

A Success

It seems such a long time ago that we all enjoyed the runaway success of *Improbable Fiction*. With a first for an Ayckbourn play, **the week was sold out**.

We have had many positive comments from our patrons and in the press.

There were many worries during the rehearsals, these have been discussed several times by the trustees and committee, lessons have been learned and procedures tightened.

"This was a far from easy play and needed many more helpers (of many skills) back stage than actual actors on stage. My thanks to all those involved." (Do Evans)

Next Play

April In Paris (appropriately being staged from 20th to 25th April) is a gentle humorous play. Please make sure that you have booked your tickets.

"Improv Night"

Natalie is planning another night of improvisation on 16th April. All members are invited, and you are welcome to bring your friends for a evening of "theatrical" fun. The theatre and the bar will be open from 7:30pm,

Next Season - Any Ideas?

Our artistic director is working with a group of four members to select plays for next season. A number of you have made suggestions, if there is anybody else who would like to propose a play for them to consider please contact Do or the office.

Display Cabinet

A new feature of the foyer is a cabinet for the display of material to advertise **our** next production. This is yet another inspiring idea from the marketing group. The current display features material for "April in Paris".

Jenny Eglinton has "volunteered" to manage the displays, and has asked if any members have items suitable for "Ladies Down Under". This time we are looking for things with an Australian theme. I have a wine bottle (empty), do any of you have stuffed kangaroos or koala bears, boomerangs, hats with corks, or any other items that you can loan for about 6 weeks.

If you have anything please contact Jenny or the office.

Spring 2009 Season

At the time of going to press this is the crew list for the last three plays

"April in Paris" -

SM	Dennis Beasley
Prompt	Liz Cole
Props	Claire Haywood
Wardrobe	Claire Haywood
Lights	David Wakeman
Sound	Derek Taylor

"Ladies Down Under"

SM	Stephan Austin
ASM	Mike Lawrence
Prompt	Elaine Foster
Props	Volunteer Please
Wardrobe	Carol Wright
Lights	Murray Bridges & Tony Edwards
Sound	David Goddard

"Arsenic and Old Lace"

SM	Keith Higgins
ASM	Mike Lawrence
Prompt	Margaret White
Props	Helen Speake, Rita Shakespeare, Annie Hunt
Wardrobe	Carol Wright & Lynn Ravenhill
Lights	Ted & Denise Churchett
Sound	Derek Taylor

Dress Rehearsal Teas

The teas that are provided between the two dress rehearsals are organised by the Natalie (the Membership Manager). She would like to hear from any members that are willing to help in the preparation and serving of these teas.

If you can spare some time on a late Sunday afternoon once or twice a year please contact Natalie or the office.

Diary Dates

"Improv Night" 16th April from 7:30pm

April In Paris - 20th to 25th April

Season 2009-10

We have decided to publish the provisional dates for the next year starting in September 2009. Please understand that these dates are provisional, and may change.

Play 1 - 14th to 19th September 2009
1st rehearsal - 26th July 2009
in the Main House

Play 2 - 19th to 24th October 2009
1st rehearsal - 31st August 2009
in the Main House

Play 3 - 29th November to 5th December 2009
1st rehearsal - 10th October 2009
in the Main House

(this is the Christmas play and will have a performance on the Sunday 29th and a matinee on 5th)

Christmas Entertainment
10th to 13th December 2009

Play 4 - 18th to 23rd January 2010
1st rehearsal - 7th December 2009
in the Studio

Play 5 - 8th to 13th February 2010
1st rehearsal - 21st December 2009
in the Main House

Play 6 - 12th to 17th April 2010
1st rehearsal - 22nd February 2010
in the Main House

Play 7 - 10th to 15th May 2010
1st rehearsal - 29th March 2010
in the Main House

Play 8 - 14th to 19th June 2010
1st rehearsal - 26th April 2010
in the Main House

You will see that this year we have planned a single Studio play. The late summer and Christmas holidays keep moving so that some years the number of available weeks is less. We feel that it will cause too much stress on the society to try to fit in a studio play in the autumn.

We are discussing options that will provide opportunities for all members to try new skills and to develop those that they have. These may include workshops, and rehearsed play readings. We have a lot of qualified people in the society who would like to pass on their knowledge.

If you have any ideas that you would like us to consider please let either the Artistic Director or Chairman know.

Volunteering

Once again we are asking you to tell us when you are available for FOH or Bar. The attached form runs to the end of this season.

PLEASE fill it in as best you can to help Sarah and Kieran fill the roster.

Youth Theatre

I hope that you all know that we have a thriving youth theatre. Not only is it successful by being popular, but also because of the capabilities of the members as so ably demonstrated in their recent performance "Missing Dan Nolan".

We congratulate Emma and Vicky for their effort in developing the talents of so many young people.

You may not have heard that the performance was going ahead, and this is a dilemma for the society. The cast being under age places upon the society a mass of restrictions to remain compliant with the law.

We are planning another performance by the Youth Theatre before the end of this season, this time in the studio. We will give more details in a later newsletter

Next we hope to have three performances one each term. Autumn and Summer will be in the studio, with the Spring show being in the Main House.

Visiting Companies

Plans are well under way for the next year. We will be welcoming back our friends from KODS for three shows.

We have provisional bookings for a number of professional dramatic shows, as well as several nights for different types of music. Dance will also feature with Back to Broadway returning this time for three nights just before Christmas.

We hope to include some shows within the Shindig umbrella, but we will not know what is available from that source till May.

Finances

We have had four major successes with our last four productions. We have also done very well from some of our visitors.

Current projections are that we will be profitable this year but this assumes that we will get reasonably sized audiences. Please encourage your friends to join you when you come to see **our** plays.

Comments to your Chairman

Paul Cutland

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Copies of this newsletter and other material can be found on our web site, just follow the "Members" link on the front page.