



STAGE WHISPER

380

TRINITY THEATRE NEWSLETTER

October 2018

Trinity Theatre, Cowes
presents
Jungle Book
the pantomime

by Cheryl Barrett

Fri. 30th Nov. at 7:30pm

Sat. 1st Dec. at 2:30pm

Fri 7th Dec. at 7:30pm

Sat. 8th & Sun. 9th Dec.
at 2:30pm

Tickets: £8, child £6, family £22.

Book now at www.caods.org.uk

or call 01983 295229

A production by arrangement with Lazy Bee Scripts

2018

Behind the curtain

Hello, please accept my apologies for not keeping you up to date with events behind the curtains at Trinity, but I have been rather active with erecting scenery, then dismantling it, then putting it back up again, and finally making it fall down during the performance. So I must start by saying a big thanks to all who have been involved over the last few weeks, Unfortunately we now have a few more hectic weeks preparing for the panto, which is having an original set, All I can say is with the next set I will be very worried if it falls apart in the show as it wont be scripted, so don't be surprised if you find me calling you up to come and help with construction,

Whilst on the subject of asking for help... In decorating the scenery for Blithe spirit, the stage was inadvertently painted with a gloss paint , which has resulted in it becoming slippery (despite being repainted) so if anyone has a larger than usual sander please could we borrow it to key up the stage to grip the stage paint , thank you .

I have been in contact with Alex this week , and he is currently undergoing his next round of treatment, so will sadly not be back for another few weeks at least, but I'm sure everyone agrees, we wish him a quick return to the theatre.

However, whilst Alex is resting , please feel free to contact me in his absence, with theatre questions.

Will end there for now, as yet again my writing something has delayed Cheryl going to press, sorry Cheryl, and sorry for all of you who thought you'd escaped my ramblings,

Anyway, see you around the theatre hopefully.

Mike

Social Dates for your Diary

Date	Event
BINGO	Sat10th November at 7:30pm
Christmas Meal	Sat15th December at 7:30pm
Quiz	Sat 26th January at 7:30pm
Music Hall plus.....	Sat 23rd February at 7:30pm
St. Patrick's Ceilidh	Sat 16th March at 7:30pm
Race Night	Sat 13th April at 7:30pm
Community Quiz	Sat 11th May at 7:30pm
Bingo Night	Sat 8th June at 7:30pm

Plus our monthly coffee mornings on the first Saturday of each month.

Stage Whisper—Editorial

This month's edition of Stage Whisper reports on past and forthcoming productions, as well as the dates for your diary reminder. These social events are a great way for members and friends of CAODS to keep in touch. There are a wide range of social events throughout the year plus our monthly coffee morning.

Now the Blithe Spirit set is down Mike Bucket and his team will be constructing our jungle

OH YES THEY WILL...

Meanwhile, the box office is open for ticket sales for **Jungle Book the Pantomime**. Please spread the word and support our theatre in any way you can.

Welcome to new members who have joined CAODS and are reading Stage Whisper for the first time. I do hope you will contribute to future issues of the newsletter—details below.

Cheryl

Stage Whisper— November Edition

All members are welcome to contribute to Stage Whisper. Please send entries for the next edition to stagewhisper@caods.org.uk. with attachments if necessary by **Friday 23rd November**.

Jungle Book the Pantomime

By Cheryl Barrett

Rehearsals for the panto are well underway and the jungle book characters are coming to life in this fun-filled pantomime adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book stories.

We have such an eclectic mix of popular songs from the 60s, 70s 80s and 2018 that should have all ages in the auditorium singing along or tapping their feet.

Bright colourful costumes are a must in any panto and although set in the Indian jungle, there is plenty of colour to reflect Indian culture and the different animals. Our lovely Liz is on overdrive...

It has been a pleasure working with everyone—many of the children in the show have principal roles and are doing splendidly.

Pantomime is larger than life and therefore props need to be as well. If anyone has the following could they lend it to us asap so that the children can start using them.

X 3 table tennis bats (battered ones better please)
A HUGE enamel or stainless steel teapot (not china)
A large tin drum (one that hangs over your head)
A wooden rifle

I have been writing, directing and performing in pantomime for more years than I care to rum baba. Panto season is a highlight of my year—OH YES IT IS...

Please come and support our wonderful cast and let us transport you to the Indian jungle—lions and tigers and wolves and elephants and monkeys and peacocks and bears oh my!

Cheryl May

NODA review of *Blithe Spirit* From Rita Boffin

However many times this play is staged, somehow, like so many other vintage classics, it always delights. Audiences of all age groups enjoy it and this occasion was no exception, judging by the numbers at each performance. The story line is well known, quirky but easy to follow, so one can just relax, sit back and revel in the imaginative happenings taking place at the house of the Condomines.

The single room set was well thought out, with all seating areas mid to front stage. Thus, there was ample room for movement, absolutely necessary with both the fleet movements of the late Elvira and the extravagant costumes of Madame Arcati, who sailed across the stage with great rapidity.

However the first thing that struck me, once the actors had made their entrances was the choice of a glamorous actress in the part of the doctor's wife. Both she and her husband are friends of the Condomines and their presence suggests they are there to add a note of normality to an otherwise far-fetched plot, although the Bradmans are never mentioned in any synopsis and are therefore easily overlooked. Not so, in this case. In fact, it made me think how lucky Doctor Bradman was to have such a beautifully coiffured, elegant wife. These roles were played by Sarah Kellett—a newcomer for me—and Steve Kimpton and so at last, here were two characters who immediately became part of the play and not just the rather boring, easily forgotten couple usually depicted. Surely Mr Coward would have intended the Condomines and the Bradmans to be of similar backgrounds and obviously co-directors Dinah Bowman and Carolyn Ferguson realised this and so elevated the roles of doctor and wife by shedding mediocrity and substituting elegance and thus credibility to their parts.

Steve Taverner as Charles Condomine came across as a bit of a roue. What is it about Steve that always gives this impression? He oozes charm, so maybe that's the answer, or part of it at least. His two wives were of quite dissimilar characters, with Ruth his present wife, played admirably by Carolyn Ferguson, having a slightly tart edge to

her (understandable, given the ensuing mayhem), whereas the conjured up Elvira, although possibly in her early twenties when killed in a car crash, was seen as a petulant, playful teenager. Ness Laws portrayal of Elvira was mesmerising and one of the best performances of this role that I have seen. Her flinging herself across an armchair and almost sulking, is one of the memories which will endure.

Dinah Bowman caused plenty of titters amongst the audience as the shuffling maid, Edith. Despite her deferential 'Yes Ma'ams' one felt that she was not a particularly efficient maid and that the Condomines had kept her on for old times sake. How well she delivered the 'ooh sir' when Charles Condomine thanked her profusely for her contribution to the night's happenings and how slow was the audience in picking up the resulting innuendo when she suddenly imagined the worst.

Cheryl May as Madame Arcati made a most believable, eccentric, fictional medium. Fictional because that is how they are so often depicted in plays and books, although in real life such a flamboyant persona would diminish their credulity. Cheryl was indeed an ideal choice for this part and gave it just the right amount of warmth, excitement and even slight surprise, particularly when Elvira was conjured up.

The costumes by Liz Santer, Dinah Bowman and Daphne Brown were of the usual high standard. I particularly liked the silver-grey of Elvira's costume which gave the right ethereal 'feel'.

An enjoyable evening's entertainment, enhanced by the gentle playing of John Pollard during the interval and of course, the ever welcoming front of house team. It is always a pleasure to attend a CAODS production. So, I am looking forward to Jungle Book, their Christmas Pantomime, written and directed by the ubiquitous Cheryl May.

RITA BOFFIN
NODA rep

Photos of Blithe Spirit

BEFORE



AFTER

Our wonderful set



BAD BLOOD

by

RICHARD STOCKWELL

I will be producing this play at the end of March 2019: 21, 22, 23 and 28, 29, 30

It is described as a thriller, which it most certainly is, with many twists and turns which I hope will grip the audiences.

The cast is:

Tom	Peter Blackburn
Vic, Tom's wife	Nessa Law
Smokey	Pete Harris
Jack, Tom's lawyer	Kevin Chance
Belinda	Sarah Kellett

Rehearsals will commence in January. More information will follow then. If anyone wants to help please contact me on 07876 021194 or 01983 291459

Dinah Bowman

TRINITY THEATRE



BINGO
Night

**Sat. 10th November
at 7:30pm**

**Fun
Prizes**

£ 3

**Classic
Bingo**

CAODS

Next 2 productions at
Trinity Theatre

JUNGLE BOOK

The Pantomime

Nov 30th/Dec 7th at 7.30pm
Matinee Sat 1st Dec, Sat 8th
Sun 9th at 2.30pm

BOX OFFICE OPEN

BAD BLOOD

March 2019

Look on our website and Facebook pages for updates
on all events at Trinity Theatre

www.caods.org.uk

Coffee Morning

**Saturday 3rd
November
10am to Noon**

Trinity Theatre
Cowes
(off Bath Road)

Everyone welcome