

# NOISES OFF

## "THE DEEP BLUE SEA"

Our next event in the theatre will be an informal playreading on April 27th at 7.30pm, hosted by Richard Jones.

Written in the early fifties when Terence Rattigan was at the height of his powers, *The Deep Blue Sea* is a powerful account of lives blighted by love - or the lack of it.

Taking place over the course of one day, the play begins with the discovery of Hester Collyer in her flat by her neighbours, after Hester has failed in an attempt to take her own life by gassing herself. In flashback, some time before, we learn that Hester left her husband, Sir William Collyer, a respectable High Court judge, for a semi-alcoholic former RAF pilot, Freddie Page. Their relationship was physical and passionate, but his ardour eventually cooled, leaving her emotionally stranded and desperate. Initially unemployed, Freddie eventually takes a post in South America. The aftershocks of her attempted suicide unravel even the

remnants of this relationship. By the end of the day, Hester is brought to a hard decision to live, partly through the intercession of another resident of the tenement house, Mr. Miller, an ex-doctor struck off the register for an undisclosed reason. These two outcasts find a curious kinship.

This play is a portrait of need, loneliness and long-repressed passion.

As always, we will do our best to share the reading around all those who wish to participate, but you are also quite welcome to just turn up and listen. It will be helpful if you register your interest with Richard at

[richjonesdirects@yahoo.com](mailto:richjonesdirects@yahoo.com)

If you have a smartphone, tablet or laptop, a digital copy of the script will be sent to you in advance. This will be very helpful indeed, as we do not have large numbers of hard copies of the script.

## 100 CLUB - THE FIRST DRAW

Our brand-new 100 Club, launched just a couple of months ago, has its first winner, following the inaugural draw on April 9th. The lucky ticket was ticket number 4 - members of the Club have been informed of who the winner is, and the amount of the prize.

The disappointing news is that only around a quarter of the available tickets have been sold. But the good news is that even with only the existing members contributing, the Theatre will benefit to the tune of nearly £1000 by this December, and by well over £1000 in all future years. These funds are absolutely vital to the financial health of the theatre and the APS. Our overheads are huge, and, with such a small auditorium, our ticket takings are very modest. We really need these funds to be able to keep going.

**PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE** join the **100 Club**, to help secure our future. It will cost you less than 20p a day! All the details are on the Home Page of the website, or you can send a message to [ssst100club@gmail.com](mailto:ssst100club@gmail.com) Oh - and you might win cash prizes, too!

The next draw will take place on June 11th.

## “...A TOUR DE FORCE...”

The great success of *Educating Rita* was reported in the last edition of “Noises Off”. Since then, three professional reviews have been published. These are linked on the [Last Production](#) page of our website. There are some minor niggles and some curious omissions, but on the whole the reports are very positive, and we confidently expect to hear more from The Rose Bowl and NODA in due course. To whet your appetite here is a selection of quotes:

*“(Sarah Nias).... brings energy, boundless charm and a brilliant Liverpool accent to the role. She is mercurial, quick-witted, passionate, instinctive. All the things that Rita is.....”*

*“...played Rita perfectly. She had the stance, the attitude, the accent, and the clothes.”*

*“(Martin Williams) finds real humanity in Frank, a growing sense of the futility of his life, but a surprise at his ability to feel something, not only for the endlessly appealing Rita but also for the books, the poets, the writers from whom he has made his living..”*

*“Their on-stage relationship has real chemistry. Together they bring out the humour, anger, hurt, poignancy, optimism, alienation, excitement and other emotions that Rita hurtles through...”*

*“This was a tour de force by two experienced and gifted actors who worked so well together, the subtle interaction, the mutual admiration and affection at precisely the right level was admirable.”*

*“I felt like the entire house was entirely captivated by this performance...”*

These and other similar comments are richly deserved, and if you haven't already done so I recommend that you read the reports in full.

We also received a number of positive comments from members of the audience and I felt that it was only right to share these with a wider readership. As a result there is now a new [comments feature](#) at the bottom of the website Home page. And if you look at the News and Events page you will find another new feature; in the Events panel in the middle you will see ‘More Info’ buttons related to forthcoming play readings. Click on those to see what happens.

I am constantly looking for ways to improve and enhance the website. If there is anything you would like to see, or if you have any suggestions, do let me know.

**Mark Lambert**

## FREE TO A GOOD HOME

We have about half a dozen sheets of foam board (5' x 4' x 1/8") that we need to dispose of. We think they were originally acquired to make cut outs for the production of *The Wind in The Willows*, but they are of little use to us now and are just taking up valuable space. It seems a shame to just throw them away, but that's what will happen unless anyone wants them. If you can make use of this foam board, please inform Mark Lambert A S A P : [info@mark-lambert.co.uk](mailto:info@mark-lambert.co.uk)

## GET WELL SOON...

Readers will be concerned and sorry to hear of the accidents which have befallen two of our long-standing and vitally important members of APS.

**Malcolm Cockburn** was involved in a motorcycle accident during March, but we are glad to hear he is up and about now.

**John Crabtree** suffered a very nasty fall, badly damaging his knee, while manhandling scenery during set construction work in the theatre.

We send our very best wishes for a speedy recovery to both of these gentlemen, without whose efforts and generosity APS could not function as it does.

FROM THE BOX OFFICE

KEEP THE DATE FREE!

This is a sight to gladden the heart of our directors and actors:

Screenshot 2022-03-16 at 22.43.29

AMATEUR PLAYERS OF SHERBORNE

What's On > Educating Rita > Dates Login

Date	Start Time	Places Available
Monday 21 March 2022	7:30pm	Sold out
Tuesday 22 March 2022	7:30pm	Sold out
Wednesday 23 March 2022	7:30pm	Sold out
Thursday 24 March 2022	7:30pm	Sold out
Friday 25 March 2022	7:30pm	Sold out
Saturday 26 March 2022	7:30pm	Sold out

Amateur Players of Sherborne - Powered by The Little Box Office

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Although it seems like she has been with us for ever, it is less than a year since we were able to welcome the hugely talented Sarah Nias into the ranks of APS. In that time, Sarah has made an outstanding contribution to last summer's *Shakespeare In (and out of) Love*, taking on the pivotal roles of not only Kate (*The Taming of the Shrew*) and Viola (*Twelfth Night*), but also Beatrice (*Much Ado About Nothing*). Not content with that, and in addition to playing two major roles in productions at The Swan over the winter, she eagerly took on, and triumphed as our very recent *Rita*.

A professional actress, a graduate in Actor Musicianship, and now teaching drama at a local school, Sarah has kindly offered to lead an Acting Masterclass, in our theatre. This will take place on **Saturday May 14th**, and is sure to be a huge amount of fun. The session will start at 10.00am, and finish mid-afternoon. Do come along, with a packed lunch, and bring your friends with you. No level of talent or experience is required or expected!

More details will be emailed to APS members nearer the date.

Unfortunately, it was not such a welcome sight to many would-be customers (including some APS members) who left it too late to be able to get hold of a ticket to any one of our most recent productions. In particular, and despite publicising the fact that our shows nearly always sell out early, it was very evident that there was a great demand for tickets for *Educating Rita*, in the last couple of weeks before the performance, and on the days of the show itself. Well done to those of you who took our advice and booked early (nearly 80% of all available tickets were sold in the first few days)!

It was also a great sadness that a number of ticket-holders were unable to take their places because of Covid-19. In most cases, these tickets were re-sold, and we are very grateful to the majority of these customers who offered to donate the cost of their ticket. The speed with which tickets were re-sold was a clear indication of the demand for them.

It is probably true to say that APS's reputation for the quality of its productions is going from strength to strength, and, with the effect of both word-of-mouth, and of the impact of social media, that tickets for future productions will be in even greater demand.

(Advance notice: Tickets for *Billy Liar* will be on sale from June 27th. Put the date in your diary!)

## "BILLY LIAR" - OUR NEXT MAJOR PRODUCTION

This popular 1960s comedy tells the story of Billy Fisher, a young man living with his parents in the fictional town of Stradhoughton in Yorkshire. Billy is idle, dishonest and an incurable liar. Bored by his dull job as an undertaker's clerk and his dreary domestic background, he tries to

escape by weaving a world of his own out of fantasies and dreams. He has three girlfriends and has somehow managed to be engaged to all three of them. His family are fully aware that he is a good for nothing, but are unable to understand or control him.

Billy's imaginary life becomes so complicated, and he concocts so many different fantasy situations that truth and fiction become hopelessly intermingled. This inevitably lands him in trouble with his family, girlfriends and employers. But when he is given the chance to start a new life, he turns it down, preferring his dreams to reality.

Auditions have now taken place, but casting is not yet complete, and if you are interested in taking part, do please contact

[jessica@ridgewayfarm.co.uk](mailto:jessica@ridgewayfarm.co.uk)

**Performance dates are 25th - 30th July.**

As well as potential onstage performers, the director (Jessica Colson) is eager to hear from members who can help out in other ways, particularly in the areas of PROPS and WARDROBE.

Meanwhile, the loyal and dedicated (but very small) team of set-builders are always hoping to be joined by volunteers every Sunday morning from 9.00 onwards.

**BILLY LIAR**  
By Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall

Directed by Jessica Colson

APS  
AMATEUR PLAYERS OF SHERBORNE

Sherborne Studio Theatre  
Mon 25th - Sat 30th July, 7.30 pm