev Taylor-Wade must be proud of all of them.

Posted by Dee Adcock, Blackmore Vale Magazine

GET YOUR GREAT EXPECTATIONS PHOTOS HERE



For photos of the production go over to our website www.aps-sherborne.co.uk. Click on Past Productions and then on Great Expectations Photo Gallery High res photos to download have been uploaded to Dropbox. Just click on this link.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/38zxv950xfnl5kp/AACeJzdqeV0KJ7m1h9XK-RkDa?dl=0> Downloading any or all images will be faster.



David and Sylvia have proposed that they will direct a Shakespeare evening at the Paddock Gardens on Friday 7th June. Here is the outline, and all it now needs is your participation in celebrating the 400 year anniversary (and good weather!) Contact David and Sylvia at 01935 817439 or at drysmith@btinternet.com

GREAT EXPECTATIONS - ANOTHER REVIEW

Declan Donellan and Nick Ormerod's adaptation of Charles Dickens' Great Expectations for Cheek by Jowl was first seen in 2005, and praised as an ensemble re-telling of the familiar story.

Since then the writer's fans have seen Dickensian, the clever reworking of various strands and characters from (and preceding) many Dickens stories into one sprawling whole.

Inevitably, the recent television series has slightly confused expectations, as much of Great Expectations as the other books it included. So at the Digby Hall in Sherborne there were some who were surprised by the very different appearance of the dastardly Mr Compeyson and unconvinced by the true "Dickensian" story of Miss Estella's provenance.

The style of the adaptation moves the action on at a fine pace, with little set and no break between scenes. The only braking element is the narration, in Bev Taylor-Wade's production at Sherborne, by Malcolm Cockburn's "elderly Pip",

Sticking faithfully to the story, the play is a helter-skelter run through the life of the orphaned Pip, picked up by Miss Havisham (whose cruel anguish was perfectly captured by Emma de la Poer), catapulted into the life of a gentleman and wracked by the identity of his benefactor.

Kit Stickland, who has already impressed at Yeovil's Swan in Twelfth Night and The Crucible, embodied the older Pip after a great start by Harrison Parks as the younger boy.

In this huge ensemble cast there were particularly memorable performances from Jack Evans as Herbert Pocket, Steve Crumpler as the kindly Wemmick, Colin Hart as the ever-loveable Joe Gargery, Rosie Taylor-Wade as young Estella, Jonathan Roberts as Jaggers and Adrian Harding, playing the convict Magwich as an incomprehending bear of a man.

The company included APS regulars and some first-timers on the stage. Congratulations to them all.

SHAKESPEARE & PIMMS

on a
SUMMER'S EVENING

PADDOCK GARDENS, NEWLAND, SHERBORNE

An informal celebration to mark the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death

FRIDAY 15th July from 7.30 pm to 9.00pm

Gates open at 6.45pm for you to enjoy the gardens.

Favourite scenes, speeches and music from The Bard performed by Amateur Players of Sherborne and their friends

Producers: Sylvia and David Smith Literary adviser: Patricia Harris

Admission by programme in advance from E & B Marsh & Son or Sherborne Tourist Information Centre

£X to include a drink of Pimms or a soft drink. Strawberries & cream available at £X

If wet, the event maybe moved to the following day.

Performers could use their speeches from roles played in previous APS Shakespeare productions.

Live music: keyboard, guitar, woodwind.

Period costume, not modern dress.

Players to mingle in costume with the audience, who would be seated casually at tables.

We would need to:

Obtain formal Town Council permission.

Check no serious clash of dates with other events in the town.

Invite schools/ dancing classes/ junior drama groups to take part (e.g. dance).

Hire a portaloos?

Consider amplification & lights. (Should not be needed). Power is laid on if needed.

Borrow tables & chairs. Suggest audience brings garden chairs?

Ask Sherborne Market Garden if they would like to sell strawberries for their own profit?

Print programmes with full details of items & performers

Publicize well and in good time.

Clear up litter.

Town Council should consent to free use of garden but we may not charge for entrance at gate.



Kit Stickland has been successful in his Audition for the National Youth Theatre 2016.

Every year it holds acting auditions around the UK. On average, it receives over 4,500 applicants.



Civic Players present Agatha Christie's Spider's Web at 7.45 pm in The Swan Theatre Wednesday 1 June to Saturday 4 June. Book online or call 01935 421772 Wednesday 1st: 2 tickets for £15.