



apollo

The in-house magazine of the Apollo Theatre Players, Newport, Isle of Wight

Forthcoming read-throughs, auditions & other production stuff

- 'The Weir': auditions Sunday 16 December, 2.30pm in the auditorium (see p2 for more info)

Remember: a read-through is not an audition!

DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEXT ISSUE:

Wednesday 5 December

Other diary dates

Coffee mornings 27 October 10, 24 November 8, 22 December

Jazz at the Apollo: Nat Steele, 'Portrait of the Modern Jazz Quartet' 18 November, 3.00pm

Players' AGM, followed by social evening including a quiz. **Saturday 24 November, 7.30pm**

Please bring a plate of food. Everyone is welcome!

Youth Theatre production 12-13 January 2019

Issue no. 267

October 2018

'The Private Ear' & 'The Public Eye'

'The Private Ear' and 'The Public Eye': a director's-eye view, from Maggie Cardew, Director.

'This production has been a real challenge for the three actors involved, with huge amounts of lines to learn and each of them playing two very different characters during the course of the evening.

I, on the other hand, have had a brilliant time watching the whole thing develop



Amy Burns, Martin Ward and Mark Duffus

from one rehearsal to the next! The cast rose to the challenge (as expected) and as the production date grew closer and they got

more nervous I could barely control my excitement. By the time you read this the play may well be over and I am sure it will have been enjoyed by cast and audience alike with its brilliant set, costumes and props. The excellent backup provided by all the members of this theatre never ceases to amaze me. A huge thanks to everyone.

Long live the Apollo and all who work to give our audiences the variety they deserve.'



The Vicar of Dibley

As you'll all know, the Vicar of Dibley is to be the Christmas show this year. The auditions were held on 9 September and the director, Dan Burns, and his assistant, Abbi Leverton, are very pleased to confirm that they have been able to cast the show—in fact they were spoiled for choice!

The cast is as follows:

Geraldine:	Hebe Gregory
Alice:	Carol Simpson
Hugo:	Matt Osborne
David:	Steve Reading
Frank:	David Carr
Owen:	Si Lynch
Jim:	Mike Groves
Letitia:	Helen Clinton-
Pacey	

Some smaller parts—mainly children and women—will be confirmed later.

'The Vicar of Dibley' production dates are 7-15 December; and of course as always the FoH Manager will be looking to fill rotas for box office, front of house duties, bar/coffee/ushers and so on.

Editorial: the view from the Editor's chair

**Auditions for
'The Weir':**

**Sunday 16
December at
2.30 pm in the
auditorium**

**from Marylyn Ford,
Director
01983 811591**

Unusually for this organ, this month's issue is much shorter than usual—half the length, in fact. Sadly, this is down to lack of content for various reasons, and rather than publish blank

space or write the whole thing myself, I've taken the management decision to put in only what I've received plus the essential items, and hope that the membership will step up

to the mark and give me some contributions for issue 268; it will be published round about 12 December and I hope it will revert to its usual size.

This award-winning play is set in a bar in a remote part of Ireland, where the local fellas are swapping spooky stories to impress a young woman, newly moved to the area. But she turns the tables on them ...

CAST

Jack: a cantankerous mature bachelor with a sly sense of humour; owns a failing repair garage

Brendan: also single, younger, runs the bar and the small attached farm

Jim: shy, quiet, lives with his very ancient ma, does odd jobs

Finbar: similar age to Jack, successful local businessman, married but a bit of a fancy man

Valerie: a newcomer from Dublin, mysterious but prepared to fit in

The audition piece is a poem by Yeats, 'Song of Wandering Aengus'. I have copies if you can't find it. It tells a story (as do the characters) and I'd like you to read it in a soft Irish accent (this is crucial to casting). If you would like to read the play, do contact me. Note: Easter falls late next year, two weeks after The Weir closes.

Production dates: 29 & 30 March, 2-6 April 2019

As you will all know, the elections for some Committee members are coming up shortly. The following members have already sent in their manifestos (any that come in after we go to press will be sent round by either email or post):

MEMBERS' REP: Mike Crowe

It was way back in 1986 that I first found myself involved with the Apollo Theatre. Knowing nothing about theatre and not really wishing to go on stage, I volunteered to build sets 'as long as somebody told me what to do'. During the past 32 years, when I wasn't away I have been involved with the Apollo as actor and stage manager and now that I'm back, I have been volunteering at Coffee Mornings. In putting myself forward as Members' Rep I would make myself available to the members for them to air their views, complaints and recommendations which I would register and present to the Management Committee, reporting back to the person concerned and presenting a report/statement for Apollonius, not just at Coffee Mornings but at read-throughs, rehearsals, workshops and dress rehearsals.

BUSINESS MANAGER: Ginnie Orrey

I've been Business Manager for some years now; in the early days there were lots of changes to be made, but I think now we've got ourselves into a pretty stable way of working. Expenses are claimed and paid online; we have annual accounts, professionally put together and presented by our wonderful Treasurer, Alan Rodway; we know more about what we spend money on and how to be a bit more mindful about doing so; and equally importantly, I enjoy the role and would like to continue doing it until my term of office runs out.

MEMBERS' SECRETARY: Mike Whitehead

I have put my experience, gained mainly by attending high level Ministry of Defence meetings for many years, to good use as the Player's Secretary. This position has involved taking and publishing the meeting minutes, resolving disputes, generating and answering correspondence (not a great amount admittedly in this electronic age), obtaining quotations and providing support to and, when necessary, deputising for the Director. I hope to be able to carry out these tasks in the future.

ELECTION MANIFESTOS

John Hannam's book launch at the Apollo

**by Steve
Reading**

John Hannam launched his new book on 5 October at the Apollo Theatre in front of an audience of invited guests. It was a super evening with many new faces in the theatre, and despite our sound system failing the evening was a success with a joyous performance from Crisco! I have received the following letter from John: *Hi Steve & Apollo Members, I am so glad I had the idea of a launch evening at the Apollo. Thanks to you and other Apollo members involved with the night, it turned out so perfectly. I never expected such a long queue to buy my books. The intimate atmosphere of*

the Apollo made it such an ideal venue. I know quite a few had never been into your theatre before.

I have had so many emails, texts and phone calls to say how much people enjoyed the evening. A couple were quite emotional to read. In a way, the loss of the sound system allowed Chris Cox to think on the spot and he overcame it so well. It could not have been easy to get the invited audience to sing along.

Can I thank you so much for the kind remarks you said about me. They brought tears to my eyes. I really appreciated your comments. I know my daughter, Caro-

line, who was paying her first visit to the Apollo, was so impressed, particularly with the wardrobe. She's now flown to Londonderry for Evita's week in the city. I was so thrilled to have her down during their rest week from the long tour.

The new book is proving my fastest selling book ever. Around the Island well over 100 were sold in the first two days. I am hoping to do a volume 2, with up to another hundred Islanders in this one. Hopefully, I can come back to the Apollo next year for another launch party. Wishing the Apollo continued success.

Best regards, John (Hannam)

News from your Committee

Notes from the Committee meeting on 22 October 2018

THEATRE DIRECTOR

I'm pleased to say that the theatre is doing well—good houses and lots of new ideas. A reminder: if you still have a set of keys, would you please return them to Dan Burns or Roger Simpson as soon as possible?

ARTS MANAGER

The current season is progressing well, and I'm looking forward to seeing future Directors' ideas. A reminder to everyone about dress rehearsals: members are welcome to attend the final dress but only if you have been involved in that production in some way, whether FOH or backstage. If you want to attend a different rehearsal please contact the director beforehand as a matter of courtesy.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

It's heart-warming to see so many of our newer Members already taking an active part in Apollo life! There is so much to get involved with but if anyone is feeling overwhelmed by it all please email me for an introduction to behind-the-scenes! I'd like to welcome new Member Kurtis Murrant and returning Members Conor Duffy-Oates, Evelyn Hicks, Gail Knappett, Hebe Gregory and Peter Gale. You will usually find me at the Saturday fortnightly Coffee Mornings; the next one is on 27 October, so if you're in Newport pop in for a chat! A number of our members have been under the weather lately, so we send our sincerest good wishes for a speedy recovery to **Alan Rodway, Ian Moth** and **Dan Burns**. We're looking forward to seeing you all back in harness as soon as

possible.

To encourage Members to become more involved in productions I have been in discussion with Michael Arnell about putting on a series of workshops to give everyone a chance to gain experience in different areas of the theatre. I would also like to arrange a 'Murder Mystery' social evening in the near future. Watch this space for more information; and if you have an idea for other social events, do please let me know.

HOUSE MANAGER

Rotas for the current show have been easier than has been the case recently, so heartfelt thanks to all volunteers.

The Bar has been doing well; we've been able to hand a good sum over to the Players, and hope soon to be able to take card payments at the bar.

Have you ever noticed that a light-bulb needs replacing, the paper towels have run out in a loo, etc.? Unless you know exactly how to remedy the situation, it's sensible to tell someone who does know. However, many of us are not sure who that 'someone' is! As a result, a whiteboard and dry-wipe pen have been hung under the notice-board by the passageway door in the foyer. All you have to do is note the problem on the whiteboard and sign it. The appropriate person will then deal with it.

TECHNICAL MANAGER

Sincerest thanks to Michael Whitehead, Tris Stack and Tom Hilton for stepping into the breach after I broke my ankle, as I was down to light and SM the current show.

Thanks also to everyone who has volunteered to work backstage on the V of D: if only finding crew for all our productions was this easy!

Since my accident I've been using a wheelchair and have realised that access to the theatre isn't always easy. A reminder to all our FOH staff to be aware of and sensitive to the needs of our disabled patrons; and to all members to raise it if you identify an access issue that we can deal with.

PLAYERS' SECRETARY

A reminder to all members: if you would like to stand for the Committee this year time is running out. It would be great to see some new faces round the table at committee meetings, and it's a great opportunity to see how the theatre works and perhaps make a difference to the way we do things. The nomination form can be found on the Members' area of the website, or alternatively email me or the Business Manager for a copy (see below for email addresses) or for a job description of any post(s) you're interested in. You must be proposed and seconded and the form must be with me at the very latest by 3 November.

As a reminder, the posts which will be vacant are:

- Arts Manager 2019-20
- House Manager
- Business Manager
- Players' Secretary
- Members' Rep
- Marketing Manager

Theatre Director & Chair of management committee (elected 3-yearly): **Amy Burns** (2016-19) amy@masexodus.co.uk

Arts Manager (elected annually in Nov for season beginning following Sept)	Maggie Cardew (2018-19) cardewmaglet@gmail.com	Technical Manager (elected biannually)	Dan Burns (2017-19) dan@masexodus.co.uk
Business Manager (elected biannually)	Ginnie Orrey (2016-18) gginnie@googlemail.com or info@apollo-theatre.org.uk	2 Members' Representatives (elected annually) (2016-17)	Mark Duffus
Marketing Manager (elected biannually)	Maureen Sullivan (2016-18) msullivan58@me.com	Bar Manager (co-opted)	Paul Stevens postmaster@sleepitite.force9.co.uk
Players' Secretary (elected biannually)	Mike Whitehead (2016-18) michaelwhitehead@yahoo.com	Wardrobe Manager (co-opted)	Peggy Harcourt peggy.harcourt@creekside.plus.com
Membership Secretary (elected biannually)	Carole Crow (2017-19) carolecrow9@gmail.com	Apollo Trust secretary (co-opted)	Cynara Crump cynara.crump@virgin.net
House Manager (elected biannually)	Paul Stevens (2016-18) postmaster@sleepitite.force9.co.uk	Apollo Trust Buildings Manager (co-opted)	Roger Simpson roger.dodger45@yahoo.co.uk



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

www.apollo-theatre.org.uk

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copy in this publi-
cation is the work
of the Editor,
Ginnie Orrey, and
expresses her
opinions.
Contributed copy
must be signed.**

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



The Apollo Players' next production

The Vicar of Dibley



7-15 December 2018

This show needs very little introduction! For those unfamiliar with the TV series, when their elderly vicar passes away, congregation members in Dibley are surprised to find that a woman has been assigned to their parish. And not just any woman – Geraldine Granger is outgoing, vivacious and fun-loving, as well as caring and committed to her flock. However, her ebullient ways do not initially endear her to the head of the Parish Council, an old-fashioned gentleman farmer who's not a fan of change. Hilarity ensues as Geraldine tries to win over the stodgy council members while staying true to herself and her pastorate.