



## Nonentities Newsletter June 2011

### A Letter From Your Chairman...

Most important! I want to thank everyone who has helped to make the season such a success – critically and in audience popularity too. I'm not just thinking of the actors either - all departments have played their parts! Pretty frocks for the casts, welcoming smiles for the audiences in the Box Office, FOH and in the Bar– so they do believe our slogan that “there’s always a great welcome at The Rose” .... And the sets! What a delight they have been! I shall have much more to say at the AGM in the Autumn – but in the meantime ...just “thanks to everyone!”

### Congratulations On Our Recent Shows...

#### Darling Buds of May

I really did enjoy my evening at The Rose! OK, as a member said to me “it isn’t the very best play the world has ever seen” – but the way it looked and the way it was “sold” across the footlights by the entire cast, really warmed even this tired old heart! I really do believe it was just the thing to go into the season at this difficult time – and the “feel good factor” really came across in buckets full! Many congratulations to Ross and the entire team ... “Perfick!”

#### Present Laughter

Another fabulous set, beautifully styled, as authentic as “Poirot”, and amazingly executed! And the performance? Style, urbanity, wit in handfulls! Sexy? Yes! Funny? Yes. Very! A great evening to end the season – and to “warm” the way towards our Birthday one! Steven and the whole company did a great job for themselves – and for the Society!

### Artistically Speaking ...

Hello everyone! What a year we’ve had! And promise of things to come...

Hugh has neatly expressed all my feelings about the past shows and all I need to say is **THANKYOU** to all those involved in any way. It has been a great season, and the percentages of ‘bums on seats’ has been outstanding. I think the society can be justly proud of what it has achieved this year. The team work has been phenomenal and I am sure now we will go into the next year with all guns blazing.

As you now all know, we have a great new season ahead for our Birthday bash, and will be celebrating twice: once with the RSC at Christmas with Merry Wives, and again for ourselves with Daisy. Why shouldn’t we? Lots of opportunities for all, but I must stress it is difficult to be fair to everyone if you don’t fill in your availability forms...and Ladies, you are the worst culprits.

### Eunace Purcell

As I mentioned in our last edition, former member Eunice died recently. I’m now asked to let her friends know that the memorial service will be held at St Cassian’s Church, Chaddesley Corbett at 2.00pm on the 18<sup>th</sup> July. Tea afterwards at The Talbot

### The Dinner Dance...

A good crowd, including several friends from KODS, enjoyed a really splendid evening to revive our old tradition. Very many thanks to Vilma and all who helped make it such a success – Mike for the production of the “solid” Golden Gnomes and to Stan for his urbane presentation to the fortunate winners! A really super evening!

## Artistically Speaking ...

You may also like to know of the hairy time we have had obtaining some of our new season. Publishers of plays have the right to withdraw a play for amateur performance if a professional tour is imminent, and we have just had our second play removed at short notice! We were about to lose *Les Liaisons*, but thanks to Sir Bob's suggestion that we go over the publisher's heads to the Playwright's agents, and to Debbie's excellent letters and phone calls, the West End producer has graciously granted us permission to stage the play! I consider that a great coup and want to thank Deb very much for her efforts!

## Adrian Mole ... Sept 12th - 17th

Recently we managed to cram a play reading for *Adrian Mole* into a busy schedule, and the attendance was excellent. This is obviously the way you like to go. Now Richard Taylor (director) and I are able to offer you the following cast. As you may know, this is a play with some music, and this is being provided free of charge by a lecturer at the college, Rob Groucutt, who is himself a professional performer (Groucutt and Haynes) and son of Kelly Groucutt, late of ELO.

Adrian Mole - Alex Powell

George Mole - Andy Barlow

Pauline Mole - tbc

Pandora - Charlotte Moseley

Grandma - Hilary Thompson

Mr Lucas - Alan Minaker

Mrs Lucas - Kerena Taylor

Bert Baxter - Nick Haynes

Queenie - Lynn Ravenhill

Nigel Slater - Matt Preece

Barry Kent - Alex Dzumaga

Doreen Slater - Alex Hyde

Official - Matt Preece

Mr Scruton - Alan Minaker

Matron - Karina Taylor

1st rehearsal will be 18th July

## Open Stages ...

10 actors and 6 backstage, directing and technical members – chosen randomly from those who expressed interest - duly attended the Skills Exchange in Stratford over the recent Bank Holiday weekend.

Two very full days were thoroughly enjoyed and I know that Jen is considering plans to ensure the information we obtained is "cascaded" – I believe that's the correct expression(!) – through the Society.

## Rebecca ... Oct 10th - 15th

David Wakeman has also consulted with me on casting Rebecca, and I include the list as well. As you can see, some new names and some challenges there as well.

Frith - Dennis Beasley

Mrs. Danvers - Jen Eglinton

Beatrice Lacy - Sandy Tudor

Giles Lacy - Stuart Woodroffe

Frank Crawley - Ross Workman

Robert - Stefan Austin

Maxim - Martin Copland-Gray

Mrs. De Winter - Rachel Lawrence

Jack Favell - Tom Rees

Col. Julian - Stephen Downing

William Tabb - Trevor Bailey

Maid 1 - Beth Stevens

Maid 2 - Lynn Davis

1st rehearsal will be 22nd August

Now on to the rest of the first half, and I hope to announce these soon. Please, if you haven't given in your availability, do so, or it will be difficult to know what you want. 'Break a leg' everyone.

## Youth Group Performance Announcement ...

Many of you will be aware that our Youth Theatre Group has been working hard this year under the leadership of Gina Biggs, assisted by Robyn Andrews. The culmination of their hard work is about to come into fruition and we would like to invite you all to come and see *The Children*, by Edward Bond, on Saturday 9th July at 7.30pm. This is a gripping and thought provoking play which has really tested the young performers and I think you will be impressed with what they have achieved. These are the Nonentities of tomorrow, and I am sure you will want to come and support them, especially those who had the pleasure of acting with some of them in *Darling Buds*. I look forward to seeing you there.



## A final thought ...

Particularly pleasing too was the large attendance of the cast at Sunday morning's "tear the set down" session. I am very keen to demolish the barriers we still seem to have between "on" - and "back stage" members and have everyone "mucking-in" together.....please!

*Hugh Meredith*

A big thank you to everyone who turned up today (Sunday) including Chris Paine from KODS - to strike the set of *Present Laughter*. We had a really good turn out and most grateful for all the help.

*Keith Higgins*

*And long may it continue...*

## Dates for your diary ...

9th July - *The Children* by Edward Bond. Youth Theatre Performance

16th July - Front of House Staff Training - contact Stephen Downing

18th July - 1st rehearsal for *Adrian Mole*

23rd July - Annual clear out day (all help appreciated)

22nd August - 1st rehearsal for *Rebecca*

