

## **DDOS NEWSLETTER .....JANUARY 2014**

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2014 – still Logo and ‘Fancy Bits’ free! But now I’ve got to grips with it a little, this is your chance to give me some feedback..... Is this a format you want? Would you prefer more photos? Would you like to see a more ‘colourful’ newsletter? All suggestions gratefully received ....email me at [lindencv@virginmedia.com](mailto:lindencv@virginmedia.com) – There is a lot to read as we go into 2014 with pretty much a full calendar ..... enjoy! .....Ed. (aka Linden)

### **First, however, some very sad news just received -**

During the preparation of this newsletter I regret to say we have just heard that Jon Scarrott lost his battle with pancreatic cancer on Wednesday evening (15<sup>th</sup> January). He was just 63. Jon’s last performance with us was as the wonderful Mr. Bennet in ‘Pride and Prejudice’ performed just a few months ago. In fact he died 2 months and 1 day from diagnosis. All our thoughts and condolences are with Sue and her family. Details of his memorial service will be sent to all via our E Mail Broadcast once known.

## **MOST IMPORTANTLY.....**

### **Tickets for ‘The Importance of Being Earnest’ are on sale now!!!!**

The show runs from Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January until Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February..... Buy your tickets NOW! There is a **special reduced price** of £10 for Tuesday Night – BARGAIN. Other nights are £11 for members, £13 for non-members.

Directed by Shaun Hughes – this is such a classic that I don’t have to tell you what it’s about!

**Call the Box Office on 01306 881717 to reserve your tickets**

## **THE NEXT MOST IMPORTANT THING .....is.....**

**Auditions for ‘Orphans’  
Director – Sarah Morrison**

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January @ 2pm & Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January @ 8pm**

Two grown orphan brothers live in an old dilapidated row house in North Philadelphia—deserted in childhood by an unfaithful father and by the death of their mother. Older brother Treat, brutal and violent, provides for his younger brother Phillip by being a petty thief—interpreting the role of father.

With the love and protectiveness of an older brother and an orphan's fear of abandonment, Treat takes away Phillip's chances to grow up, depriving him of knowledge and forcing him to live in a world of illiteracy and innocence: relegating him to their lost childhood.

As Treat is out stealing to put food on the table, Phillip never leaves the house, thinking he will die from something outside because of a near deadly allergic reaction he had as a child. Haunted by the death of their mother, he spends his time lying in her closet filled with unworn clothes. Curious about the world, he secretly attempts to understand things by watching re-runs of the 'The Price is Right' and underlining words in newspapers and old books he finds lying around.

Treat kidnaps and ties up a Chicago gangster named Harold. Harold, an orphan himself, with the prowess of an escape artist, loosens the ties that bind him, turns the tables around, and with gun in hand, puts himself into the role of teacher, healer and surrogate parent.

**Performance dates are Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April to Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April**

## **AND THERE IS STILL LOTS MORE TO COME...**

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>/Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May**

**Two one act, two-hander plays by Geoff Rose-Michael**

### **'Cold Blooded Killer'**

When grieving widow Jack disturbs Becky, an intruder, he is shocked by how much she resembles his wife, who is missing, presumed dead, in a shark attack recently. Jack attempts to persuade Becky to impersonate his wife, to inherit the fortune of her mother, who died during the tragic holiday. But is Jack telling the truth about her disappearance, and can Becky be trusted to carry out the deception...

### **'Singled Out'**

When SODA, the Singles Online Dating Agency, arranges a social night for some of its members, the first two girls to arrive soon discover they have both suffered a similar disturbing experience, and that they have been lured there by person or persons...

**Exciting stuff! Put it in your diary - full details in our February newsletter.**

**Leatherhead Drama Festival – during the week of 12<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May**

Our entry is a comedy/drama **'So Near Too Far'** written by Joanne Higginson. It has a 3-hander female cast. Details of Director and auditions dates will follow shortly, but meanwhile here is a synopsis of the play:-

Three friends, Abby, Ruth and Becky (all around 31 years old) who are close, despite their very different ways of looking at life, meet regularly for lunch where they discuss their different relationships: Abby has just started to date her downstairs neighbour, Ruth has an ongoing relationship with a guy who lives the other side of London to her, and Becky's long term boyfriend lives in the USA. Via a series of monologues, each friend tells of her relationship and her take on what is going on in her friends' lives. Mobile phones play a part in this story as what is on each character's phone is shown to the audience via a screen at the back of the stage.

**17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> June: '84 Charing Cross Road'**  
**Director – Bobby Hamilton**

**Read Through and Auditions: Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March**  
**(Rehearsals start early May)**

This beautiful play is a dramatisation of letters between a struggling writer in New York and an antiquarian book store in London. In a sense, these are also love letters. They reflect a shared love of literature and books and a meeting of like minds. The play takes place over a twenty year period, beginning in 1949 when Helene Hanff first writes to antiquarian bookshop Marks & Co. and ends in 1969 with the death of Frank Doel, the delightfully dusty supplier of so many of the old books to Helene who shows her gratitude by sending parcels of foods still on ration in Britain to the staff of Marks & Co., some of whom surreptitiously also write to Helene!

CHARACTERS – 3 male, 4 female.

The play is essentially a two hander with the bulk of the dialogue between HELENE and FRANK. Frank is reading Helene's letters but Helene's are delivered 'out front' as it were. The other members of staff write to Helene, CECILY writes more often than anyone else and is a bit livelier. MEGAN writes once so does WILLIAM (BILL). Mr. MARTIN has little dialogue but is on for much of the play (but dies during the course of the action-offstage!). The shop staff are on for much of the play, working in the background and reacting to the letters.

HELENE - Playing age late 30/40s. Fiery and seemingly abrasive New Yorker but with a big heart and a deep love and instinctive understanding of literature. Her warmth and humour are a huge part of this play.

FRANK- (early 40s) The terribly British bookseller who forms an unlikely friendship with Helene that leans towards a sort of (gentle) romance. Frank is happily married and there is no sense of impropriety but nevertheless their developing relationship forms the core of the evening. There is a dry, sly humour beneath the dusty exterior. He is a very warm man.

MEGAN WELLS (20s/30s)

CECILY FARR (20s/30s)

Mr. MARTIN - Elderly bookseller

WILLIAM HUMPHRIES - Any age but a good opportunity for a younger man

JOAN TODD-One short letter only-she delivers the sad news of Frank's death and should strike a different note to all the other correspondence we hear. Could double with-  
MAXINE STUART - American actress friend of Helene. Glamorous (late 30s/any age) One letter

**2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> September 2014 – ‘Saucy Jack and the Space Vixens’  
Director - Sasha Silver**

**Sing/Read Through : Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May @ 8pm.  
Auditions: Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May @ 2pm**

This multi-award winning musical was created in 1995. It has been performed all over the world including two runs in London's West End. Set in a futuristic cabaret bar, the music is loud! As the audience settle back for an evening of cosmic cabaret, all is not well at Saucy Jack's... The evil shadow of a serial killer looms over the bar; cabaret acts are being killed off one by one, found stabbed by the heel of a sequined slingback shoe.

**The characters** are brazen and the atmosphere is hot: Wannabes, dreamers, killers and super-fashion crime fighters, here to save the day by the Power of Disco! A more detailed character list to follow – but you get the gist!!! Fairly young cast with some interesting names...

## **SOCIALS FOR THE FUTURE**

Don't forget, our lovely Green Room Theatre bar is open the first Friday of every month from 7.30pm till late, so come along and catch up with your DDOS friends! Upcoming evenings include:

**7<sup>th</sup> February** – the bar will be open from 7.30pm so come down and meet a few friends for a chat and a drink.....

**7<sup>th</sup> March** – wine tasting - probably 'Call My Bluff' style

Our Kenny Ball Tribute Night will be re-scheduled for later in the year.

## **SOCIALS PAST**

**Christmas Party!**

There was a fantastic turn-out for our Christmas Party, held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December at the Green Room Theatre. Decorated by the committee to resemble a Christmas grotto and with mince pies and mulled wine on offer to guests, it was easy to get into the Christmas spirit! The bar was open and Christmas music filled the theatre before everyone was invited to watch a very special pantomime presented by Kathy Barnes and featuring Brian Inns, Sandra Grant and Mark Barnes as they'd never been seen before!



Following the hilarious panto which got everyone joining in, and some brilliantly funny poems by Mark and Brian, the festivities continued with popular Christmas songs sung round the piano (with the addition of sleigh bells handed out by Sheila!) and even a visit by Father Christmas himself which caused much excitement! A big thank you to everyone involved in the organising and all who attended – it made for a really fun night!

## **The Great DDOS Quiz**

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January saw the Green Room packed to the gunnels for our Quiz Night. Questions masterminded by Jill Downie and Brian Inns as MC... A brilliant evening with such a variety of questions and people. The winning team was Alex's with a total score of 68 – all team members walking away with either wine or chocolates as prizes. The evening was completed by a supper of bangers and mash with onion gravy - I discovered muscles I didn't know I had with all that potato mashing!!!

## **And last but not least –**

Do look at the Club Room floor. All the holes have gone.

***Phew .....That's All Folks.....!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!***