



Welcome to the last Nonentities newsletter of 2011. It has been a very busy year full of wonderful shows and some great memories for all. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

All the very best, Richard.

A view from the chair ...

The recent AGM/EGM

Thanks to the gallant “few” who bothered to attend the recent meetings - “Great numbers,” they say “are not always beneficial” but it would have been good to have seen a few more faces looking back at us. We were “legal” but only just, so I can announce that our new Trustees are **Graham Orr, David Wakeman, Ross Workman** and **Colin Young** (plus two more to be appointed by the Committee). I welcome them to their duties and look forward to a new Chapter in the governance of The Society.

Your New Committee ...

Chairman: *Hugh Meredith*

Deputy Chairman: *Bob Graham*

OFFICERS:

Treasurer: *John Gaston*

Artistic Director: *Jen Eglinton*

Secretary: *Brian Potter*

MEMBER'S COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES:

Stefan Austin, Martin Copland-Gray,

Keith Higgins, Lynn Ravenhill,

Richard Taylor.

EXECUTIVE MANAGERS:

Bar: *Paula Rayner,*

Box Office: *Stephen Downing,*

Club (Membership): *Vilma Watson,*

Front of House: *Kath Lawrence,*

Maintenance: *Mike Lawrence,*

Publicity: *Kerena Taylor,*

Stage Director: *Derek Taylor,*

Wardrobe: *Carol Wright*



The Chairmans Report ...

Copies of The Chairman's Report and the Treasurer's examined financial statement can be seen on application to The Secretary, but the main points covered are as follows:

Tributes paid to former Members now passed away.

Thanks to all Officers, Committee Members and Managers, and to The Theatre Manager for all their hard work in a challenging year. Particular thanks to retiring Committee Members: Heather Veasey, Geoff Cooke and Les Laws and to Mike Lawrence who is “changing hats”.

A Challenging Year:- Problems with Car Parking, Child Protection Issues, Health and Safety considerations and the withdrawal of Computer Bureau support had all involved us in a lot of work and some expense. On-going resolution of the problems reported - and all members requested to abide by the new Policies on display and available, and to be aware of the need to work safely in the building

Overall season's attendance figures of almost 80% with over 76% paid sales figures reported and good responses to The Professional and Visitors season had resulted in only a very small loss for the Financial Year - an excellent result in view of considerable and heavy expenditure on much-needed improvement work - particularly to the electrical systems in the Theatre.

All members requested to consider their individual contributions to the work of the theatre and to “do more” to ensure that the load was shared more widely and more equitably. The time has come to consider the routes adopted by some of our fellow LTG member societies and to set quotas for the “less glamorous”, but vitally necessary activities in the smooth running of the Theatre. A Working Party would be set up to consider the problem and to recommend possible solutions. In a personal statement The Chairman announced that owing to extreme old age, he would not be seeking re-election at the 2012 AGM.

Artistically Speaking ...

First of all may I apologise for the lateness of these castings. My casting group and I have been very busy in one way or another and that between us it has been very difficult to find the time to get together. Anyway I do hope this isn't going to cause you any major problems and we are doing our best to prevent this occurring again. In our last meeting we discussed quite extensively how best to deal with this sort of situation, and how best to serve you, the members. In the past it has been the custom to issue castings twice a year, but we think this is not fair on you all. Situations change, we all have busy lives and it is not easy to plan so far ahead any more, new members arrive, etc. so we are thinking of issuing them three times a season, with three plays in each, from now on (next season looks like being 9 plays instead of 10 to cater for increased external demand). This will also stop that awful feeling of "o well, not wanted this year!" which I remember so well.

I began my tenure by saying we would have a mixture of play readings and auditions. We began well with Adrian having a strong attendance, but again pressure meant we stopped. Well, I apologise for that but I will not go back on my word. For the last three great plays we will be having readings which are not meant to be auditions as such, but there will be the odd casting group member about scouting for talent, if not for that play for the future. So if you want to display yours, get in there! If you want to audition privately, just say so. A director may be present as they have the right to give me a wish list, but remember, they do not have the right to promise a role to any one as the casting group have the final say. Only we have all your information and can cast on a balance of fairness and availability.

Ah, availability...I know I keep bleating on about availability sheets, but **PLEASE** will you make sure I have them? I have 25! It is very difficult to cast plays. You may not realise what goes into the process, but balancing the plays, making sure you all have opportunities and introducing new members is actually quite difficult. So far so good, but I am short of some key people for next half, and in order to stop the feeling that the same people are in each play I need you! For instance, I am very short of young women who can play 20 - 35, and some of those available have limited time due to young families or work commitments, so it is inevitable that there is a lot of pressure on the very few left... You may not be able to make the readings, and that is what the availability sheets are for!

Your Publicity Team Needs You ...

We are looking for volunteers to join the Publicity Team at the Theatre.

If you can help handing out posters, help with displays in the library, keep websites up to date with current productions or would like to have a much more involved role please contact Kerena at the theatre:

publicity@rosetheatre.co.uk

Kerena



Artistically Speaking ... pt 2 ...

On a lighter note, selection of plays for the next season will begin after Christmas. The theme will be '**Things That Go Bump in the Night**'. Already my casting group have some great ideas, but please, please, please feel free to send me some of your own. We would really like some suggestions, especially for modern plays - and of course something good for Christmas! Email me or just drop a list in my tray at the theatre. I promise I will consider all your ideas.

admin@rosetheatre.co.uk

Or

Drop a note into the office and they will pass it on.

Jen

Our recent productions ...

Rebecca -

Another memorable set, excellent houses and some splendid performances greeted David's production. Once more John Slim was very complimentary, and again the Theatre received a number of expressions of thanks, both by letter and e-mail from delighted patrons. We naturally acknowledge all such messages and it's good to note that this is becoming a regular event for us. We must be doing "a lot right" when people bother to express their appreciation in this way - so again congratulations to everyone involved with a show that did us "absolutely no harm at all"!!

Vita & Virginia -

The jury is possibly "still out" on the question of "is it a real play?" but nevertheless there is absolutely no argument over the success of our latest Studio production! Pamela and "the gallant two" - Louise and Sue, ably supported by a very small back stage team of Jan, Neil and Kieran, served up another very telling and absorbing small house show which seemed to delight most members of the good-sized audiences. The "redoubtable" John Slim said "absorbing" and "..... which blossoms!"....., so that's all right! Again, a success to chalk up I feel.

Hugh

Cast Lists ...

Les Liaisons Dangereuses -

Valmont - Richard Taylor
Merteuil - Sue Downing
Danceny - Sam Roden
Mme de Tourvel - Louise Fulwell
Cecile de Volanges - Harriet Poulton
Mme de Volanges - Sandy Tudor
Mme de Rosamonde - Pam Meredith
Azolan - Trevor Bailey
Emilie - MJ Jones
Major Domo - Brian Potter
2 Servants - Peter Dickenson
 Anthony Burbage

Director - Stephen Downing

Artistically Speaking ... pt 3 ...

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all those who have put in a lot of hard work both on and off stage to make this season a success so far. I know that peoples' availability differ, and appreciate every little thing you do.

Without you, this theatre does not exist.

You are all stars!

A very Merry Christmas to you all.

Jen

Tickets ... an appeal ...

Our new brochure makes it clear to patrons that reserved tickets can only be held for 5 days without being paid for. OK, we all know that unfortunately not all our shows are "sold out", but recently we had a "notional full house" which turned out not to be on the night, because of "no-shows". Some of them were members I understand! I know it has been the custom that Members can "pay on the night" - but it really can mean the difference between "selling out and not" if you book but don't come!

So this is an appeal: please consider if you can pay when booking - it makes things so much simpler for the staff - and the evening Box Office volunteers as well.

Cast Lists ... pt 2 ...

Proof -

Catherine - Marika Farr
Hal - Stuart Walton
Claire - Tori Wakeman
Robert - Terry Cooper-Day

Director - Martin Copland-Gray

This is a Studio Production

The next production will be the Richard Harris thriller **In Two Minds**. Tori Wakeman takes control of this thriller which opens January 23rd and runs through until January 28th. Get your tickets early to avoid disappointment!!!

Seasons Greetings ...

A very Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year to all our members!

Equally importantly - "Thank you all so much for what you all do for The Society! Your contributions are amazing. The whole Wyre Forest area and surroundings should be so grateful to you all!"



Hugh
The
Nonentities
Society