



Players Matters*

September 2016

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New Members

A warm Players welcome to our latest members who are:-

Dave Lewis, Mr Robert Swann & Mrs Sandra Swann & Victoria Chow -who has already agreed to do props for the November Play.

President's Piece

Well here we are at the start of another season, with rehearsals under way for our first play Touch and Go directed by Bren Brooks.

Tickets are available from Ticket Source and if you've paid your subscriptions then you'll be able to key in the number to receive your free ticket.

What a start to my Presidential term of office with so many nominations and awards from both GMDF and ACT. I am delighted that others have discovered that Players Theatre is a Theatre of Excellence.

I am also delighted to tell you that we have four members who have been elected on to the board of GMDF. They are Gabe McDermott, Natasha Dunn, Angela Dunn and Barbara Harris. It helps having folk on the inside!!!! Glad too that we have PYT members involved. It all helps to "lower" the ages of people in positions!!!

During my term of office I have taken on a project. That of trying to secure funding from external sources, such as Manchester Airport and the Arts Council. Your Executive committee have a few ideas on how to spend it, should we get it!!!!

If any of you have any ideas on how we can improve our theatre from either an audience point of view or for our own members, then let your committee know.



Plea from me, if anyone has had any experience applying for funding, perhaps, the lottery fund, then let me know and perhaps we can work together.

Let us look forward to another season of "Theatre in Excellence"

See you at Theatre over the forthcoming season.

Val Middleton-Egan

News of Once Upon a Time Members of Players

Where are they now? Roll Call or is it Role Call?

Christine Bottomley is perhaps our most recent *Player* to make it big, but what of the others who moved on to pastures new where are they now?

Nick Pearse was one such actor. He acted alongside David Burns and Mark Bennett in Harold Pinter's *The Caretaker*, directed at Players by *Chris Glynn* in 2011 and was subsequently also in *Black Comedy* the following season.

His time at Players so fired him up that he went off to take professional acting lessons which led him greater things gain numerous TV credits inc. roles in *Coronation St.* and to play *Roddy* in the *Ordinary Lies* series in 2015

He made *Blood* with BBC films in 2012 with the likes of Ade Edmondson & Scottish actor Brian Cox .

For those not familiar with his background story, Nick originally came to us by chance, I believe. Jean Cox, having volunteered to post a copy of a script through the letterbox at an address on **Bramhall Lane**, near Davenport Station, by mistake put it through the letterbox of a house with the same number but on **Bramhall Lane South**, near Bramhall village centre, instead. See below a part of an interview with Matt J Horn of Word Press in July 2013 published online, highlighted here quoting Nick actually relating that incident.

Matt Horn-Let's talk a bit about you Nick. What made you want to get into the acting industry in the first place?

It's a bit of a difficult question because I've never really been able to put my finger on quite why, all I know is that around three years ago I just suddenly felt the need to perform! But I think it must be in my blood because my father and his sister were singers, and I've since discovered that my grandmother on my mother's side actually ran away from home as a teenager to perform as an actress.

**I also had somewhat of a serendipitous inroad because the very same week that I began researching local theatres in order to get started, I came home from work to find a script on my doormat, not mine, which had been posted through the wrong door and was meant for a guy who lived also lived at 114 on another street! He turned up the next evening to collect it, we got talking about the coincidence and he invited me along to see his play and to have a chat to the AD of the theatre. So I did, the AD invited me to audition for the role of 'Aston' in Pinter's 'The Caretaker', and I got the part!*

I fell completely in love with whole rehearsal and performance process, and we got great reviews.



Interestingly, he goes on to advise would-be actors wanting to kick-start their career to join the likes of Players.

Perhaps we should use this as a member-recruiting ploy!

Wendy Patterson

Wendy has had numerous roles and has been associated with, such well-known recent BBC TV series as **Last Tango in Halifax**, **Scott & Bailey**, **The Village**, **DCI Banks** and appeared in the long-running daily early afternoon BBC series **Doctors** to name but a few. I met her on the concourse of Picadilly station as she returned from an audition for ITV series **Vera**, where she'd been complimented on her Geordie accent. She is always ready for a friendly chat with her friends from Players. Her last on stage role at Players was **Rita** in Ian Wilkinson's production of **Educating Rita**.

Melanie Davey

Some members may remember Melanie. She was in our earlier adult production of *Blood Brothers* wayback in 2007. I believe she is still active at Heald Green. When we used to go there, there was an advert for gardening for her husband, Barry, in the Heald Green's programme..

The August edition of the RHS Journal "The Garden " features an interview with Barry and a report with pictures of the two of them and their Handforth garden .

(Ed.Thanks to eagle-eyed Ian Burnett for spotting news of this former PDS member and passing it on.)

Radio Drama – States of Mind: Wednesday, 6th July 2016

Whilst having my breakfast and anticipating who was going to win Wimbledon this year – hopefully Andy Murray –I flicked through my Radio Times and there under the title 'Today's Choices' I found myself staring at a rather attractive girl. On closer inspection I realized it was Christine Bottomley and for those new members who are not aware, Christine was a member of Players Youth and has appeared on television in various rolls.

I was advised it was worth listening to this programme through a pair of headphones because of the intricate layers of sound. Ella, played by Christine, is in hospital in a state of unresponsive wakefulness after falling from her bike. The noises around her from terrifying almost industrial sounding hospital equipment to the harmonious natural setting of a forest, with birdsongs and the rustling of leaves take her on a journey to finally being able to communicate with those she loves, but not as we do. She hears her Neurologist asking questions and she replies, but keeps hearing him say –“no, nothing – nothing at all” and walking away. Ella is locked in a world where she can hear and feel but no one seems to understand and becomes increasingly frustrated.

I didn't use headphones because I became so absorbed in the Play that I couldn't move from the settee – the hairs on the back of my neck visibly rose while I listened to this very haunting Play. I'm sorry but by the time you read this it will be too late



to listen but for those of you who don't listen to radio drama give it a chance once in a while and you may also find a play that absorbed you.

Judy Rodwell

Ed . Judy's Drama *States of Mind* on 6th July was in two parts and billed as a standout, exciting and innovative piece of radio

The Play's the Thing.

Hopefully you have all paid your membership subscription and therefore in a position to book your tickets (unless you have already done so) for the first play of the season *Touch & Go* -a lively comedy from Derek Benfield- opening on Saturday 24th September. Joining the cast for the first time at Players in a full-length play is Angela. We wish her well. We are also pleased to see Geoff Bird making a welcome return to the Players stage in this play.

PLAYERS YOUTH THEATRE

Great excitement as we began our new season on Saturday 3rd September joined by two new members Sarah Mather and Daisy Coppack. Lots of chatting whilst everybody caught up with news of summer holidays and GCSE results. Those young people who took their GCSE's this year have all done superbly well & either go to sixth form college or into the sixth form at their present schools. we wish them well.

Players Youth Theatre is also very proud to announce the following:

ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY THEATRE (ACT)

The above is an on line association who's reviewers attend theatres giving a resume of the production and a critique of the performances. Players Theatre has been a member of this organisation for one year now and the reviewers have been very complimentary on all aspects of our lovely theatre from Front of House to performances. They have been particularly enthusiastic about the 2 productions performed by Players Youth Theatre. ACT has an awards night in November which promises to be quite a glittering occasion with dinner, dancing and live entertainment. Players Theatre has booked 18 seats for the night and I am pleased to announce that Players Youth Theatre have the following nominations for which they have already received lovely certificates:

BLOOD BROTHERS

Gabe McDermott for Micky. Paddy Bever for the Narrator. Mia Gibson for Linda. Max Tittle for Reilly

OUR DAY OUT

Paddy Bever for multiple roles. Mia Gibson for Linda. Hannah Griffiths for Mrs Kay

G MDF Full Length Play Festival

Gabe McDermott awarded the trophy for best under 21's performance for Micky in Blood Brothers



Gabe with his award accompanied by his parents and sister Daisy

Rob McGregor and I are so proud of them and I am sure that the members of Players Theatre will want to join with us in congratulating ALL the members of Players Youth Theatre for the great start they have made.

Our next production **WIND IN THE WILLOWS** is on **DECEMBER 16** and **DECEMBER 17**. I hope you will make a note of this in your diaries and book early. We have a lot to live up to but we go into the new season with 'onwards and upwards' as our motto.

Barbara Harris - Director of Players Youth Theatre

More Accolades

Not Forgetting the AdultsAwards

As was mentioned in the last Newsletter, Pam was ACT nominated for an *Out of the Spotlight* award for her work on hair and makeup and costumes. We are pleased to report Pam won her category. Krysy and Val were present at the awards ceremony in July and able to pick up her award-a charming Paperweight-on her behalf. Well done to Pam!

Point of Interest. *Out of the Spotlight* awards are given by ACT to their members for *Excellence in Stagecraft* and are designed to highlight and reward the work of the many unsung heroes behind the scenes. Its categories are Most Creative Artwork,



Marketing & Publicity, Character Presentation-Wardrobe, Stage Management, Set Design and Sound Design.

Congratulations also to **Brenda Bracewell** on receiving **the Award for the Actress with the Most Original Portrayal & Krissy Jorgensson Most Accomplished Actress for performances in Entertaining Angels**

Cheshire Theatre Guild (CTG) Awards

Hearty Congratulations to **Charlotte Morgan** for picking up The Adjudicator's Award for her role Entertaining Angels at the Cheshire Theatre Guild awards evening.

CTG Nomination

David Reynolds who played Stephen in Players September 2015 production of The Weekend had also been nominated for his performance in that role.

Inhouse Awards

Krissy Jorgensson was awarded the President's Award In recognition of her sterling efforts in leading the Publicity team to greater success this past season.

PS. Please consider turning out to support both Breast Cancer & to help raise awareness of Players Walk on Saturday 1st October

Membership Booking-Point of Information

Take note that the website booking now opens from **1st August 2016 - 31st May 2017**. Members will only be able to book tickets on payment of subs. Having renewed means your individual membership code number is once more valid for booking for the new season. Its validity is cancelled at the end of each season and only becomes "live" again once your membership subscription has been paid.

From one Theatre to Another.

We are indeed fortunate having our own theatre. A fact which the Brookdale Club and Theatre have also had reason to be grateful for.

Unfortunately their usual premises succumbed to the floods which hit the area near Bramhall Park entrance and surrounding area in a disastrous fashion in early May forcing them to close. Indeed the ground floor is still not open to functions even now and they have had to cancel their first theatrical production planned for the beginning of October.

However they have been able to continue rehearsals for their Autumn Youth production at our theatre.

Summer Working Party

An announcement was made at the AGM calling upon members to rally around for a clearout on the weekend of 23rd July. A skip was ordered for the purpose and a willing crew duly turned up as bid at 10am and got cracking. It was a hot day and there was a band in the kitchen brewing up and making bacon sandwiches



to sustain them. However the skip was swiftly filled and when the second shift arrived in the afternoon, there was little to be done.

A further skip was ordered for the following Tuesday evening and the good work continued.. The result is a much roomier, tidier tower where people can negotiate their way around to find things. I am told that during the clearout, two fireplaces were unearthed that we didn't know we had!

Set Construction Helpers-Your Theatre Needs You!

As you may or may not know-***But you do now***, **Tuesday evenings at 7.30 and Sunday mornings at 10am are set aside for set building and painting.**

For those not working, There may also be occasions when daytime work could be usefully carried out by such people. Do check what's to be done and if the theatre will be open and if you are free do come along. Perhaps we could get a routine going there.

We are hereby issuing a plea for all members to come along and get involved in lending a hand. Should you not be needed on one particular occasion, don't let that put you off, you sure will be just a bit further along the line. It very much depends on the stage reached at the time. If you wish to check beforehand, you can do so with Lee on **07799540603**. Upon occasion, **all hands to the pump are needed.** – **See Below-For one such occasion-**

****Help!!**

**** URGENT We need as many people as possible down on Sunday morning of 2nd October(the day after the play finishes) to strip the set . Please come if you can.**

The Hundred Club-from Judy Rodwell

The last draw of the '100' Club took place at our BBQ on Saturday, 25th June and the winners are as follows:-

First Prize - £30 - Barbara Harris

Second Prize - £20 - George Wilson

Third Prize - £10 - Bren Brooks

Well done to all our winners!&Thank you once again for your support.

I would like to thank everyone who joined the '100' Club this Season.

I had intended collecting names and money at our start of season evening in the bar on Saturday, 10th September but the date was brought forward a week and so owing to being away, had to appoint a reliable stand-in. There were only a small number present but George managed to get 13 signed up. The cost remains £10 to join with three draws per year.

So Roll up Roll up-As the name suggests, '100' Club, I would really like to get near to this number – remember the more members we have the bigger the prizes and more is shared with Players!

*Cookery Feature*Today's Special from Resident Chef Rodrigo Lambert*
During our Spanish holidays we have been attending some cookery



demonstrations at a local restaurant called "La Herradura". It is a very Spanish place and once a month one of the chefs gives a demo of various dishes. The last time we went we were shown how to prepare " Pollo con Salsa de Figo" - Chicken with Fig Sauce. It is very sweet but Pam and I really like it. It is not hard but takes a bit of time as you will see.

Ingredients:

Red Onion, Dried Figs, Diced Chicken Breast, Sweet Sherry, Olive Oil, Salt.

Method:

Dice the onion and fry in olive oil until soft then add diced figs (about 6 or 7) and add the chicken. Cook until chicken is browned then add a good lot of sherry and simmer until the sherry has virtually disappeared. (if you let it get too thick add a little water or more sherry and let it reduce again). Add salt to taste.

We are attending another demo in September and I hope to give you another recipe when we return.

A quick alternative to a sauce for fish: tartare sauce, plain yoghurt and cream all mixed together, try it!

That's it really. We serve it with rice.

Special Birthdays

Congratulations to John Price who celebrated his 70th Birthday on 15th July.

Hot on his heels came Barbara Winstanley who was 80 years young on 19th July. Anne Wint tried to keep it secret but a little bird told me she too had a birthday recently, and clocked up a certain number of years, though somewhat behind the other two, so belated best wishes go to her too on her 50th.

Get Well Wishes to Ruby-Judy & Ray's granddaughter,-who broke her leg this week, running with her Dad. She has undergone an op to put plate and pin in her leg & will be in plaster and unable to put any weight on it for 6 weeks!

On the Social Front

We held our first social evening of the season on 3rd September. The date was brought forward a week owing to other events a week later. Unfortunately several people were away, but though we were few in number, we had a very pleasant evening. A chance to chat and catch up with friends. Brenda had prepared a Musical Quiz with a difference where she went from table to table giving clues , miming and singing bits and pieces and encouraging participation. It was great fun. Barbara, Margaret and Angela's table were finally declared the winners *a)as they got the most answers right without her help and b)the most answers with her help!* The final question required you to make up a starry name for yourself. Quite a few names were put forward but Barbara Winstanley's *Boo Boo Galore* proved the most popular with David Burns coming second with his rather risky suggestion of *Hermione Tonsilstretcher*.

(For those who missed the quiz. Have a go. (See final page)



What's Next

Don't miss the Fright Night–Saturday 29th October

A Fun Halloween Celebration, when Michele and John Carrington will again regale us with a fun quiz evening. If you came last year you know you are in for a good night with a few surprise themes in store.

Deadline for next Newsletter is Sunday 7th November.

Bren's Musical Quiz

Give the Song title, the Film Title and the decade it was released. (1930-present day-no repeats)

1. Days can be sunny with never a sigh/Don't need what money can't buy
2. Spending every dime on a wonderful time
3. We used to be best buddies and now we're not/ I wish you would tell me why
4. And I found out that love was more than just holding hands
5. And as for fortune and as for fame I never invited them in
6. Can you bob, can you weave, can you fake & deceive when you need to?
7. I've given you sunshine, I've given you rain
8. Once upon a time when I was just a kid you never let me do what older kids did
9. Through the years we will be together if the fates allow.

(Answers below)



Quiz Answers

Song	Film	Decade
I got rhythm	An American in Paris	1950s
Putting on the Ritz	Top Hat	1930s
Do you want a Snowman	Frozen	2010s
If I fell	A Hard Day's Night	1960s
Don't Cry for Me Argentina	Evita	1980s
Do You Want to be a Boxer	Bugsy Malone	1970s
Grow for Me	Little Shop of Horrors	1990s
Momma I'm a Big Girl Now	Hairspray	2000
Have Yourself a Merry, Merry Xmas	Meet Me in St. Louis	1940s