



Notice is hereby given that the

44th Annual General Meeting

of the

Apollo Theatre Players

will be held in the Auditorium

on

Saturday 28th November 2015 at

7:30pm

No unsigned copy will be accepted.

Please use full names (of members or authors, etc) at all times.

Copy deadline is the FIRST Saturday of each play.

Editors email address: postmaster@sleeptite.force9.co.uk

Apollo Website: www.apollo-theatre.org.uk



Director's Chat

Amy Burns

amy@masexodus.co.uk or 07886 389 561

So it looks like another fabulous play (well done Mog, Cast and Crew) and Maggie for picking such a fab play.

Work on the bar has progressed well, and I am hoping that we will have it official named and opened soon. Watch this space.

End of November sees our next AGM and the voting in of the Next Arts Manager for the 2016/2017 season. If you are interested in standing please get together a rough season and bit about yourself and let Paul have the details then he can email it to members. Also up for re-election Members representatives, who are the voice of the members to the committee and Technical manager. All nominations that are received must be signed and seconded. All three signatures must be of **fully paid up members**.

If you are interested in any of the posts and are not sure what they involve please do contact me and I will do my best to answer your questions.

As always **thank you** for your continued support of the Apollo.

100 Club

The 100 Club's prize for September of £50 was won by Mr and Mrs Talbot.

If you are interested in finding out more about the 100 Club the forms can be found in the Foyer of the Theatre but please follow the instructions carefully if you decide you'd like to be part of it. Make sure that we know your name and address so that you are included in our list and so that we are able to send the cheque to the right place when necessary. You would be supporting the efforts of the Apollo Trust in its work of maintaining the Theatre and of its object of education in the Arts amongst the Community. Cynara : Tel 527606

FILM SOC

A quick note to all members who came to the unfortunately unsuccessful showing of Richard II on 25th September. I had planned the evening as the first 'outing' of the 'refreshed' Film Soc, and although the fault was entirely outwith our control I can only apologise again most sincerely and thank you for your support. The system we were planning to use is a good one but I think as yet insufficiently tested; I hope to use it again when they've got it a bit more sorted. So don't despair, film buffs – Film Soc will return!!

Ginnie Orrey



Membership

Pam Cranfield (pamelacranefield@yahoo.com) 01983 856237

We welcome Becky Simons to our membership and hope she settles happily into Apollo life!

Nothing else to report this issue, except to remind you all that subs for 2016 are due on or before January 1st. If you pay by Standing Order, please could you check that your bank is due to transfer the funds on that day. Should you wish to post me your subs, please do so to my home address if possible to ensure I can give a prompt response.

Montecello
Maples Drive
Bonchurch
PO38 1NR

If there is a problem, please email me at pcranefield989@hotmail.com or telephone 856237.

THE BIRTHDAY PARTY

by Harold Pinter

1st and 2nd then 5th to 9th April

Note: the previous weekend is Easter but we can work around this.

I call this play a sinister comedy. Stanley, a truculent lodger in a grotty seaside boarding house, is first terrorised then carted away by two mysterious strangers. There is a strain of humour throughout the play. It's a well-made play in three acts in the tradition of the rep thriller, crafted by an actor/playwright who'd spent much of the fifties slogging round the weekly reps. Written in 1958, the Apollo first presented The Birthday Party in 1974.

Petey	a middle-aged deckchair attendant. A quiet man.
Meg	his wife, naïve, gullible, sluttish but likeable.
Stanley	the only lodger, a slovenly man with a past. Youngish.
Lulu	young neighbour, up for a good time.
Goldberg	Jewish, expansive, controlling and ruthless. Organises the eponymous Party.
McCann	his Irish Catholic side-kick. Humourless. Sings.

DATES

Read through: Monday 30th November 7.30 pm to familiarise members with the play. NOT an audition.

Audition: Sunday 13th December 2.30 pm in the Theatre.

Please contact me for more details or to express your intention to audition for this landmark play in the post-war history of English theatre.

Marylyn Ford (01983) 811591, assisted by Mike Whitehead



LTG News

The Southern Region Conference at the Studio Theatre in Salisbury has been excellent in every way. One gets used to finding a smiling welcome at the host theatre for these Conferences and at Salisbury they were up there with the best . . . and it was so well organised, from the first evening with a buffet supper followed by a theatre quiz in a local riverside pub. I'm sorry to say that with infrequent visits to London my knowledge of professional theatre and theatres is limited but it was thoroughly enjoyable.

The workshops ranged from a virtual world tour looking at the ways in which people alter their appearance and their reasons, camouflage, tradition or to attract others, and the methods used, through cosmetics, paint, tattoos, body piercings or multiple rings on their necks. It was a thoroughly fascinating session. Some of the styles have been adapted and used for effect within stage productions.

The next session was given by a young man who had come through the Studio's own Youth Group and had had a short piece which he had written accepted for performance and is now a fully-fledged writer. He was describing a kind of method of association which he uses to thrash out ideas for a playscript and involved his audience by getting responses to a starting point supplied by him and developing connexions.

A third that I attended by mistake (I had actually decided to go on the proffered walk around Salisbury but just followed people back into the auditorium) was from a photographer talking about the differences between the cameras using film and the modern digital cameras and what one should use to get results that are capable being enlarged to the n^{th} degree. I'm afraid some of it was rather too technical for me. I'm quite happy with my little Fuji and don't really want to spend 2 or 3 thousand pounds on a Nikon that looked far too heavy to carry around.

On Sunday morning we were treated to a presentation of work by the Youth Group, ranging from exercises that they use for calling the register; one person gives a theme word and in turn everyone else steps forward to move or speak briefly in the manner of the word, gives their name and returns into the ring. Some of the work which they themselves have devised was shown and some prepared or memorised speeches were included to demonstrate that work from scripts is involved in their overall scheme.

Saturday evening's play was an impeccably performed farce called 'Don't get your Vicars in a Twist' which had the whole audience chuckling.

The Studio Theatre was congratulated on everyone's behalf by our Southern Region Secretary, Eddie Redfern, for a most impressive weekend.

Next year's National Conference and AGM will celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the LTG and will be held at the Crescent Theatre Birmingham on 8th, 9th & 10th April 2016. As part of the celebrations the Crescent have invited short showpieces from other member theatres and hope that each region will be represented. There may be a problem with accommodation as there is another massive gathering in Birmingham at the same time and many hotels are already well booked we were told.

Cynara Crump LTG Rep – [Tel:-527606](tel:-527606) or email cynara.crump@virgin.net

The 17th Isle of Wight Amateur Theatre Awards

May I take this opportunity to congratulate the nominations of the 17th Isle of Wight Amateur Theatre Awards. John Han-nam has now decided that this is the last award ceremony.

Over the years we have had a great many nominations and awards, I would like to say well done to everyone that has received an Award, a nomination and been involved in any production that has received either.

This year our lucky nominees are:

Paul Stevens - Dame in Sheerluck Holmes
Graham Brown - Best supporting male in Dracula
Adam Richardson - Best Major Debut in Ladies in Retirement
Christian Mandersfield - Best male lead in Mind game
Helen Clinton Pacey - Best female lead in Six dance lessons
Maria Wilkinson - Best female lead in Streetcar Named Desire
Jane Moore - Best Female lead in Streetcar Named Desire
Di Evans - Best Director for Streetcar Named Desire
Dracula - Best Staged Set
Six Dance Lessons - Best Staged Set
Streetcar Named Desire - Best staged set
MindGame - Best Comedy
Graham Brown - Best comedy Moment in Dracula
Streetcar Named Desire - Best Play
Six Dance lessons - Best play

I hope that you will wish them all luck along with all the other nominees of the night. **Amy**

May I please say a HUGE THANK YOU, from all of the players and public of the Apollo Theatre.

To Roger Simpson, Mike Whitehead, Paul Stevens, Hilary Simpson, Dan Burns. For all their hard work in getting the Bar looking so fabulous.

Also thanks to Colin Ford, Ian Moth, Freda Wheeler, Eve Fradgley.

There are still a few last jobs to do, but looking fab. :) Amy

GINNIE ORREY: PROPOSED SEASON 2016-17

I would like to stand as Arts Manager for 2016-17 and have set out a proposed season below. It's a varied collection, with some 'big hitters' and some lighter plays and offering, I hope, opportunities for lots of our actors and potential actors to get on stage and for new and established directors to use their imaginations. Where I've given some alternatives it's because, on recent experience, licences can't always be taken for granted!

1. September 2016 'After September' (Jimmie Chinn) 11W 1M

The staff of the Gwendolen Kyte School for Girls are an odd assortment of social misfits and eccentrics. Returning for a new term they face a catalogue of catastrophe and tension reaches breaking point when a government inspector arrives with anonymous letters defaming the school as outmoded, old-fashioned and unsafe, and the staff as unqualified. Who could have betrayed them? And if the school is closed down, where will they go? A warm and touching depiction of female relationships, with several excellent roles for older actresses.

2. An Enemy of the People (Ibsen)

The 'big hitter' of the season, about corruption and whether it is possible to maintain principles in the face of pragmatism.

3. Christmas 2016 'Season's Greetings' (Ayckbourn) 3W 4M OR 'Toad of Toad Hall'

Both hugely entertaining.

'Season's Greetings' shows a family Christmas descending slowly into chaos via drunken arguments, suppressed passion and an abortive puppet show.

'Toad' is a classic and needs no introduction!

4. 2017 'The Deep Blue Sea' (Terence Rattigan) 3W 4M

The play tells the story of the estranged wife of a high court judge whose passion for another man drives her to the brink of destruction in the repressed 1950s.

5. 'The Selkie Wife' (Kelly Burke) 3W 2M New/unknown in UK

This play, by a Canadian dramatist, is about Selkies – seals who are able to take human form by shedding their seal skins and can revert to seal form by putting their selkie skin back on. Sometimes the human will not know that their lover is a selkie, and wakes to find them gone; at other times the human will hide the selkie's skin, thus preventing them from returning to seal form. I was fortunate enough to meet the playwright in Canada and see a fantastic production of the play in a tiny theatre in the middle of the prairie, and was quite blown away by its power.

6. **'The Real Inspector Hound' (Tom Stoppard) 3W 7M paired with 'Black Comedy' (Peter Shaffer) 3W 5M**

An evening of comedy: these two plays are often produced in tandem.

'The Real Inspector Hound' is a one-act play which follows two theatre critics named Moon and Birdboot who are watching a conventional and rather bad country house murder mystery. In a strange breaching of the 'fourth wall' convention they become involved in the action, causing a series of events that parallel the play they are watching. Hugely clever and funny.

'Black Comedy' is a one-act farce staged under a reversed lighting scheme: the play opens on a darkened stage. A few minutes into the show there is a short circuit, and the stage is illuminated to reveal the characters in a 'blackout'. On the few occasions when lights are lit, the lighting grows dimmer. The farcical plot revolves around a young sculptor and his debutante fiancée who have borrowed some expensive, antique furniture from his neighbour without his permission in order to impress an elderly millionaire art collector coming to view his work. Things rapidly slide into disaster.

7. **3 alternatives: 'The Conquering Hero' (Allan Monkhouse), 'Woman in Mind' (Ayckbourn) (if we don't do 'Season's Greetings'), 'Pack of Lies' (Hugh Whitmore)**

'The Conquering Hero' is a play about World War I, written five years before Sherriff's better-known 'Journey's End' and often regarded as much better – more politically radical in its scepticism about war, and questioning the era's conventional attitudes to heroism. A powerful play with some excellent roles for both men and women.

The central character in **'Woman in Mind'** is Susan, a housewife who, in reality, is neglected by her husband, patronised by her sister-in-law, and estranged from her son. In her own imaginary world, by contrast, she is happy, successful, and loved by her perfect family. The cast consists of four 'real' characters and three imaginary ones and as the play progresses it becomes increasingly difficult to distinguish reality from Susan's imagination. Susan remains on stage throughout the play, and everything seen and heard on stage is what is seen and heard by Susan, both real and imagined.

In **'Pack of Lies'**, the Jacksons are a nice middle-aged English couple. Their best friends are their Canadian neighbours, the Krogers. All is blissful in their world until a detective from Scotland Yard asks to use their house as an observation station to try and foil a Soviet spy ring operating in the area. The Jacksons become more and more put out as Scotland Yard's demands on them increase. They are really put to the test when the detective reveals that the spies are the Krogers and he asks them to help set a trap. Should they betray their friends? This is a play about the morality of lying, not the theatrics of espionage.

Somewhere in the season I would like to fit in a three-night 'fundraiser', probably some of Alan Bennett's 'Talking Heads'. This would vary our offering and since they are all monologues they can be rehearsed outside the theatre and performed if necessary on a bare stage. This would also give other actors opportunities to perform.

Origins Theatre Company

CALLING ALL ISLE OF WIGHT THEATRE GROUPS ...

We are launching a monthly one act comedy night in the new year.

It's 'The Bargeman's Jest' and you can join in the fun, spend a night in the pub, and maybe win a prize, too. Result! We are looking for blazingly funny comedies that can be mixed and matched to make up a one hour session. So you could submit one 60 minute, four 15 minute or two 30 minute plays for us to choose from.

They'll be rehearsed readings, so you won't have to learn lines, so you can still take part even if you're in the middle of rehearsing something else. But here's the small print ... they will need to actually be rehearsed (we know, life's tough sometimes) and the slicker they are, the more chance you have of winning a prize at the awards night in July 2016. We'll be posting full details soon, but for now, why not start deciding now on the comedy you would like to submit before the deadline of SATURDAY DECEMBER 5th.

The rules are ... it must be very funny!; maximum one hour; maximum four people; maximum set of one table and four chairs; no offensive material; and must not have been performed on the Island in the last two years. This is for amateur groups and writers only, by the way!

We'll pick the best six to start with (or however many we need to make up a one hour session each month); every submission will be considered; and if we can't fit all your great comedies in this time round, we'll keep it going right through the year, and into infinity and beyond ...

Please spread the word. And get yer favourite funny scripts out! Or why not write a new one?
Look out for more info in a couple of weeks.

Just a Grumble!

Recently, when entering the Theatre I have noticed that doors have been left unlocked, lights have been left on and alarms have not been left switched on. Not all at the same time I hasten to add.

I know that sometimes when you are in a hurry, the above actions can slip your mind but I would like to remind everyone that the alarms and locks have been put in place to deter any unauthorised persons from entering.

We have only been burgled twice in our history and your co-operation in setting alarms and locking all doors will go a long way towards ensuring that this never happens again.

It will also help to reduce the size of our electricity bill if all lights are switched off.

Think before you leave is the slogan to remember!

Mike Whitehead



Big Amateur Weekend: 21st and 22nd November

Join us for a weekend of workshops, masterclasses and backstage insight, tailor made for amateur theatre makers wanting to develop their performance skills and learn more about how RSC actors prepare, rehearse and perform*.

The weekend includes four workshops covering voice and text, movement, acting and stage combat led by RSC practitioners and leading industry professionals; a masterclass led by an RSC director; a backstage tour; buffet lunches and a ticket to [Wendy & Peter Pan](#), the RSC's much acclaimed re-telling of the Peter Pan story, in the Royal Shakespeare Theatre.

Join us at our home in Stratford-upon-Avon, birthplace of William Shakespeare, for an unforgettable theatre experience working in the RSC's own rehearsal rooms with some of the teams behind our world-class productions.

Sessions will cover our approach to performing Shakespeare but also a wide range of performance techniques. Suitable for anyone wanting to develop their performing skills for any production - modern or classical. **All abilities and levels of experience welcome.**

Participants must be 18+.

Price £220 (does not include accommodation)

Places are limited and early booking is recommended

To book your place please call the RSC Ticket Hotline on **01789 403493**.

* Those who have already participated in RSC Open Stages (the RSC's UK wide project engaging with amateur theatre makers) or previous Big Amateur Weekends are very welcome and will be offered new workshops to further develop their skills rather than re-covering old ground. Please mention when booking.

CYNARA CRUMP: PROPOSED SEASON 2016-17

I would like to put forward the following season of plays for the membership's consideration at next month's A.G.M. They are not in any particular order.

1. **'If I Were You' by Alan Ayckbourn (3M 2F):** this is an early play by Ayckbourn and deals with the tensions in a family where one parent is inflexible in his attitude to the other members. The second part becomes hilarious where husband and wife change places to all intents and purposes while retaining their own attitudes. The set requires the ability to be a furniture showroom as well as a family home. It needs clever design and lighting.

2. **'Bonaventure' by Charlotte Hastings (3M 8F):** a female prisoner, convicted of murder, is being transported to her final destination when the car in which she and her two escort prison officers are travelling is prevented by floods from going any further. They have to seek shelter in a nearby convent where one of the sisters is drawn into her story, and into trying to find a truth behind what she is told.

3. **'Waters of the Moon' by F.C.Hunter (4M 6F):** this takes place during wartime in a small hotel in Devon just two days after Christmas. The placid way of life of the inhabitants is thrown into turmoil by the arrival of strangers who live life on a different plane. This is one the Players have performed before in 1978, and I have been reacquainting myself with the story with a play-reading group from the Y3A. It's very powerful.

4. **'The Woman in Black' by Susan Hill (2M 1F):** a ghost story.

5. **'The Memory of Water' by Shelagh Stephenson (2M 4F):** three sisters get together to sort out their dead mother's house and belongings. Old squabbles resurface but may be resolved by a new tolerance.

6. **'Quartet' by Ronald Harwood (2M 2F):** set in a retired musicians' home, there is a sharp, evocative sense of contrast between the attitudes of three residents in their current lives and that of a newcomer seemingly unable to accept the loss of fame.

7. **'Cold Comfort Farm' by P Douse (5M 5F):** based on the comic novel by Stella Gibbons, when a 'bright young flapper', Flora, comes to visit distant relations living on a farm which seems to belong to a past century in its way of life; she sets herself to help put things right.

I'd welcome other people's comments, or suggestions. Cynara Crump tel. 527606 or email cynara.crump@virgin.net

Read through dates

Listed below are the rest of the read through dates for our 44th season. Please remember that these are only for members to find out what a play is like and they are not auditions.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| • The Birthday Party | Monday November 30 th |
| • Little Gem | Monday February 8 th |
| • 'Allo 'Allo | Monday March 28 th |
| • | |

If you need any more information please contact the directors of each individual play or Maggie Cardew.

Notice is hereby given that the 44th Annual General Meeting of the Apollo Theatre Players will be held in the Auditorium on Saturday 28th November 2015 at 7:30pm

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes from the 43rd AGM
3. Matters arising from the previous meetings
4. Reports (It would be very much appreciated if reports could be submitted in advance by email to the Secretary, michaelwhitehead@yahoo.com)
5. Accounts of the Year
6. Election of Officers
 - a. Arts Manager 2016/2017
 - b. Technical Manager
 - c. Members Representatives (2 posts)
7. Any other competent business

Nominations for all posts must be in the hands of the Secretary c/o Apollo theatre by 10pm on Saturday 14th November 2015.

Members, knowing that they are unlikely to be able to attend the meeting and realising that they may need a postal vote in the event of more than one nomination being received, should apply to the Secretary for a postal voting form no later than 10pm on Saturday 14th November 2015.

Nominations do not have to be made on the form below but all nominations must have a Proposer and Seconder. Proposer, Seconder and Nominee must be paid-up members of the Theatre and must have signed the nomination form.

NOTE: ONLY CURRENT, FULLY PAID UP MEMBERS MAY VOTE AT THE MEETING

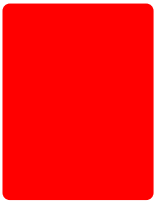
**Apollo Players 44th Annual General Meeting November 2014
To the Secretary, Apollo Theatre**

I wish to nominate:	
For the role of:	

	Print name	Signature
Proposer		
Seconder		

I accept the above nomination	(Signature)
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If undelivered, please return to: Apollo Theatre, Pyle Street, Newport,
Isle of Wight, PO30 1JT



☎: 01983 527267

44th Season

The Apollo Players

present

Friday 4th to Saturday 5th October (Matinee)

and

Tuesday 8th to Saturday 12th October

7.30 pm

Box Office Open Daily ☎: 01983 527267

From Saturday to Saturday (except Sundays)

between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. and from 6.45 p.m. during the run

For information and booking online go to

www.apollo-theatre.org.uk

