



Players Matters*

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New Members

We are delighted to welcome four new Members :
Amanda Pierce, Janice Parlett, Victoria Chow and Emily Williams.
We hope you will enjoy being part of Players Theatre

Returning Member

We are pleased also to welcome former member Peter Taylor back into the fold

On the Social Front

Past Events

French 4 Course Dinner Saturday 28th May

Around 30 members were served a sumptuous menu by Rod and his little helpers with usual flair and this was enjoyed at tables to the accompaniment of French music lilting away in the background..

Entrée

Mussels ou paté

Plat Principal

Boeuf Bourignon ou Poulet Provençal

Dessert

Tarte aux Pommes ou Gateau

Assiette de fromages

A very pleasant evening was had by all. Indeed more than one or two were heard to say *What could be nicer than such an evening at Players, spent in the company of friends.*

Forthcoming Events

Next up is the Grand Annual Barbecue on Saturday 25th June starting at 7pm.

Tickets from Rod & Pam

£6 Adults £4 Youth & Children

Offer up a prayer for nice dry weather. Fortune smiled on us last year.

Lee will be operating his usual Karaoke in the evening and says now the world is your oyster on what you can sing because he can source a whole variety of songs through Wifi. Unfortunately Peter Grieve is deserting his cooking mate as he is away on that date but Rod has already found a replacement (how fickle!) and Chris Jorgensson will be doing the honours as his co-chef on the barbecue.

Players AGM Wednesday 29th June

All members should have been advised of the AGM well in advance and hopefully be in receipt of last year's minutes and the agenda in good time to fill and return your nomination forms (ie by 21st June) After all it's the next most important consultation event after the EU Referendum. Please attend if you can.

The Play's The Thing

We have reached the end of the season. It has been packed full of goodies and we have ended on a high note.

Entertaining Angels was a gentle drama well-acted, with moments of laughter and poignancy set against a magnificent set lovingly created by the Set Building Team and credit must go to them for its inspirational design and realisation. It helps to have friends and influence too, fortunately Anne Wint was able to help source the necessary grass from her place of work which enhanced the garden layout but didn't need mowing. One less job for the Props to do.

Audience attendance could have been better but all who came seemed to enjoy it greatly.

A First-Time Experience

Or my debut as a director by Val Middleton Egan

I started reading the play back in February because someone gave me sound advice--"Fail to prepare and prepare to fail"

Indeed the best piece of advice I could have had. I prepared the plot, sound, light, wardrobe and set and props.

It all came together exactly as I had planned. Of course I had a wonderful team to work with both on and off stage.

Ready for the first rehearsal, I arrived in plenty of time to make a flask ready for coffee and tea. I then sat in the auditorium to await the arrival of my cast--- My first date as a 15 year old comes to mind!!! Nervous wreck!!

I needn't have worried, we all worked well together.

Yes there were changes to be made to my original plan but they were changes for the better.

My advice to anyone venturing into directing is " Listen to your cast, Take on board what they have to say and Adapt your plan to suit." You of course have the final say but your cast are the ones to be seen and if they are comfortable with the moves etc then you have a show!

Players GMDF Nominations–Received

by **Margaret Williams** for her role as Phoebe in Haywire
by **Brenda Brooks** for her role as Ruth in Entertaining Angels
by **Robert Mcgregor** for his role as Jamie in Haywire

Also some long-overdue recognition for **Pam Lambert** who has a nomination under the category of excellence in character presentation in Hair & Makeup.

NB. On Sunday 10 July, Chris, Val and Kryssy will be attending the **ACT Day** at the Cresta Court Hotel.

It will be an occasion to promote Players and chat with other members. They will also be presenting their 'Out of the Spotlight' awards.

Point of Information

For those not already in the know and for members to pass on to our audiences.

Be aware that should the curtains not be drawn at the start of the play and in order to enable those dressing the set to work on the open set, undisturbed, then the audience will not be admitted into the auditorium until **7.30 pm**. Consequently any early arrivals will be directed to wait in the bar or coffee lounge as an alternative to waiting in the foyer.

*One Act Festival One Act Festival One Act Festival One Act Festival
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The One Act Festival or as the posters proclaimed ***1 Act Festival Rocks***

A total of 19 entries took part – an increase on last year when there were only 14. We had a huge variety of drama on show and there were some great stand-out performances from all ages. Indeed several extra certificates of merit were awarded to the original number, in recognition of the amount of young talent on display. Both Players Youth and Players (should we call them seniors?) acquitted themselves very well with **Daisy McDermott** and **Mia Gibson** each winning certificates of merit for their performances in our Youth Productions of ***Superhero Support Group*** and ***In Need of Care*** respectively. Well done to Directors Robert Macgregor and Barbara Harris.

Players Production of ***The Last Panto in Little Grimley*** won the Vicki Lane Award for Best Adult Production. Congratulations to **John Price** who not only directed but also played the role of Gordon and his cast –New members **Angela Dunn** and **Amanda Pierce** treading our boards for the first time –and **Chris Jorgenson** on their win. Chris also got a special mention for the best entrance of the festival, emerging as he did most unexpectedly from between two apparent doors resting on top of each other on the stage. As did the Pantomime Horse wonderfully crafted by Pam from cardboard and cloth,

A fitting end to a brilliant week where Geraldine and team of helpers (including another new member, Sandra) manned–or should I say *womaned* the kitchen every night from 6pm making much appreciated sandwiches and serving refreshments including super cakes. From Front of House, Box Office, Bar, Sound & Lighting etc. to behind the scenes, due thanks must go to all

those involved for their hard work in helping to make the Festival such a success.

The Attendance figures furnished by stalwart Peter Grieve, who was there every night on duty, show the attendance for the week as below:

Monday 55.7 % Tuesday 29.8 % Wednesday 63% Thursday 37%
Friday 48% Saturday Matinee 75% Saturday Night 94.2%

These percentages include wheelchair seats and the 4 seats that were taken out for the adjudicator (theatre holds 104 with the wheelchair seats).

Thus a total of 57% for the whole week

Many tickets sold during the week to people turning up without having pre-booked tickets.

On the last night we had to turn people away who had no tickets and a number of people had to stand up at the back to watch the presentation of the awards. It was good to see the Theatre well used and visited by so many unfamiliar with us. It all helps to put us on the map.

Youth Report

Well we have had quite a season since Players Youth Theatre and I met and started working together in October 2015. I am very pleased to tell you that we have been nominated for the following awards in the GMDF full length Play Festival:

- a) **Gabe McDermott**, nominated for best actor under 21 for his role as Mickey in Blood Brothers
- b) **Barbara Harris**, nominated for Best Director for Our Day Out.

Also, **Rob McGregor** has been nominated for best actor under 21 for his performance in Haywire.

In the recent 1 Act Play Festival held at Players Theatre, Players Youth Theatre entered in the junior and youth sections and the following members won awards:

- a) **Daisy McDermott**, awarded Certificate of Merit for her role as the Doctor in Superheroes



Support Group – Junior Section

- b) **Mia Gibson**, awarded Certificate of Merit for her role as Shirley in In Need of Care Youth



Section

Considering this is their first year being adjudicated, the young people have done extremely well, having performed 4 plays and been nominated or winning awards in all 4 and I know that the extended Players family will be very proud of them.

Some of the young people have not been able to act in the One Act Festival because they have been involved in both GCSE and A level examinations. I am sure you will join with me in wishing them all the very best. However a few of them have been helping out back stage for our Youth Plays and have been very supportive. It is also a pleasure to report that **Will Scriven** our super Lighting member was involved every night in all the plays on lights and I think enjoyed every moment of it.

We met for the last time for this season on Sunday 12th June when we welcomed a new member Daisy Copak who is Pete Lenton's granddaughter. We did some improvisation, something in which these young people excel. They were in 3 teams of 5 and chose a playlet to perform and then Rob and I voted which one we thought the best. I can tell you that if they stay with us, we have future directors, writers and of course wonderful actors.

Barbara Harris–Youth Director

Please Note that PYT will start again on Saturday 3rd. September

Members News

Good Move

In her new home at last!

Brenda has been living Oldham way for the last thirteen years but after much shuttling back and forth, realised it made sense to relocate and has now moved back to the Stockport area to be near to her family and Players of course!

Hope you are happy in your New Home, Brenda

Anniversary Congratulations

Many Congratulations to Helen & Ian Pearson on celebrating their 40th Wedding Anniversary

Wedding Congratulations

Best wishes and Happiness to the new Mr and Mrs M. Macgregor, aka Michael and Laura, who tied the knot on Saturday 4th June. It was a new role for Ian Wilkinson who officiated at the ceremony.

A proud Grandma gives us an account of – THE MCGREGOR WEDDING

June 4th will always be a day the McGregors and Lamberts will remember.

The day was warm, the sun came out and the setting for the Celebration of the Wedding of Michael and Laura was perfect

A large marquee was set up in a field next to the stables where Laura keeps her pony "Lady" and the local nursery owner very kindly lent an assortment of trees and bushes to decorate the entrance.

The Bride arrived accompanied by three bridesmaids and "Lady" whose mane was interspersed with diamante and she wore a red sash decorated with roses To make the day perfect, our very own Ian Wilkinson made the blessing with readings and poetry, and the ceremony was followed by a lovely Wedding Breakfast.

The children played in the field, which had been given by the Pennington Family who own the stables, and when evening came there was dancing and a BBQ.

A most memorable, magic day.



To the Happy Couple!

** With apologies to Lady for not including her photo here*

*****Set Anoraks or Set Nerds?

Whilst at the recent social, I was most amused to see Lee and Ian W. relaxing whilst eating, yet totally immersed in discussing and admiring photos on view on their mobile.

Were these selfies– of events or of people they had met or places they had been?

No–they were photos they had taken of sets they had created for our plays! Ahh

QI

I recently read with interest that the late Henning Mankell, creator of the nordic series of *Wallender*, was in fact son-in-law of the Swedish film director Ingmar Bergman. Intriguing!

Before they were Famous.

On Desert Island Discs recently, cyclist Chris Boardman referred to an earnest school classmate nicknamed *Flopsy/Floppy* whom he later revealed to be a young **Daniel Craig**. Of course we have our own memories eg. **Christine Bottomley** whom some of us remember from her early days with Players and our production of *Butterflies are Free*. Christine is becoming a regular on our TV screens and has been currently starring in Kay Mellor's *In the Club* as midwife Vicky.

****Ed Note. Perhaps members have news of other previous members to share with us, please let me have them*

Theatrical Reviews –Cruel Barbs? –or as actors say. *It's only one person's opinion after all!*

Ian MacKellen played Hamlet in 1971 at the Cambridge theatre was reviewed by Harold Hobson on radio thus

The best thing about Ian Mackellen's Hamlet is his curtain call.

Michael Redgrave's performance as Hobson in Hobson's Choice in 1964 as discussed by Kenneth Tynan

Some have seen overtones of Lear in his portrayal, I would have thought a somewhat bad-tempered Father Christmas would have been nearer the mark!

Thanks to Beryl Burnett for the loan of Diana Riggs compilation No Turn UnStoned from whose book the extracts below were taken. Look forward to more next time.

Next Season Social Programme – 2016/2017

*Events Planned for Next Season (Dates and Times & Details to be confirmed)

Saturday 10th September –New Season Get-Together
with Tunes Table Quiz– Free Event

Saturday 29th October–Halloween Fright Night with a Fun Quiz
organised by Michele & John Carrington–
£4 Members £6 Non-Members

Sunday 20th November– Autumn Colours Walk

Saturday 10th December –Festive Fare & Fun–
£8 Members & £10 Non-members

Saturday 21st January 2017 –Room 101
–£2 Members £4 Non-members

Saturday *18th February– A Dinner– Cruise Night at the Captain's Table
– £10 Members & £12 Non-Members (date to be confirmed)

Sunday 12th March –Walk–Put a Spring in Your Step

Saturday 22nd April – A Greasy Singalong to the film of Grease
with Fish & Chip Supper
£10– Members & £12–Non-Members

Editor's Note

There will be no newsletter during close of season ie. During July or August. It is hoped to send one out during September after the first Get-Together of the 2016–17 Season. However I need content for that issue please, so you have plenty of thinking time in the interim. Remember *No input=No Output*

Email me on josephinemoor@gmail.com or Tel: 0161 439 9818

Important. It appears that some members are not able to receive their copy of the Newsletter by email. If that is the case, please let us know.

If you want a hard copy and we will arrange for one to be printed and you can either collect it from the theatre yourself or perhaps a friend or family member would be kind enough to post it through your door. Otherwise it will have to be sent through the post. Kindly let us know details of the best option in your case.