



The Nonentities Newsletter

September 2011

Notes from the Chair...

Well, we're off and running again!

Each year we always say the "close season" gets shorter - and Summer 2011 has been absolutely no exception! Again I am totally amazed at the amount of effort many of our members put in to make things run as smoothly as they do. Debbie, Derek and the Office Staff, assisted by Steven and all the FOH volunteers have done wonders to bed "Oscar" down satisfactorily, and their success can be seen in the exceptional amount of pre-season bookings we have taken - a volume that I understand would simply not have been possible with our previous booking arrangements. Kath has been happily jumping up and down on the new Foyer furniture and Mike, Keith and the others have done significant amounts of work in the auditorium. Derek again, and his team, has been responsible for a considerable amount of refurbishment of our lighting equipment - so we seem to be in excellent shape for our Birthday season - and what looks being a very successful one. Let's hope so, as we need to sell each and every show very well, simply in order to keep the ship afloat. John and I will have more to say about this at the forthcoming AGM. This is fixed for the evening of 30th October, 7pm and full details will be with members shortly. In the meantime, please make a note of the date. You will doubtless want to know about our financial performance last year and we shall need your help to choose any new Officers, Committee and Managers.

"Don't forget, if you want to vote, you MUST be a paid-up member!"

Congratulations to "Adrian" and his Friends

Richard and the team duly got us off to a fine start to the New Season. Again "the first play jinx" hit us, and the audience sizes were overall not what we had hoped for - however final numbers picked up a lot during the week, and where by no means a disaster. (I shall have a bit to say about the problems of the first play in The Chairman's Report at the AGM.) I'm writing this before the final figures are available, but I understand the splendidly evocative set did not cost much to build and decorate and that costumes came mainly from our own resources, so hopefully we shall be on the "right side" financially. Those of you who did not visit the show, (...WHY NOT...?!) missed a really pleasing evening - with loads of commitment and enthusiasm, excellent invention and lots of laughs, served up by newcomers and "old-stagers" alike. A really happy, "team" show and a great foretaste of what is to come!

Congratulations and thanks to all concerned!

Something different...

You may or may not know that Gina Biggs, who is our Youth Theatre leader, is away in Poland for a while studying drama. In her absence we are delighted to have Gill Adamson, an experienced professional actress and teacher. Gill works with various companies, and has offered us the opportunity to work with one of them on some filming. Here's what she says:

"The theatre company I work with are currently doing a small film project for the Black Country Living Museum. We're planning to film scenes from the Chainmaker's strike that took place in Cradley Heath in 1910. We're looking for volunteers who might like to be involved and who could dress themselves up and be part of the striking demonstrations that happened. It occurred to me that some of the theatre might like to be involved?"

She hasn't got any dates or times as yet, but if you are interested in being a striker, can you let me know and I will forward names to her later. It might be a good opportunity for yourselves and the Rose Theatre to be credited on film, and an experience to see how a different medium is produced.



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Dates for your Diary:

12th November 2011 BOOK SWAP 11am-1.30pm

Spare room/loft full of paperbacks, hardbacks collecting dust? Bring your books down to our Book Swap morning at The Rose and join us for a coffee and cake at the same time!!

26th October 2011 PROPS WORKSHOP 7.00pm – 9.30pm

Every production relies on a range of dedicated back stage crew, including props crew – those mysterious people in black floating on and off stage, often with a drink in hand! Well – cold tea, cordial and banana milkshake does do a good egg flip.

Nonentities are keen to involve more members both new and old in doing props for the productions. Heather, our Props Manager finds it difficult to get enough volunteers and we really need props activity at the start of the process. When the cast starts rehearsing on stage it's great for them to have their props to hand – pretending to flourish a bunch of flowers is never easy!

It's a great job for being involved in a production from beginning to end and really creative, not least building dead bodies, designing food for stage and dressing the set for the period. Sourcing the props is also a challenge!

It's a great chance for new members to make that step nearer the stage.

So we are offering a facilitated workshop with input from our experienced props crew to whet the appetite. It will include some practical exercises and we hope will be fun!

Dress Code of course – *black!*

Please let Vilma know if you plan to attend – email: vilmawatson@aol.com

If you just want to talk through what it involves phone Hilary on 07500 337585 (evenings) or email her on hilary@mackenzieconsultancy.co.uk



For all Newsletter Submissions please contact the

Main Office admin@rosetheatre.co.uk or

Richard Taylor rtaylor1564@googlemail.com

Thankyou

Richard (Ed.)



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Something Wicked This Way Comes ...

March 03rd 2012

The Nonentities Youth Theatre having just begun their sessions for this autumn term are excited to announce that they are working towards a production of Shakespeare's Macbeth in the spring next year.

Macbeth feels like a really great opportunity to present ourselves with a new challenge after the success of the production of Edward Bond's The Children last summer.

The fateful prophecy wickedly put before the brave warrior Macbeth as he leaves the bloody battlefield, sets the scene for this story of blood and betrayal, superstition and ambition.

We're delighted to be joined by some new members as we begin the project as well as welcoming back members from last season. If you are interested in getting involved please contact the theatre direct.

Artistic Thingies Again ...

Welcome to the new season...and what a beginning it has been! We kicked off with Richard's excellent production of Adrian Mole. Well done everybody for a much deserved crit, including mentions for those backstage (who created a wonderful set, props and costumes) and even the prompt!

Take a bow Vilma!

It is the first time in ages that we have done a show with music, and the cast rose to the challenge. The show was not without its tensions, however, when poor Marika went down with tonsillitis and laryngitis the weekend before we opened and ended up in Primary Care on the Sunday Morning! She made the dress rehearsal though, and on the Monday we provided her with a microphone so we could hear her and Tori did an emergency recording of her vocals so she could mime to them. Thank you. All in all the whole thing passed seamlessly and the audience thoroughly enjoyed it. Welcome also to our new members and I hope you will stay with us for a long time.

Rebecca is going well, and Vita and Virginia has just started rehearsal too, so the theatre is buzzing with creativity in all areas as we prepare new feasts for you all.

The last two plays of the first half of the season are now cast, and you will find the lists below. Also attached are the availability forms for the second half. I know these are a little early, but directors are raring to go and many members have been asking, so I include them now. Please send them back to the theatre as soon as you can.

A final word about Daisy... it is intended that the schoolgirls will all be played by adult members of all ages, so if you fancy getting back into those lovely gymslips and big knickers, get your names in now! Lots of fun for all!

Jen



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Merry Wives of Windsor ...

Bardolph ... Dennis Beasley
Pistol ... Trevor Bailey
Nym ... Nick Haynes
Robin ... Kieran Merchant
Ford ... Richard Taylor
Page ... Tom Rees
Sir Hugh Evans ... Martin Copland-Gray
Doctor Caius ... Stuart Walton
Rugby ... Stuart Woodroffe
Mistress Quickley ... Judy Bassett
Justice Shallow ... Patrick Bentley
Slender ... Dan Taylor
Simple ... Alan Minaker
Fenton ... Chris Kaye
Host of the Garter Inn ... Alex Forty
Miss Ford ... Marika Farr
Miss Page ... Sinead Maffei
Anne Page ... Sophie Harrison
Falstaff ... Bob Graham

Director ... Jen Eglington
Prompt ...

In Two Minds ...

Hewlett ... Stanley Barton
Annie ... Viv Cole
Robert ... Stef Austin
Gina ... Nikki Fisher

Director ... Tori Wakeman
Prompt ...

Prompt Responses ...

Attention all members.

If any of you are willing to act as Prompt for any of our shows, would you please indicate on the availability forms. We are short a few willing volunteers, and although often thought of as a thankless task, it is a very valuable one and much appreciated by the casts during rehearsal and as a security blanket should stage nerves kick in.

Thankyou All EggHeads ...

Vilma and Paula should be very proud of the excellent Quiz Night they presented during the pre-season build up. Stan was a formidable Question Master, ably assisted by our very own "Samantha" in the form of Jen, who kept the score without fear or favour in spite of considerable and vociferous complaints from one or two of the teams! There was an excellent attendance, including a couple of teams from KODS – particularly good to see, in spite of the fact that one of these just piped our "standard-bearers" to the major prize!!!

I'm so pleased that our Social Season is proving a success and that you are giving the events excellent support. Please keep it up everyone!

Hugh Meredith



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Please Help us to run efficiently...

The observant among you will have noticed that The Box Office is now not open on Wednesdays, although some other opening hours have been extended. This is to allow Debbie valuable “quiet” time to carry out other important duties associated with managing our theatre efficiently and well, and keeping up with the necessary paper-work which seems to increase each year.

I do hope that all members will respect your Committee's Box Office closure decision, and not expect her to open up specifically for you!

The Internet booking facility will of course be open as normal to cater for your requests, or you can contact the Box Office during the other opening times.

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