



Stage Whisper

Trinity Theatre Newsletter

June 2021

Edition Number: 412

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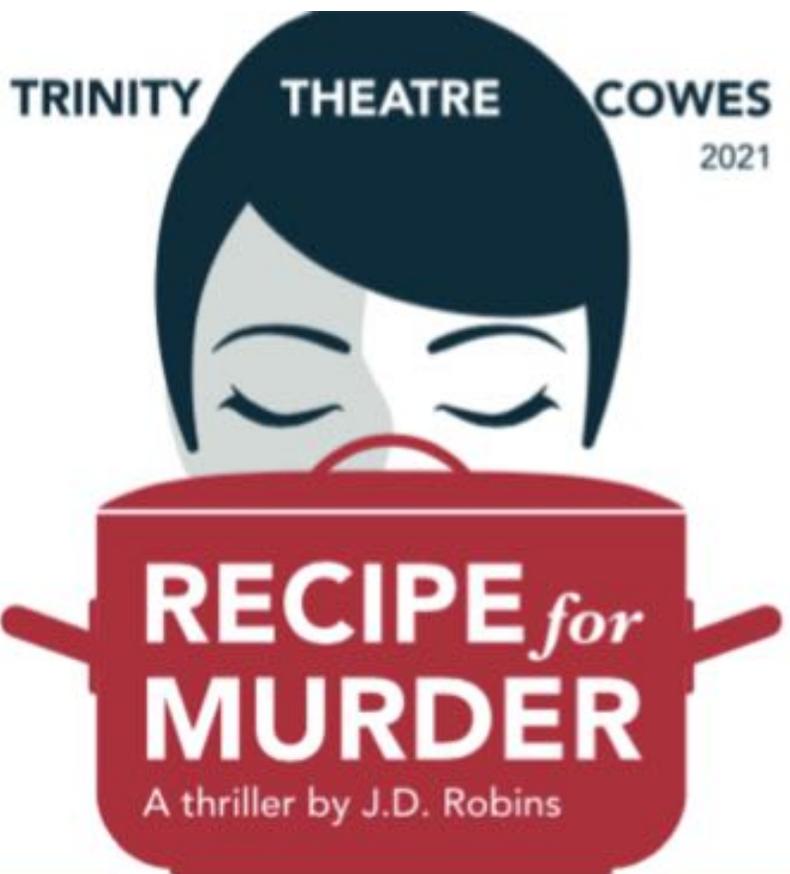
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This Month at Trinity Theatre!



JUNE 2021

Thursday 3 • Friday 4 • Saturday 5

7:30 PM | Doors open at 6.45 pm

Tickets **£7**

BOOKINGS: www.caods.org.uk | 01983 295 229

President's Report

Hi Everyone,

I'm sorry that this month I have delayed June's Stage Whisper, but I didn't want to write prior to the production of "Recipe for Murder".

Well you certainly did read last month's Stage Whisper when I asked you to support live theatre, as we had full houses on each evening (Covid reduced) which was a wonderful sight. The cast and crew certainly had a good time performing to a live audience instead of an empty theatre as in rehearsals. I have included a review written by Cheryl Barrett for Sardines magazine (a theatrical magazine).

Now that is over we really ought to try to have some form of production in September. Maybe 3 x one-act plays : each one could be produced by a different producer (perhaps people who haven't done it before, there is always help on hand), Please have a think about it.

Next month there are the auditions for the Panto "Dick Whittington" - no doubt John has put something in this edition. Please do support him.

Dinah Bowman, 291459/07876 021194

New address : 5 Mountbatten Avenue, Cowes, PO31 8HE

TAI CHI CLASSES

Classes are held every Friday evening from 7pm in the Club Room. Beginners are welcome. Please wear loose clothing and flat shoes. If you would like to share in the many benefits of this relaxing exercise please phone or text Liz Santer on 07514 414814 or 01983 614963.

There is a £3 donation to the roof fund.

Recipe for Murder

CAODS serve up a treat for theatre goers with 'Recipe For Murder'

Review for Sardines Magazine by Cheryl May

It was certainly a case of third time lucky for CAODS who finally welcomed audiences back to Trinity Theatre last night. Covid restrictions and various lockdowns forced the production to be postponed twice over the past eighteen months.

With theatre goers eager to watch live theatre again and just fifty tickets on sale per show, it comes as no surprise that all three performances sold out quickly.

'Recipe For Murder' is a thriller by JD Robins that blends all the traditional ingredients of a classic whodunit, and keeps the audience guessing until the dying minutes. The story centres on David Lawson, a research scientist who isn't in the best of health. His sister, Beatie, is worried about him. Kit Kelly, who has just moved into the area, is also worried about him. David's wife, Claire, is worried about her husband, too, but feels that Beatie is taking things too far.

The play is set in the sitting room of David and Claire Lawson's house, close to the scientific research centre where David works. Their visitor, Kit Kelly, seems very knowledgeable of the Lawson's family history. As the story unravels, so do the suspicions.

Research scientist David Lawson is convincingly played by Martin Woolven, as a put-upon husband with an easy-going temperament and bonhomie.

Amanda Robertson's chatty but overly fussing portrayal of Beatrice Haywood, David's devoted sister, was delightful. Robertson makes Beatie's various transitions, from mundane domesticity and gossipy condemnation of her sister-in-law to that of a more flirtatious nature, effortless.

Steve Taverner's laid back style suited the character Kit Kelly, yet he delivered the confrontation with Claire with just the right amount of dogged determination.

Carolyn Ferguson is excellent as the cool, calm and collected Claire Lawson, especially when facing accusations from Beatie and Kit.

I don't want to reveal too much of the plot, suffice to say there are plenty of twists and turns in this thriller which engages the audience throughout.

As well as having to reschedule production dates due to the pandemic, Director Dinah Bowman also had to recast the two male characters, with Martin Woolven stepping into the role of David Lawson only a few weeks ago. Dinah and her assistant director, Carolyn Ferguson, are to be commended on this well-cast production.

It is an absolute joy to step inside a theatre again, to read a programme and to hear the bell heralding the start of the play. It is an absolute joy to see the curtains open to reveal the set and to be able to cast an appreciative eye over the fixtures and furnishings. It is an absolute joy to be able to discuss the plot, characters, etc with other people afterwards. Live theatre is an absolute joy, and I've really missed it.

Trinity Theatre ticks all boxes to ensure the production can go ahead and be Covid-19 secure. The theatre has 200 seats but with sufficiently spaced seating, has to play to a quarter capacity. Hopefully restrictions will be lifted in the near future, and the wearing of facemasks throughout a production will soon be a thing of the past.

'Recipe For Murder'

Cowes Amateur Operatic Dramatic Society (CAODS)

Trinity Theatre, Cowes, Isle of Wight

3rd – 5th June 2021

7.30pm

Panto 2021

Dick Whittington - Synopsis

So, for any of you that don't know, here is the story of Dick Whittington.



London is infested with a plague of rats, led by evil King Rat who intends to take over the city. However he hasn't anticipated the arrival of Dick Whittington (and of course his faithful cat Tommy) assisted by Fairy Bow Bells.

Dick arrives in London to seek his fortune having been told that the streets of London are paved with gold. He soon discovers they are not, but secures a job at Alderman Fitzwarren's stores. Also at Fitzwarren's stores are Sarah the Cook (Pantomime Dame), her lazy son Idle Jack and the beautiful Alice, Alderman Fitzwarren's daughter, with whom Jack falls instantly in love. King Rat convinces Idle Jack to frame Dick for theft of the day's takings because Jack has a soft spot for Alice and hopes to win her back by getting Jack out of the way. Jack is sacked and Alice is heartbroken.

Dick decides he must leave London and as he sleeps on Highgate Hill, he has a dream (induced by Fairy Bow Bells) that he will return and become Lord Mayor. He returns to London and decides to join a ship.

Alice decides to take a trip abroad on her uncle's ship to try and forget Dick and along with Sarah and Jack they join Horatio's ship and sail for Africa. This of course is the ship that Dick has been employed on as First Mate, so he and Alice are reunited. However, King Rat has other ideas, his Pie-Rat ship is on the way and attacks them and the ship is wrecked. Dick and Alice, Sarah, Jack and Horatio all escape and are washed up on the shores of Morocco. The Emperor/Empress of Morocco initially think they are spies until Jack convinces them they are a troupe of entertainers. During the course of their entertainment, King rat appears, a fight ensues between him and Dick. Dick triumphs and Tommy sees off the rest of the rats. As a reward for saving them from King Rat, they are released and allowed to go home.

So they all return to London, Dick marries Alice and is made Lord Mayor and everyone lives happily ever after.

Now, a quick reminder:

Talk Through - Friday 9th July 7:30pm Trinity Theatre

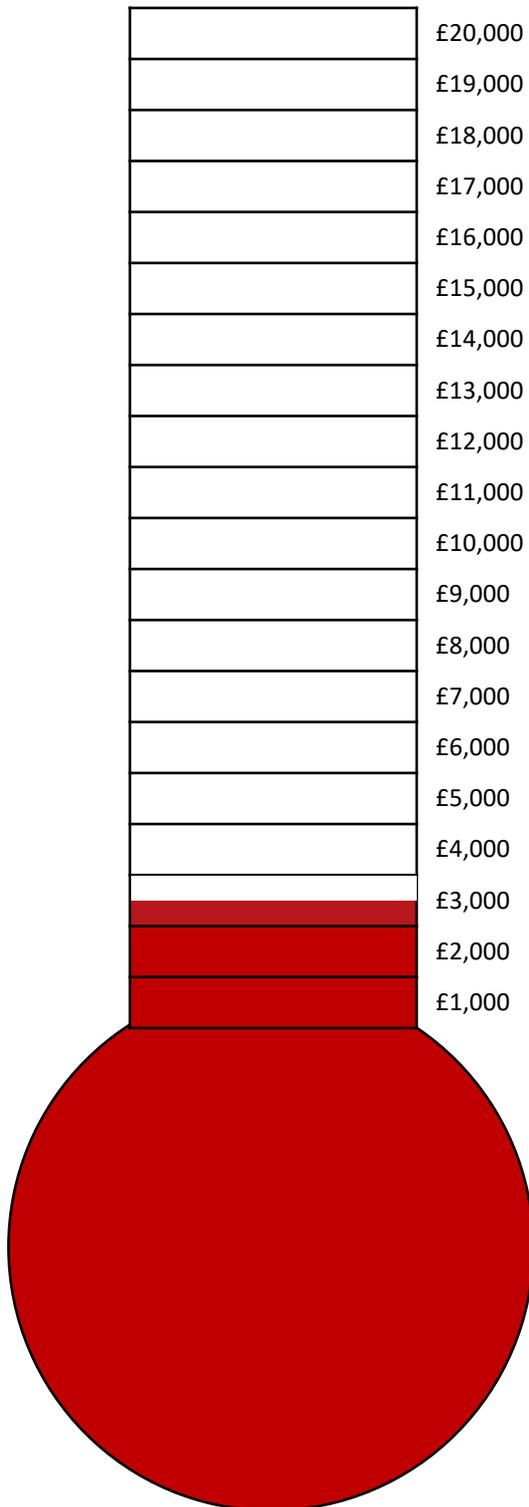
Auditions - Friday 16th July 7:30pm Trinity Theatre

Look forward to seeing you there

John



Roof Fund



Our current total
stands at
£2478.12

Poets Corner

The Theatre Mouse by Dr John Pollard

Watching through binoculars, I saw a little mouse.
Centre stage he took a bow, quite simply, front of house.
It must have been a good show, the audience went wild.
Some nice young girls just fainted, I heard a cheering child.

The orchestra then took a bow, 6 mice in black ties.
Whiskers stuck in instruments and cheerful gleaming eyes.

I think they'd done a musical, "Puss in boots" perhaps?
Or "Puss in jail" or "Puss will fail". It must have featured cats.

The chorus line then danced on, in floral pinkish gowns,
followed by a panto dame and several funny clowns.

The auditorium lights Cameron, my problem I recall.

My binoculars were back to front, .that's why they all looked small!

From The Archive

From Stage Whisper Edition 93 – May 1993

'BEGINNERS PLEASE!'

To everyone involved "Final Dress" seems something different. Consider the Stage Manager for the 1/2 hour before any show beginning at (say) 7.30.1-

- 6.58 Clear mind of 10/15 jobs done/conflicts resolved over last week.
- 6.59 Sweep stage.
- 7.00 Check my set outside goods and close them.
- 7.01 Last minute repair to throne/dummy/whatever.
- 7.02 Check lib. and refresh on cues.
- 7.03 Give instructions to new member of stage crew.
- 7.04 Check set- notice leg wavy - get busy with ties or staple gun.
- 7.05 Put all parts of set in right places for rapid changes.
- 7.06 Make call principals - two still not arrived.
- 7.07 Alley panic - find prop missing from previous rehearsal.
- 7.08 Receive two timing changes from producer.
- 7.09 Move sunny props from wings to props table.
- 7.10 Water spray mist to curtains.
- 7.11 Reassure actor re. handling his sword, taking bag, sound effects at right time etc.
- 7.12 Discuss variation to scene change timing with lighting.
- 7.13 Stage crew all present - last minute review quick changes - who what, when, where?
- 7.14 Only one principal still to arrive - fingers crossed!
- 7.15 Supply tape, scissors, pliers for quick repair to....
- 7.16 Spare minute - actors calla
- 7.17 Soothe someone.
- 7.18 Re-check safety of set- ropes tied back, no hidden dangers...
- 7.19 Orchestra lights trip out, quick consultation with lighting - possible delay!
- 7.20 BEEP CALM repeated 20 times on ascending scale.
- 7.21 Stash tool/emergency kit in wings
- 7.22 Message from F.O.R. - many invited audience still to arrive - delay start?
- 7.23 Lights back on- will they stay on? Fingers already crossed - what else is there?
- 7.24 All principals now here - phew!
- 7.25 Dash down, check M.D. still sees, call 5 minutes, wish cast good luck.
- 7.26 Remind cast about walking around curtains set through them.
- 7.27 Call "Beginners please". Audience now virtually all in.
- 7.28 Check beginners on stage.
- 7.29 Load safety pin in wings for last minute repair.
- 7.30 M.D. flashes, reply - overture starts - we're off! Heavens be praised! Now all we have to do is.....

To the "Dolly" cast - thanks! Your cooperation and pleasantness made it easy and fun backstage. Special thanks for the sterling work of everyone backstage. Tony.

***A couple of years ago I asked for views of the theatre from those fulfilling different roles. A couple of entertaining pieces were published- from a set builder and a dancer. This view of a stage manager is next in a (very!) occasional series. Any more out there?

Our Theatre Gallery

Do you have a photo of the inside or outside of the theatre to that we could use in the stage whisper?

It could be anything like, the theatre covered in snow, in glorious sunshine, an empty auditorium, the chairs in a different arrangement, or an interesting set? Sent us photos to the email account of the last page to remind us what the theatre looks like.



Stage Whisper – The Next Edition

Could all contributions for the the July Edition be emailed to MulhernEvents@gmail.com by the 1st of July for distribution that week.