

"Curtain Call"

Our bi-monthly publication with news from the RHTC

Welcome to the 2nd edition of our bi-monthly newsletter all about the RHTC; Happy Valentines Day everyone. Copies of all newsletters are available from our Editors.

If there is any additional topic you would like more information about please contact us.

The Ladykillers

Congratulations to director ,Jean Lebeter and the cast for the outstanding production of this difficult play. The set was remarkable for its ingenuity and the lighting and effects were of a truly professional standard. All the actors deserve praise for detailed characterisation. Michael Jeffery played the Constable with kindly puzzlement in his dealings with the dottily sincere Mrs. Wilberforce, excellently played by Sally Williams. Paul McPherson as Professor Marcus was superbly duplicitous and Jonty Redgate as Major Courtney, the nervous crook, was equally convincing. Harry Robinson, played by Justin Day endured his many falls with admirable skill and the menacing Louis was played with frightening conviction by Chris Lebeter. Clive Harmston's portrayal of the dim witted gangster One Round was masterly and Nick Timm's off stage performance as the parrot was just lovely. The changes of pace were effectively managed and the comedy delivered with composite skill. Jean convinced us that her cast were moving to different levels and locations and 'The Ladies' at the end added an amusing finale to the production.

Don't forget that tickets are now available for Sense & Sensibility and Hi De Hi.

Our New Season

We are currently planning our 2015-2016 season and will certainly be announcing the season in full on our Open Day in April.

It's very difficult to select plays that everyone will be happy with. Not only do we have the thoughts/opinions of the board members, which do vary greatly, but then we want to offer you a good selection – a mystery/thriller, comedy, period etc. Plus we like to consider plays that have a good balance of ages, male/female roles and suitability i.e will you like it, can we produce it, do we have someone to direct, will it fit on our stage, can we cast it. Lots to consider. Our final selection criteria is 'does it have the WOW factor' – are we all going to enjoy producing it. And then of course we have to apply for performing rights – if a play is being performed anywhere professionally it won't be available for amateur production.

Consider this your Valentine's Quiz. Below are two photographs selected for the new season, can you work out what plays they may be? Answers of course when we release the season list.



Birthday Event - To celebrate a year in the theatre and to launch next year's programme we are going to have a special event on Thursday 9th April from 6.00 - 8.00 p.m. As well as inviting members we intend to invite the business community. We believe that the theatre could host conferences and other events so this evening will be a showcase to attract not only new users but also the possibility of sponsorship. Please help us to spread the word. More details to follow.

EDITORS Carolyn Drury - nearlyinstant@gmail.com & Jackie Rogers – jrogers13@hotmail.co.uk



Call for Memorabilia

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, we are working on our archive material to bring it up to date, make sure its stored correctly to ensure long life and then make it available for all and future generations. We are also planning a changing display of archive material in the Wolfit Room. However we need your help – if you have any information on the theatre; old programmes, newspaper cuttings or photographs we would love to hear from you - we would be happy to scan your material so you can keep the original. Also we are keen to hear any interesting stories/memories about the theatre. You can write them down and e-mail us, or our Archive Mistress, Judith Mills, would be delighted to meet with you to get all the details.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Board Membership

Carolyn Drury was elected at the AGM but just after the meeting Val Wilson resigned for personal reasons so we reviewed the Director's workloads and decided that we needed 3 additional members and the following appointments have been made which will be submitted for endorsement at the next AGM.

Mark Lebeter - Designated Premises Director responsible for the theatre licence and operation of the bar;

Michael Jeffrey – Building Director responsible for the maintenance and development of the fabric of the building;

Rachel Repper – Customer Service Director responsible for managing the Front of House service for all our productions, presentations and hirings.

Building Developments

We are continuing to consolidate on the building development work - we have extended the heating system into the backstage areas, installed hot water in the backstage toilet and have resolved the damp issues in that area. You may also have noticed the much brighter lighting in the car park.

We are currently working on a new staircase to the upper wardrobe area, resurfacing the back section of the car park, wardrobe shelving and permanent wiring to the backstage rooms. Our fire risk assessment has highlighted various small works that would improve our fire precautions further and we shall be procuring a commercial scale glass/dishwasher for the kitchen/bar.

New Season Features

There are two particular features additional to next year's programme:

Studio slots – we have programmed two week long slots in October 2015 and May 2016 for studio style productions. This will extend our programme but also commences the type of theatre that the (as yet unfinished) studio is for. It means that we can do plays that might be more risky but are rewarding for the company to undertake either performed FOH or the main theatre.

Village Ventures – The theatre has a long history of professional touring companies appearing on our stage and the ASK villages have no other location to offer this type of touring theatre. So we are registering the theatre as a Village Ventures venue and will invite some professional companies to be part of our programme. We are also being approached by other touring companies independently of the scheme who want to perform at the theatre and we will be selecting one or two of them to enhance our programme.

Front of House

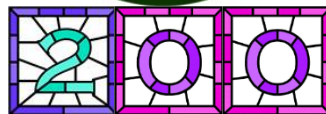
We are installing a set of TV monitors that we will be using to display information throughout the FOH area including the record of donors, additional information about the evening's performance, future programme information and latest news creating even more things to review when you are enjoying your refreshments before or after the show.



A brighter bar!

We are proud to announce that local artist Nikki McKay is now exhibiting her work in the Theatre Bar. Members who dined at the late, lamented Cafe Bleu will be familiar with her work. The paintings use colour and the female form to create mood and movement. The large ladies, nowadays considered an unfashionable concept of beauty, are portrayed as positive images of beauty. Nikki is a trained dancer and many of her paintings reflect the techniques of contemporary dance. She is also a prize winning animator. Her work has been exhibited in galleries throughout the U.K. and has sold in America and Europe. The paintings are for sale and Nikki has offered the theatre a percentage of any sales.

Tickets for all productions are available on our box office number 07733 179986



RHTC 200 Monthly Prize Draw

SUPPORT THE THEATRE AND WIN CASH PRIZES!

If your membership number is drawn, you win a cash prize.

Subscription of £12.00 per annum, open to all supporters of the RHTC.

Proceeds of the draw will support the RHTC running costs

Pick up a form at your next visit or from the back of our programme.

If you want more information contact Sue Smith at ssconsulting15@yahoo.co.uk.



There are many people at the theatre who give hours of their time helping in various ways to keep the theatre running. We intend to feature these much valued members in future newsletters.

SPOT LIGHT on.....SALLY WILLIAMS

Sally grew up in London. She met Martin and in 1979 they married and settled in Walthamstow. Sally was for many years an Environmental Health Officer before training as a teacher in 2002 and working in primary schools ever since. In the mid 1980's she began pursuing her hobby of drama by joining a group in East London.

On moving to Newark in 1988 she was a little bit busy with two small children but in 1991 she joined an evening class in theatre and drama run at the then Newark Tech by Carolyn Drury.

Encouraged by Carolyn she auditioned for a part in the Newstagers production of Daisy Pulls it Off in 1993 and played at the Palace Theatre. Since then, Sally has acted for Newstagers (no longer in existence- but not her fault!), Argent Theatre Newark and of course The RHTC. Sally first appeared for RHTC in the 1999 production of Theft written by Eric Chappell and directed by Tony Roberts.

Over the years Sally has popped up in a variety of roles on stage and also prompted, been in charge of props and of course made lots of hot drinks and provided many biscuits in the coffee bar! Some might say these last have been her finest hours!

She most recently was pleased to appear as Mrs. Wilberforce in The Ladykillers, so since her Newark debut as a schoolgirl in Daisy Pulls it Off has managed to age about 60 years! Doesn't time fly when you're having fun?

Opportunities to get more involved

A thriving theatre needs to attract new talent and to offer opportunities to members to be involved with performances. We appreciate that it can be daunting to direct a play for the first time or to operate a lighting board. Those members who are experienced in these skills are very willing to mentor anyone who wants to have a go, either backstage or directing. There is an opportunity to direct a short play in the foyer area for beginners and help and support will be on hand. We also need to expand our pool of actors. All amateur companies lament the fact that over the past twenty years or so active membership has fallen off. It seems odd when schools offer Drama lessons and stage productions that the talent is not filtering through. We propose to run acting workshops in the spring and summer for people who would like to act with us but lack the confidence to do so or are not aware of the opportunities at the RHTC. We have applied for funding to mount a large marketing exercise to reach all areas in Newark and Sherwood to attract people to attend these workshops. They will be fun, designed to raise confidence as well as teach theatre skills. We hope to have the dates for you in the next newsletter.

For further information visit our web site – robinhoodtheatre.co.uk



Geraldine McEwan

It was with sadness that we heard of the death of Geraldine McEwan, who was a patron of this theatre for many years. She was a brilliant performer whose career incorporated high comedy on the West End stage, Shakespeare at Stratford-upon-Avon, Laurence Olivier's National Theatre, and a cult television following in 'Mapp and Lucia' in the 80s and more recently as 'Miss Marple'.

Geraldine McEwan was always a shy and private girl who found her voice, she said, when she stood up in school and read a poem. She won a scholarship to Windsor county girls' school, but she felt out of place until she found refuge in the Windsor Rep at the Theatre Royal, where she played an attendant fairy in A Midsummer Night's Dream in 1946. After leaving school, she joined the Windsor company for two years in 1949, meeting her future husband, Hugh Cruttwell. Without any formal training, McEwan went straight from Windsor into the West End, the beginning of a busy career in Britain and the United States.

She was rumoured to have turned down both an OBE and a Damehood, but never confirmed this.

Two years ago Geraldine McEwan gave the Wolfit Lecture in Newark and was an entertaining speaker and a charming guest.

THEATRE HIRE

The Robin Hood Theatre is now available for hire:

- Stage area with tiered seating for 150
- Male and female changing rooms
- Fully equipped lighting and sound facilities
- Spacious foyer, bar area and function room
- Catering and bar facilities
- Private car park
- Disabled access and facilities
- Space for marquee if required

The theatre area is ideal for plays, musical productions, dance/music recitals, poetry/story telling functions and workshop/team building events. The reception areas can be adapted for any event; meetings, conferences, rehearsals, exhibitions, birthday parties, wedding receptions, club and social activities.

If you would like more information please ring us or email rhtchirings@outlook.com.

Situation Vacant

We really need your help. Before closing the theatre had a thriving Youth Group which then met on Sundays. The group produced two shows a year and members helped on the main productions in all kinds of ways. Some of them went on to study at the major Drama Schools but some stayed with the Robin Hood Theatre Company. Young people add vitality to any organisation and it is important for the long term viability of the club that we inspire an interest and affection for the theatre in the younger generation. We really want to start the Youth Group again and have had enquiries from young people who want to join. The trouble is, we can't find anyone to run it.

Do you know anyone who might be interested in doing this important and rewarding job? There will be payment for the work and we would offer our whole hearted help and support. It needn't be just one person. In the past it was often run by a couple of people. Please do get in touch if you think you know someone who is willing to take on this role.