

## **DDOS NEWSLETTER .....FEBRUARY 2014**

### **Our next Green Room Production:**

**'ORPHANS'**

**by Lyle Kessler**

|               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Treat .....   | Damien de Roche |
| Phillip ..... | Aaron Evans     |
| Harold .....  | Steven Mann     |

Rehearsals are now underway and tickets are on sale from next week and the show runs

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April until Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April**

Following the successful introduction a couple of shows back, there is a special reduced price of £10 for all tickets on Tuesday Night. Other nights are £10 for members, £11 for non-members.

**CALL THE BOX OFFICE ON 01306 881717 to reserve your tickets**

### **AND THEN.....**

**84 Charing Cross Road  
Director – Bobby Hamilton**

**Read Through and Auditions date:**

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March**

**Performance dates – 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> June**

*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-Fiesty 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

## FOLLOWING ON FROM THAT.....

### Leatherhead Drama Festival for 1 Act Plays – week 12<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May

As mentioned in last month's Newsletter, we are entering a 1-act play –

**So Far Too Near** - by local writer, Joanne Higginson.

This entry has a highly technical element to it which we hope will earn us extra points. Further details re. director, auditions etc. will be issued by email broadcast shortly but the cast will be 3 x late 20s/early 30s girls. Our entry will be the second play to be performed on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May.

**Previews – 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> May in the Green Room**

On the same nights we will be previewing two further 1-act plays – one of which will also be performed at Leatherhead on 12<sup>th</sup> May. These two plays have been written by **Geoff Rose-Michael**. We will start the preview evening with his entry from last year's Festival:

### ***Cold Blooded Killer – with Amy and Damien de Roche***

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....

***Followed by:***

### ***Singled Out* (which is Geoff's entry for this year and will be performed ahead of ours)**

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.

**We are delighted to say that our fabulous technical crew will be sorting out the logistics for all three 1-act plays on 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> plus the two 2014 entries on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> May.**

**!!!!!! CONGRATULATIONS !!!!!!**

To all involved with 'The Importance of Being Earnest'..... a brilliant production and a huge success on all levels. Below is a poem written by Mark Barnes which sums it all up beautifully!

#### **The importance of being in *The Importance of Being Earnest***

I've trodden the boards for the second time now  
What a ball we've all had from rehearsal to bow  
A well written play that was really quite funny  
A cucumber-less Lane despite ready money

Algy Moncrieff and his explosive friend Bunbury  
Jack Worthing in town and Earnest in the country  
Both fought over muffins and a cigarette case  
When they mentioned engagement you should have seen Bracknell's face

But one thirty thousand in the funds changed her view  
Distinct social possibilities I now see Miss Cardew  
Chasuble and Prism it's fair to mention  
Made us smile running round full of sexual tension

Sophie the maid had a part with no words  
But her face was a picture while those upper class birds

Good heavens Gwendolen and sweet Cecily  
Almost fell out over cake and sweet tea

Merriman ordered the dog cart and oh  
Five minutes later had to ask it to go  
All worked out right in the end though you see  
When it was revealed that Jack was the missing baby

What wonderful acting but it wouldn't have been  
Without all the others that worked behind scene  
Stuart's great photos Tony's lighting and sound  
On publicity Kate passing leaflets around

Janet and Judy with costumes and hair  
Swift scene change not possible without Kirsty there  
Jill as Producer got lots done you see  
And still found the time to sort muffins and tea

The bar staff worked hard pouring interval nectar  
And of course there's Shaun Hughes what a damn good Director  
It's really amazing how much fun we've all had  
To be honest now over it's all rather sad.

## **WHAT'S COMING UP...**

**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 and 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 sequinned 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...

**7<sup>th</sup> March – Wine Tasting.....** ‘Call My Bluff’ style. I (that’s me ...Linden...your friendly bar person ...☺..) will be introducing you to three lovely wines to try – a red, a white and a bit of sparkle of course! All heavily disguised so you can’t see the labels ....and then me and two of my partners in crime will try and convince you that we are all three giving you the true version of the grape, region and country! Those of you who guess all three wines correctly get to take home a bottle of your choice.

**£5 per head on the door** - but we would appreciate you booking – if only so I know how much wine to get...we wouldn't want to run short now, would we?! Call Sheila on 01737 843258 or email on [sheilagray@talktalk.net](mailto:sheilagray@talktalk.net) to book in.

### Thought I'd let you in to a little secret...

Some of you may not know that the Green Room Theatre has a **Theatre Club** that runs alongside DDOS. This is basically a membership for those who want to support us but not necessarily ‘tread the boards’ or get involved with the ‘mechanics’ of putting on a production. It has been ably run by a long-standing DDOS member – **Diana Pledge**, who is also one of our Vice Presidents. As a committee, we thank you, Diana, for quietly beavering away in the background – looking after these most important people, currently numbering 45, whose support we value considerably.

### The Word That Should Never Be Mentioned In February – Christmas!

We have been asked whether there is anyone within DDOS who would be interested in helping design and making sets for mobile Christmas Grottos. It is paid work. If you are interested please contact Sheila on [sheilagray@talktalk.net](mailto:sheilagray@talktalk.net) and she will pass your details to Ian who made the initial enquiry.

### Our Wonderful Facilities

At the Green Room Theatre can be hired for “one off” events.

During January we held an impromptu Rampant Rooster Morris New Year’s Day dance and picnic (they were supposed to be dancing outside a pub but it was lashing with rain and blowing a gale), Arts Alive AGM plus Atlanta Yeatman’s 18<sup>th</sup> birthday party and Shiv Ames’ burlesque-themed party.

If you are interested in hiring any part of the Green Room on a “one off” basis please do contact Sheila Gray on [sheilagray@talktalk.net](mailto:sheilagray@talktalk.net) for availability and cost.



Photographs © Lucy Jo Mathews / Samantha Parker / Kirsty Heard

## **And finally...**

We sadly lost two very dear members of DDOS recently, **Geoff Collins and Jon Scarrott**. Two beautiful and moving Services of Remembrance were held at St Martin's Church, followed by receptions at Denbies.

Our condolences and best wishes go out to Val Collins and Sue Scarrott from all of us.

Our next newsletter will be published around mid-March. Any contributions to Linden van Clute at [lindenvc@virginmedia.com](mailto:lindenvc@virginmedia.com) by 14<sup>th</sup> March, please.

## ***HOT OFF THE PRESS!***

**We have just heard that Surrey County Council have awarded DDOS a substantial grant which will go a long way towards the renovation work shortly to commence on the Club Room. Watch this space!**