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STAGE WHISPER

TRINITY THEATRE NEWSLETTER

JULY 2019



CAODS President Dinah Bowman presenting cheque for £400 to Kathryn Grimes of the Wight Brainy Bunch.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well, another month has roared past. In fact it's fair to say another very busy month.

Firstly, we had a very successful production of "After September" by Jimmie Chinn produced by Gwen and Carolyn. Unfortunately they had to overcome the noise and disturbance created by the erection of a sailing village on the Parade for the duration of the show, but overcome it they did very successfully.

Straight after that Vectis School of Dance produced their annual shows over the weekend of July 6 & 7, quickly followed by Lanestars Dance School the following weekend, followed by Northwood School Leavers' production on Wednesday. All of these were very well attended and provided very profitable at the Upstairs Bar. However, none of these would have been of benefit to the theatre if it had not been for the small army of members who were providing lighting, bar staff and front of house. A few more members to occasionally assist in any of these areas would be so appreciated. Please step up and offer some help.

During August we are relaxing a bit but gearing up for:

Panto - "Aladdin" - read thru on **Friday 30 August** and Auditions on **Monday 2 September**. See further information in this month's Stage Whisper.

“Wife After Death” a black comedy by Eric Chappell (Rising Damp writer) will have a read thru on **Monday 9 September** and auditions on **Friday September 13**. More info in Stage Whisper.

An evening of “Poems, Plays, Pints, Sketches and Skits” being produced by Steve Taverner. There is an initial meeting on **Thursday September 5** at 7.30 pm. For more info look on theatre website or in this Stage Whisper or contact Steve on 883807 or stevetaverner56@gmail.com

We hope to see lots of you at these events. Your theatre really does need your support.

We have a new email address for hiring of the theatre or clubroom. This is hire@caods.org.uk This should be used if anyone is interested in hiring our premises.

The theatre has been very fortunate in having a donation of exciting stage lighting from two of our members. A big thank you for these which will certainly light up productions!

Well, that’s it for this month. Hope you all enjoy the summer and see you back at the end of August/beginning of September.

Dinah (291459 or 078760221194)

Stage Whisper—Editorial

There are plenty of productions and social events coming up in the near future, details can be found in this issue of Stage Whisper. If you would like to direct a production then please read Drama Co-Ordinator Paul Steven's notice. Equally, the evening of skits, sketches and poetry is an ideal opportunity for anyone who would like to perform., contact Steve Taverner to register your interest. More details of the murder mystery in the next issue. I hope you enjoy reading this month's issue of Stage Whisper. Thanks to those who submitted items. Cheryl

Stage Whisper— July Edition

All members are welcome to contribute to Stage Whisper. Please send entries for the next edition to stagewhisper@caods.org.uk. by **Mon 19th August**

Social Dates for your Diary

Date	Event
<u>Coffee Morning</u>	Saturday 7th Sept from 10am
Open Mic Evening	Saturday 5th October at 7:30pm
Murder Mystery Supper	Saturday 9th November
Christmas Party New Holmwood Hotel	Saturday 21 st December

REMINDER...

OPEN MIC EVENING

On **Saturday 5th October 2019** we are planning to hold an informal evening of light hearted entertainment in the clubroom. Any CAODS member will be welcome to perform. Acts could include poetry, comedy, songs, magic tricks or anything else you can think of. We are also hoping to include a few comic sketches.

On Thursday 5th September at 7.30 we will get together in the clubroom and try out a variety of short sketches. Small groups could then take away a chosen sketch, practice it in their own time and bring it along to perform at the open mic evening.

The idea behind this is to provide an opportunity for those who have never or rarely performed before to have a go in an informal and friendly setting, without the pressure of having to learn a full play and perform in front of a theatre full of paying customers. More experienced actors are also welcome to join in.

If you are interested just turn up to one of the sketch reading sessions. If you already have material you would like to perform, contact Steve Taverner (stevetaverner56@gmail.com) with brief details of your act.

If you just want to turn up for a pleasant social evening and to watch the entertainment, we promise that you will not be pressurized to join in. You are welcome to just be part of the audience. The bar will be open.

Steve Taverner

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

Aladdin and his wonderful lamp

This year's Panto, as you have already heard, will be Aladdin, directed by yours truly, with Luke as MD. **The read-through will be on Friday 30th August and the auditions on Monday 2nd September.** The first rehearsal will be Friday 6th September for everyone and then Mondays for principals and Fridays for chorus thereafter, (ooh, big word!).

The characters are:-

Aladdin, a loveable laundry boy, played by a girl!
Princess Pomegranate, a frustrated Princess
Widow Twanky, a poor laundrette owner, played by a bloke!
Wishee Washee, Aladdin's younger brother
So-shy, Royal handmaiden to the Princess
Abanazer, a wicked and evil magician
The Emperor, An absolute ruler
Feng, an inept police officer
Shui, another inept police officer
Spirit of the ring, a magical being
Genie of the lamp, a more powerful being
Chorus/minor roles: Citizens, Ghost, Guards, Palace retinue etc.

As you see there are eleven named parts plus chorus (with small speaking parts etc.). Older teenagers can be considered for some main parts, with a few younger children in chorus parts where appropriate.

As has always been the case with any casting I have been involved with, casting will be open to all members of the society and anybody who may wish to become a member for this and future production.

Daphne

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

WIFE AFTER DEATH

By Eric Chappell

AUDITION NOTICE

Carolyn Ferguson and Dinah Bowman will be producing this black comedy on **March 27 & 28 and April 3,4 and 5**. Rehearsals will commence in January 2020.

Read thru will be held in the theatre on Monday 9 September at 7.30p.m. and auditions on Friday 13 September at 7.30 p.m.

The cast are:

- Laura Thursby, widow 35/45
- Harvey Barrett, a scriptwriter 50/60
- Vi Barrett, his wife 40/50
- Kevin Prewitt, an actor's agent 35/40
- Jane Prewitt, his wife 35/40
- Kay, a funeral guest, 50/55

This is going to be great fun so we hope to see a lot of you at read thru and auditions.

For further info call Carolyn 296132 or Dinah 291459

NODA review

Group: **Cowes AODS**

Show: **After September**

Venue: **Trinity Theatre, Cowes, Isle of Wight**

Date: **Sunday 30th June 2019**

Director: **Gwen Stevens**

Having loved school and after a career in education this play, on paper, looked interesting. I was not disappointed in any respect. In fact, I did not want it to end! A run-down Gothic building houses the Gwendolen Kyte School for Girls. This light-hearted drama, set in the 1960's centres on the eight teachers, the Headmistress, a cook and a secretary whose job role also includes that of nurse, accountant, acting head and stand-in teacher. The staff, an odd assortment of social misfits and eccentrics, are also spinsters. Some are beyond retirement age.

At the start of a new academic year they are faced with a lack of accommodation, with the need to share rooms, no food having been delivered and a collapsed ceiling. Add to that a distraught Head whose beloved dog, Trixie, has disappeared leaving her incapable of chairing a meeting to resolve any other more urgent issues. Into this mayhem enters a surprise guest in the form of a school inspector. His mission is to follow up complaints of the school being old fashioned, out- moded, overcrowded and unsafe plus the accusation that staff members are drunk or insane.

A warm welcome was received from the front of house and bar staff and there was a good atmosphere despite the low attendance.

The programme displayed an ivy-clad Gothic building on the front cover. Inside there was a long article on the writer, Jimmie Chinn.

The set, comprising the school staff room, was excellent and it was obvious that a great deal of thought and preparation had gone into the design with the lack of tabs enabling the whole stage to be filled. The mis-matched chairs were strewn with knitted blankets and assorted cushions. The picture of old Mrs Flyte, the founder of the school, prominently overseeing all staff room activities. The ubiquitous slightly wilted and neglected plant, a feature of most staff rooms, was perfect. The box containing gym equipment, the cluttered desk, trophies and assorted paraphernalia were also great additions and so reminiscent of a school staff room from that era.

As a child of the 60's I can testify that the teachers costumes were 'spot on'. As frumpy spinsters, who had given their lives to teaching, all looked totally authentic. From the elegant Carolyn Ferguson (Miss D'Veve) in her navy spotted, belted dress to Ginnie Orrey (Miss McBain) in her flat black lace-ups, thick brown tights, tweed skirt and permed white hair, the attention to detail was superb. Mo White's (Mrs Godfrey) headscarf was delightfully comic. Vicki Quilter's (Miss Duke) clothes and hair were a good contrast to the femininity of her close friend, Miss D'Veve.

The large cast had obviously succeeded in bringing everything together as their performances, without exception, seemed natural and effortless. The characterization from all cast members was excellent and enabled the audience to become acquainted with the characters before the plot began to unfold. This managed to keep the audience guessing until the denouement. It was also, throughout, a moving depiction of female relationships. Well done to all.

Mo White (Mrs Godfrey) as the nosey, gossiping, hard done by cook turned her potentially minor part into some scene stealers with her comic timing, facial expressions and movement both in and out and across the stage. Ellen Weeks (Miss Bickerstaff) was perfect as the overworked, bustling, stressed workaholic charging around waving her spectacles. Carolyn Ferguson (Miss D'Veve) never fails to disappoint with her clear diction, intonation and facial expressions. She is a natural. Vicki Quilter (Miss Duke) did not overplay her strong character and handled the intimation of a lesbian relationship subliminally. Cheryl May (Miss Pink) was an excellent drama queen who used her comic lines to great effect. Carole Crowe (Miss Kyte) conveyed a great mix of authority and despair. She was believable in her speech about how the school was her responsibility, a 'legacy' from her mother. Her heartfelt claim to be 'sick and tired' of her life at the school was a clear indication of how her mother had controlled her. The dialogue between her and Miss Bickerstaff about how she felt life was 'passing her by' with the response that 'we do it for the girls' was superb and very moving. Pete Harris (Mr Smith) looking debonair, maintained his air of authority throughout. One can only be glad that he survived all of those women!

This was extremely entertaining and enjoyable, worthy of a much larger audience than the 30 plus theatregoers. However on a very warm Sunday afternoon, with the County Show on offer, the CAODS were up against stiff competition. However, in my opinion, I made the better choice. Congratulations to the whole team. Director, Gwen Stevens, clearly brought out the best from her talented cast. The backstage staff should also take credit for the excellent costumes and set.



Christine Blow
Christine.blow@noda.org.uk

NODA South East

DRAMA COMMITTEE NOTICE

We are looking to plan the next year in our theatre and possibly beyond.

If you have a play you would like to direct, would like to offer a play for somebody else to direct, would like to direct but are not sure what or have an idea that you think would interest other members please contact me on the email address below.

I look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Regards

Paul Stevens (drama coordinator)
postmaster@sleeptite.force9.co.uk

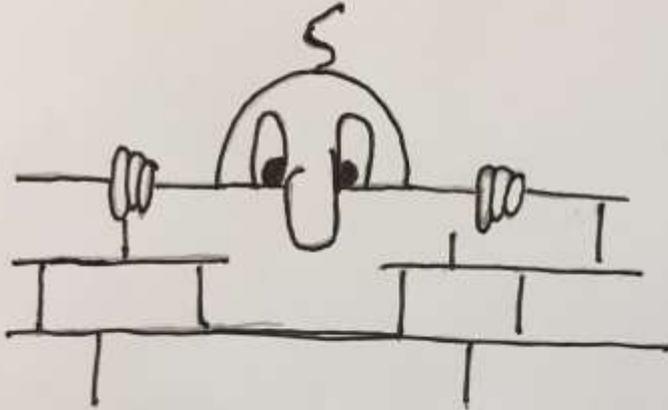


Please volunteer some of your time to help with work night, front of house, behind the bar, coffee morning and generally supporting Trinity Theatre. We can't do it without the generous support of our members.

Photos from AFTER SEPTEMBER



Photo credits: Alex Quilter



WOT.
NO COFFEE MORNING?

No coffee morning in August.

Next coffee morning is
Saturday 7th September
10-12am