



Forthcoming read-throughs, auditions & other production stuff

- **CHANGE OF DATE**
 'Allo 'Allo' auditions will be held on Sunday 17 April at 12.00 noon in the theatre—**not** on Sunday 10 April as previously notified. If you'd like to audition but can't make that time, please contact Steve on steveread-ing104@btinternet.com
- **Members' production** read-through: Sunday 1 May, 5.30 in the bar
- **'The Ladykillers'** read-through: Monday 9 May, 7:30 pm in Hancock House
- **'The Ladykillers'** auditions: Sunday 29 May, 2:30 pm in the theatre

Other diary dates
(more info on the website)

Jazz at the Apollo: Sandy Suchodolski	3.00 10 April
Red Tie production	14-16 April
St George's Day social events	23/24 April
Apollo Juniors production	2.30 23-24 April
Blues at the Apollo	7.30 29 April
First read-through for members' production	1 May 5.30
Jazz at the Apollo: Cass Caswell with Sinead McCabe	22 May

apollonius

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April 2016

The Birthday Party

How interesting, and how apposite, that we heard recently of the death of the stage director Peter Wood at the age of 90. In his long and illustrious career he made his name not only by collaborating with Tom Stoppard on ten world premieres including *Jumpers* and *Night and Day*, but also by directing Harold Pinter's first major play, *The Birthday Party*, in 1958. As we know, the play initially caused alarm and consternation but went on to be one of Pinter's greatest plays, and one which Marylyn Ford, who is directing the Players' production which goes up on 1 April, is approaching with excitement in spite—or perhaps because—of its many challenges.

Despite being faced with a director's nightmare—not

just one but two cast members having to drop out through ill-health and a further character having to be re-cast twice—Marylyn is remaining focused on her vision for the play. This can be summed up in a comment by Pinter himself to a young Alan Ayckbourn, who was cast as Stanley in a 1959 production. When Ayckbourn asked of his character, 'Where does he come from? Where is he going? How can I understand him?' Pinter replied, 'Mind your own [blank] business. Concentrate on what's there.' Marylyn says, 'I'm less brusque with my actors but Pinter's dialogue really does set him apart. He uses everyday speech as key to an imagined golden past or a weapon of domination. Through everyday objects such as



Michael Arnell, Peter Harris and Colin Ford in Pinter's 'comedy of menace'

fried bread, one Eccles cake, a glass of water, he achieves the big effects that older actors like Donald Wolfitt accomplished with a sweep of a cloak. His plays are a joy for a director to take off the page.'

'The Birthday Party' runs from 1-9 April.

'Little Gem' - an unknown gem!

The auditions for the Players' next production, the less well known 'Little Gem', took place on 21 February. Director Maggie Cardew was delighted with the turnout on the day and was able to cast the parts, as follows:

Kay: Helen Clinton-Pacey
 Lorraine: Amy Burns
 Amber: Britney Kent
 Shadows & spectators: Edward Nash & Carole Crow

For those not familiar with the play, it was described in a review in the Telegraph in 2010 as '*a little gem of a play, vivid, funny and touching ... Lovely, life-affirming work*'. It was the surprise hit of the 2008 Dublin Fringe Festival, '*one of those rare plays that leave you feeling better about life when you leave the theatre than you did when you entered.*'

It doesn't sound exciting on paper—the three protagonists tell the story of an event-filled year in a series of intercut monologues—but the audience is drawn into their stories, which are told in vivid language, shot through with often ribald humour. Not to be missed!

'Little Gem' runs from 20-28 May.

Editorial: the view from the Editor's chair

Quote of the week: 'I am tired of hearing that amateurs are more sincere than professionals because they do it for love. It seems to me unjust that the man who forgoes regular employment and devotes his life to the fluctuant rewards of stage presence should be held less sincere than the man for whom acting is simply a more exhibitionist alternative to bridge' (Kenneth Tynan, writing in *The Observer* in 1957). 'Discuss', as they say.

Where does one begin (other than to comment

that, speaking as a non-player, bridge has always seemed to me not only highly exhibitionist but also an exercise in playing a part)? Let's face it, for both amateurs and professionals, we all step on the stage for the love of the thing. Why else would we put ourselves in an incredibly vulnerable position, constantly criticised by all and sundry and open to potential ridicule and at any moment to the existential horror of drying? Admittedly, as amateurs our livelihoods don't depend on the whims of crit-

ics – despite our response to the CP! – but I used to know an ex-professional actor who was part of the team at the NT and would always refer to stepping on the National stage as 'going to work'. Which of course it was – does that make acting more or less magical? Perhaps we should simply accept that, through skill or luck or combination of circumstance, some of us will be lucky enough to be paid for doing the thing we love best, while the rest of us do it for love – and are none the worse for that.

Alain Smith's funeral



Alain in action rehearsing *The Shakespeare Revue*

The funeral of our much-loved and respected Alain Smith took place at the IW Crematorium on 19 February. Members will know that he died suddenly and unexpectedly in early January; the delay in his funeral arrangements was as a result of his having very few relatives and all on the mainland quite some distance away. His nephew, Gary, and niece, Alison, came over for the service, which was very well attended not only by members of the Island theatrical community but also by friends of Alain's from his past, particularly in Italy. The service was fairly short but included a thoughtful eulogy from Gary commenting on the family's pleasure that Alain had found a theatrical 'family' on the Island. Martie Cain, from AdLib, spoke a short poem, and the cast of 'The Shakespeare Re-

vue' sang the final song from the show – a particularly poignant piece as



it was the last production Alain was involved in at the Apollo (and possibly on the Island). The line 'Goodnight ladies, goodnight sweet ladies, goodnight' was changed to 'Goodnight Alain ...' which as can be imagined left hardly a dry eye in the house and led to some rather wobbly singing. However, in the absence of the planned exit music, Lawrence Bate played us out to 'Let's Do It', which Alain would surely have approved.

After the service a gathering was held at the Apollo; Gary and his family kindly supplied food and drink and everyone shared memories of Alain—including a lady who had come over from Rome especially for the funeral (below), and a young man who was encouraged by Alain to take up dancing and is now appearing in 'Wicked' in the West End.



A good send-off for a lovely man.

COMMITTEE MEETING POSTPONED

This page, as they say in all the best training manuals, is intentionally blank. The reason for this is that two Committee members are away on the date of the normal committee meeting (the Monday between the weeks of the run of the current play), so it's being held over to the following Monday, 11 April. I don't want to postpone sending out this issue, so my plan is to send out an update after the meeting if any important items arise from it.

So in the meantime, here are some other bits of news.



SPECIAL OFFER: TICKETS FOR 'AN INSPECTOR CALLS' AT THE MAYFLOWER

I have two tickets for 'An Inspector Calls' for this Wednesday evening, 6 April, but owing to unforeseen circumstances I can't use them. Would anyone like to take them off my hands? They are good seats, Row B in the Dress Circle, and you can have them for £25 each (cost me £29.50 each). Email me on gginnie@googlemail.com if you'd like them—but be quick—time's running out!

Ginnie Orrey

STAGECRAFT WORKSHOPS

A message from Michael Arnell

It is obviously quite difficult to arrange an evening drama workshop because the theatre is always busy. The last two Sunday 11am-4pm workshops were hardly oversubscribed.

However, I feel that they are very valuable in developing and practising acting techniques in a non-threatening, friendly atmosphere. I am willing to run another. Comments welcomed.

Goodbye, Jill, we'll miss you!

Jill Farrell said goodbye to all her friends at a splendid buffet in the Apollo Bar on Friday, 1 April. She and her husband Alex came to the Island twenty-four years ago. Having both been involved in professional theatre in London, they joined the Apollo Players.

They soon involved themselves in all aspects of our theatre: acting, directing, cleaning and front-of-house duties. Jill epitomised membership in her unstinting commitment. We wish her happiness in her new home near her family in Ramsgate.

Jill is pictured below as one of the Chorus in the Players' production of Medea in 1996 (Jill is second from right, if you can't tell under the makeup!).



Theatre Director & Chair of management committee (elected 3-yearly): Amy Burns (2013-16) amy@masexodus.co.uk			
Arts Manager (elected annually in Nov for season beginning following Sept)	Maggie Cardew (2015-16 & 2016-17) cardewmaglet@gmail.com	Technical Manager (elected biannually)	Dan Burns (2015-17) dan@masexodus.co.uk
Business Manager (elected biannually)	Ginnie Orrey (2014-16) gginnie@googlemail.com or info@apollo-theatre.org.uk	2 Members' Representatives (elected annually) (2015-16)	Drew Adcock drew@orange.net Marylyn Ford marylyn.ford795@btinternet.com
Marketing Manager (elected biannually)	Kate Fysh (2014-16) katefysh@gmail.com	Bar Manager (co-opted)	Paul Stevens postmaster@sleeptite.force9.co.uk
Players' Secretary (elected biannually)	Mike Whitehead (2014-16) michaelwhitehead@yahoo.com	Wardrobe Manager (co-opted)	Peggy Harcourt peggy.harcourt@creekside.plus.com
Membership Secretary (elected biannually)	Pam Cranefield (2014-16) pcranefield989@hotmail.com	Apollo Trust secretary (co-opted)	Cynara Crump cynara.crump@virgin.net
House Manager (elected biannually)	Paul Stevens (2014-16) postmaster@sleeptite.force9.co.uk	Apollo Trust Buildings Manager (co-opted)	Roger Simpson roger.dodger45@yahoo.co.uk

Update from the Directors' meeting



The Directors' meeting for the 2016-17 season was held on 29 February and directors put themselves forward for most of the 2016-17 plays. At the time of writing the following directors have confirmed:

- The Ladykillers (2-10 Sept): **Di Evans**
- The Selkie Wife (21-29 Oct): **Ginnie Orrey**
- The Wyrd Sisters (9-17 Dec):
- Habeas Corpus (3-11 Feb 2017):
- The Loves of Cass McGuire (24 Mar-1 Apr):

- Forget-me-Knot (12-20 May): **Steve Reading**
- Ghost Train (30 June-8 July):

For all you budding directors out there, who are perhaps not sure about directing a play for the first time, two pieces of advice: first of all, try your hand at assisting a more experienced director in order to 'learn the ropes' - it's a really good way to find out how the theatre works. And secondly, your experience is very unlikely to be as bad as Sir Michael Gambon's when he tried his

hand at directing. He said, *'It was a disaster ... When I said we should have a ten-minute break, the actors all went into a corner and started talking about me ... There was an actress who kept fiddling with her handbag. I said, 'You can't do that—you've got to look at your husband.' And she said, 'I'd rather fiddle with my bag, thank you.' And that was it. I never did it again.'* (see also Marylyn Ford's comments on page 8!) So don't worry—it won't be nearly as bad as that!

NEWS FROM THE APOLLO THEATRE TRUST



When you come into the Apollo, do you ever stop and look closely at the façade? The theatre is a grade II* listed building (the star is significant as it applies to 'particularly important buildings of more than special interest') and the Trust has the responsibility for preserving its fabric. Given the amount of alterations we have made to the building over the years (all with Listed Building consent) we must conclude that the most important part of the theatre we must preserve at all costs is the façade. Superficially it doesn't look too bad but you don't have to look too closely to see that the paint is peeling and some of the pointing has fallen out. An even closer inspection reveals that much of the timber making up the windows is rotting (including some

which was only fitted 10 or so years ago) and some of the glass is decidedly loose. At least one of the pillars next to the door is very badly rotted.

The Trust has therefore decided that we should carry out a complete overhaul of the front of the theatre which will include complete replacement of some of the windows and one of the pillars. To a lesser extent Hancock House also needs a facelift. We are not looking at a 'quick fix' but rather an investment which would preserve the integrity of the building for the foreseeable future. Initial estimates suggest that to carry out this work to the standard required will cost in the region of £25k which will almost wipe out the £30k reserve we hold against such emergencies. The

reserve will have to be replaced and plans to carry out repairs and improvements carefully prioritised. Other necessary work includes repairs to the flat roof of the dressing-room, and plans are well advanced to join the theatre and Hancock House at first floor level and to open up an additional emergency exit on the left of the auditorium (facing the stage). We cannot commit to all this work only relying on the income from the Players, so a special fundraising drive is to be launched; more details will be announced shortly. In the meantime if any member has experience of fundraising at this level, including applying for grants, please contact Amy or me.

Paul Jennings (Chairman Apollo Theatre (IOW) Trust Ltd): paulmartinjennings@gmail.com



STAR
VERILY A NEW HOPE
WARS
BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

NEW MEMBERS' NIGHTS

STARTING SUNDAY 1 MAY
2016

THEATRE BAR OPEN
FROM 5.30PM

READ-THROUGH STARTS
6.00PM



THIS IS A SOCIAL
EVENING FOR
NEW MEMBERS.

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE READ THROUGH
A LOST WORK BY WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE.

LONG-STANDING MEMBERS ALSO VERY
WELCOME

From a Galaxy far, far away ...

NEW MEMBERS' NIGHTS

It's been some time since we have focused on new members at the Apollo Theatre, encouraging them to come down and mingle, so we have a Plan ... or in keeping with the spirit of the thing ... IT'S A TRAP!!! (Ok, only Star Wars fans will get that quote!)

The plan consists of working through a script, from first read-through, via workshops and auditions to public performance to members only, during a series of evenings through 2016 and early 2017. The date of the first evening is **1 May 2016** and I would encourage any or all of our new members to attend.

It's going to be a social evening to help you get to know one another and involving reading a play from start to finish. The bar will be open and a number of committee members will be attending also for you to get to know (all committee members are welcome, in fact, as well as any other members who would like to help make our new members feel welcome).

The script, surprisingly enough, is by William Shakespeare – but one with which you're unlikely to be familiar. It's one of his lost works, 'Star Wars – Verily a New Hope'. I read it and cried with laughter from start to finish, and it seemed a fitting script to play with over the new members' nights. It's challenging, hugely funny and yet well-known and I think everyone will enjoy taking part.

A team of four – myself, Susan Simpson, Amy Burns and Ginnie Orrey – will be leading the evenings, which will span over a year with a number of workshops and other social gatherings to help you build a rapport with one another and help guide you with stage craft and audition techniques. If you prefer to work behind the scenes, we will also be able to introduce you to backstage crew, the costume team or front of house colleagues. Whatever suits you we can accommodate, so please come down on **Sunday 1 May at 5:30pm**. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me – you can find me on Facebook or my email address is drew@orange.net. Most importantly, though, just come along – meet people, have a drink and enjoy some theatrical activity and we hope to make you feel even more a part of the theatre you've joined.

I look forward to hearing from you and/or to meeting/seeing you all on 1 May. The theatre bar will open from 5.30pm, with the read-through starting at 6.00.

Drew Adcock

SNIPPETS TO FILL UP THE PAGE!

One of the things I hate most in the world is waste; so for those of you who receive a paper copy, rather than have a blank page on this side I'm filling it up with some bits and pieces I thought I was going to have to hold over to the next issue for lack of space. For those of you who receive an electronic copy, well, just humour me!

A BRUSH WITH GREATNESS



Larry Holofcener with his new statue of William Shakespeare

Readers who follow events at Stratford may be aware of the recent unveiling there of a statue of William Shakespeare by Laurence Holofcener (father of Nicole, the film director). Larry is a well-known and respected sculptor who has created many sculptures of famous people around the world, notably 'Allies', depicting Churchill and Eisenhower seated on a bench in London, and John Lennon (also seated on a bench). He has donated

the life-size bronze statue, which depicts the Bard as a young man, to Stratford District Council and it was installed in Bancroft Gardens, opposite the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, on 23 February. Larry has significant links with the Island and a few days later your Editor was among the invitees to a lunch at the Seaview Hotel to celebrate his 90th birthday (photographic evidence right!). Larry is currently working on a play, entitled

'Sleepover at the White House', about the events which inspired his famous statue of the meeting of Churchill and Eisenhower during World War II; I'm trying to get a world premiere at the Apollo!!



IDEAS PLEASE!

A small amount of money has come into the hands of the Players following Alain Smith's sad death. Some of his colleagues from Debenhams took up a collection for flowers and had £40 left over which they have donated to us, and a further £37 arrived as the balance of the bar fund contributed by Gary after the wake. So we have the grand total of £77. Any ideas as to an appropriate way to spend it that Alain would have approved of would be very welcome.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATE



Not all members may be aware of Michael Arnell's community outreach activities. Aimed at raising awareness of the Apollo and its work, Michael's tireless tours and visits bring many groups into the theatre: sometimes for a 'page to stage' presentation, sometimes for a visit and a cup of tea, but the visitors always come with enthusiasm and enjoy their brush with the theatrical world.

Michael says: 'The Isle of Wight French Society and Appley W.I. have been our latest visitors. Each group expressed their thanks and admiration for the wonderful work we do to maintain this beautiful venue for drama. They also, like all the other groups, particularly enjoyed the "page-to-stage" workshop that concludes each tour. This initiative seems to be appreciated and has resulted in several of the groups making block

bookings to see plays. Although not intended to be a money-making venture, the latest two groups have donated over £100 to our theatre.

If you know any group that might enjoy a morning or afternoon **free** one-and-a-half-hour tour, please ask them to contact me. Note: a free cuppa and choccy biscuit is included!

The Great Backstage Clear-up

As reported in the last issue, a gang of members got together over the weekend of 5-6 March to start the work of sorting out the backstage areas. This was no small task, as over time a large amount of 'stuff' has accumulated, making it difficult to get at the things needed for a show. Di Evans decided to start the work to sort out the props and began by focusing on the small props in the props room—stuff like glasses, china, bottles and so on which had been on the shelving behind the door for some considerable time (judging by the dust!). At the same time a team got to work in the workshop, throwing out old bits of



Anyone recognise this?

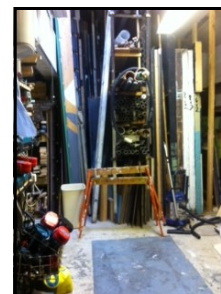
wood and other odds and ends which had no further use, and the workshop is now starting to look really good (see photo below right).

A large consignment of rubbish went to the tip on the Saturday and another on

the Sunday, along with numerous boxes of empty bottles; a car-load of objects which had no realistic future with the theatre but might be useful to someone went to the Earl Mountbatten Hospice, and the team began to empty, clean and re-stock the shelves in the props room. The job is by no means finished—there will be many more days like this before the job can be said to be 'done', but a very good start has been made. If anyone would like to join in, please do—there's tea and cake and a great sense of satisfaction. Contact Michael Arnell for future dates.



Michael Arnell working on the props room shelving



YOUTH THEATRE PERFORMANCE

Gwen Stevens is delighted to announce the next Apollo Youth Theatre show, to take place on Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 April, both at 2.30pm. Tickets are available on the door only, and the ticket price is whatever you choose to donate to Theatre funds.

Please come along and support the next generation of the theatre!

GIFT AID

Thank you very much to the 14 people who have so far completed and returned the Gift Aid declaration forms sent out with the last issue.

I do realise that some of our members may not be UK taxpayers, but if you are and you would like us to reclaim the tax on your subscription, could I remind you please to complete the form and let me have it back? The money will be a very useful contribution to Theatre funds.

DAY-TIME BOX OFFICE: AN APPEAL FOR HELP

Cynara Crump is urgently looking for additional helpers with day-time box office. Box office volunteers are called on for three hours once every six weeks or so and we aim to have two people on box office for any session. You may already be familiar with our computerised ticketing system, but if not, we would ensure that your partner is knowledgeable and able to teach at a reasonable pace. The number of people available to be called on has reduced recently, and Cynara doesn't like badgering those who are already helping regularly. So if you can help, you would be very welcome. Cynara can be contacted on 527606.

ST GEORGE'S DAY EVENTS

Steve Reading would be very grateful for offers of help with the St George's day events on 23 & 24 April. He would appreciate members who could offer to do a 10-minute turn at the members' night on the 23rd; and would those interested in the walk and/or lunch and/or cream tea on Sunday 24th please confirm, as he needs to know numbers for catering purposes. Please contact Steve on steverreading104@btinternet.com if you can help, and to confirm.

PAYING-IN BOOKS

A plea from the House Manager: if you have a paying-in book in your possession, could you please please hand it back to the House Manager? This will usually relate to box office/front of house staff but there could be others. Do please check whether you've got a book at home and bring it back if you have; and from here on in there will be only one front of house paying-in book 'live' at any one time, as it's very difficult for our Treasurer to track down payments in to the Players' account without the paying-in books.

POSTERS

Whether you receive your Apollonius electronically or by post, along with it you will find a poster for the next production, 'Little Gem'. Could electronic recipients please print it off, and could every-one please join the marketing campaign and put their poster up somewhere visible—at home, in your local library or shop, in fact anywhere where it can be seen by potential audiences!



Michael Arnell, Colin Ford and Peter Harris in 'The Birthday Party'

From Marylyn Ford, Director of 'The Birthday Party'

To paraphrase Lady Bracknell: To lose one actor may be regarded as a misfortune; to lose two looks like carelessness. Thankfully, Pete Harris and Simon Cardew bailed us out in the nick of time. Thanks chaps. Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Joe Plumb and Rod Jones.

I find directing a play sooo difficult. Myriad things to chase up, endless lists. I was having my usual wobble at this stage of rehearsals when I checked in to a Monday work night. Six chaps were on stage measuring, sawing and hammering under the quiet direction of set designer Paul Jennings. Later I had a crea-

tive consultation with five ladies of the wardrobe. All truly humbling and inspiring.

On the Richter scale of my past sets 'The Birthday Party' is low. 'Enjoy' required the entire set, including flooring, to be removed around the actors during the closing scene. A policeman, swinging pendulum-like on a loose drainpipe, opened 'Can't Pay Won't Pay'. Miss Shepherd's eponymous Van had to be moved on stage during a brief curtain.

Returning to the actors, I try to be nurturing (I've been one myself) and issue simple directions like 'Pay more attention to the iambic rhythm of that line', or 'This

is a Pinter interrogation, not a laundry list.' But surely the late Robin Atkinson capped it all when he told an experienced actress, 'You're walking like a chicken again.' The camaraderie of my cast is best illustrated by the following overheard exchange:

1st Senior Actor: I like working with you, you old fart.

2nd Senior Actor: Piss off. *[an exchange worthy of the Art of Coarse Acting. Ed]*

Thank you Mike Whitehead for once again being a super stage manager, also FOH and Bar staff and the entire production crew.

Marylyn Ford



'Blues at the Apollo' returns on 29 April

Another treat for blues enthusiasts

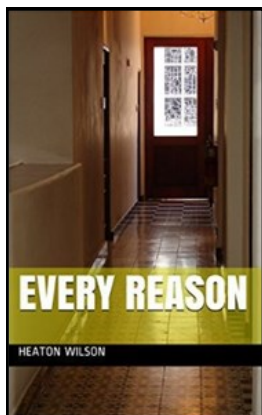
Many of you will already be aware of the 'Jazz at the Apollo' concerts that take place in the theatre approximately once a month. You may not know, however, that the Apollo also hosts a series of 'Blues at the Apollo' concerts, featuring the best of Island bands playing their own brand of blues, roots and soul. The last two concerts have been very well at-

tended and enthusiastically received, so the organisers are planning to make them a regular feature. The next one will be held on 29 April and will feature The Nick Cane Band, the Moonshiners and the Damien Paul Band. Nick Cane has recently released his new album, copies of which will be on sale at the concert.

The concert is in support of the RNLI, and there will be

a brief presentation by lifeboat crew members before the show begins.

Tickets are available on the door, price £10.



Every Reason to be cheerful!

Member Kevin Wilson is in the exciting position of having his first novel published. The book, a crime novel entitled 'Every Reason', is set near Manchester, and tells what happens after the murder of a local politician on a site earmarked for development - a development she opposed. DCI Jane Birch-

field has the job of unravelling the mystery, in her first murder investigation ... The novel is written under Kevin's pen-name of Heaton Wilson to distinguish it from the plays he writes, which some members have been involved with. It's only available on Kindle - but if you don't have a Kindle

you can download the Kindle e-book reading app for use on any tablet (iPad, Android etc). The price is only £2—which as Kevin says, is not a high price to pay to make an Apollo member very happy!

'THE LADYKILLERS': CASTING CALL

Di Evans is the director of the first play of the 2016-17 season, 'The Ladykillers'. The play goes up on 2 September so she's putting out a call now for everyone who's interested to come to the read-through on 9 May and/or the auditions on 29 May. The cast is as follows:

Constable Macdonald, a very patient policeman
Mrs Louisa Wilberforce, an eccentric old widow

Professor Marcus, the mastermind of the gang

Major Courtney, a con-man

Harry Robinson, a spiv
One-Round, a punch-drunk ex-boxer

Louis Harvey, a vicious continental gangster

Mrs Jane Tromleyton, one of Mrs Wilberforce's guests

Mrs Wilberforce's guests, a gaggle of old ladies

This black comedy is a stage version of the famous Ealing Comedy film of the same title (if you don't know the film, it's available on YouTube), and Di says it's one of the

funniest scripts she's read in a long time. The plot could be summarised as 'a sweet little old lady, alone in her house, is pitted against a gang of criminal misfits who will stop at nothing'; but there's more to it than that! Mrs Wilberforce lets rooms in her house and is delighted to hear Professor Marcus and his friend rehearsing their music in the room the Professor has rented. However, all is not as it appears: the Prof and his

accomplice are part of a gang of hardened criminals planning a robbery. After the robbery Mrs Wilberforce finds out and threatens to go to the police, so the gang decide to kill her ... but that doesn't go to plan either!

If you're interested, please email Di on diandclem@hotmail.com and as soon as she gets the scripts she will get one to you.



As always, more great stuff being streamed direct to Cineworld. Hands up those who thought the flock of sheep in 'As You Like It' was a stroke of genius! And as for 'Hangmen', a hilarious and macabre play reminiscent of Pinter and Orton and featuring David Morrissey, it was just another example of the brilliance of British live theatre. So here are a few more things to look

forward to:

'Shakespeare Live' (RSC): 23 April

'A View from the Bridge' (NT): 12 May

'Hamlet' (RSC): 8 June

'Romeo and Juliet' (Branagh): 7 July

LIVE SCREENINGS



FROM CINEWORLD

The '100 Club': a message from Cynara Crump

The 100 Club's prize for January of £50 went to Mrs E Goodman; our best wishes go to her. The February prize of £250 was won by Peter Boffin, and the winner of the March draw will be made known soon.

The 100 Club was set up some years ago to help with fund-raising for a specific project; now with further projects in mind to improve the facilities of the Theatre, it is still contrib-

uting, although rather less than it used to. Members contribute £5 a month into the kitty, and at the end of each month a draw is made to discover the lucky person to win £50. This is the usual amount for ten months of the year but at the end of February the prize increases to £250, while at the end of August the prize is £500. The surplus from year to year goes to the Trust.

The current project is to get the building's frontage repaired and redecorated (see page 4). After that, for the increased safety of the audience, we have permission to go ahead with creating an emergency exit on the stage right side of the auditorium ... and it goes on.

If you would like to join the 100 Club the forms can be found in the foyer of the theatre or downloaded from the members'

area of the website. Please make sure you include your name and address! You would be supporting the efforts of the Apollo Trust in its work of maintaining the theatre and its object of education in the arts in the community.



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email:
info@apollo-
theatre.org.uk

To book tickets or find
out more about our
productions, go to:

www.apollo-theatre.org.uk

Any unsigned
copy in this publi-
cation is the work
of the Editor and
expresses her
opinions. Con-
tributed copy
must be signed.

Bringing good theatre to the Isle of Wight for more than 40 years



The Apollo Players' next production



**'Little Gem' by
Elaine Murphy**

**20-21 May &
24-28 May
2016**

A warm-hearted, prize-winning play
about three generations of a Dublin
working-class family—
life-enhancing and hilarious, with adult
themes and robust language