

The Central Line

Here is the April newsletter, even though it is already May, flipping heck, that's gone quick. There is a new play at the end of May and details are included.

There are some dates of summer activities.

Messages from the Committee.

An article submitted By John Ahern and Vanessa Murray has been persuaded to answer some questions in the 'This is your life section'. She wasn't happy but she is the new secretary and I had her email address to hand.

I will be coming for all of you eventually.

Firstly i wanted to mention poor Diane whose Mum very sadly passed away recently. Diane has asked me through the newsletter to give her thanks to everyone for their kind words.

On a happier note, Mark Nichols has become a grandfather for the first time, his daughter Lucy (from Sandcastles fame) gave birth to daughter Ava Rose born 8th April.

His other daughter Jenny (also from Sandcastles amongst her performances) is due to marry Jonty Howe at St James Church on 5th May.

Treasurer

Subs for the year are now due. Full Membership is £15 or £7.50 for concessions. Patron is £7.50.

Should be sent to Paul Hammond, 29 Bellamy Close, Watford, WD17 4RN.

Note from the current Committee:

We would like to thank the 'retired' committee for all their hard work and hope Janet liked her rose – fittingly named 'Super Trooper'

Re The Odd Couple Production:

John Ahern is producing this play and the production dates are May 24th, 25th and 26th.

Bit about the play:

When the easy-going recently divorced Olive invites the compulsively neat and recently dumped Florence to move in with her despite the advice of her friends, it is a mis-match of epic proportions. Sloppy v house-proud simply does not mix, and Olive's happy-go-lucky lifestyle is soon under threat from Florence's highly strung neurotics, testing their friendship to the limits.

Neil has re-worked his original hit comedy into a female version where the weekly get-together with the guys playing poker has morphed into the gals playing Trivial Pursuits and the objects of desire have changed from English sisters to Spanish brothers. Other than that the formula remains the same and the result is still highly entertaining.

Cast:

Olive Madison	Sarah-Jayne Bottrill
Florence Unger	Linda Freeman
Mickey	Linda Hirst
Renee	Jayne Dugan
Sylvie	Georgia Hirst
Vera	Wendy Read
Manolo Costazuela	Mark Nichols
Jesus Costazuela	Ben Smith
Producer	John Ahern

**Please don't forget the set build dates:
Sunday 13th & 20th May 2012**

Recruitment Drive

The committee are looking into an open evening and open day/ workshop in June / July 2012 and would welcome any ideas or suggestions.

Summer Activities

Details so far:

7th June – Play reading at Wendy Reads

14th June – Play reading at Normans

21st June – Recruitment evening at St James Hall

28th June – Play reading at St James Hall

5th July – Social evening at Cheslyn House

12th July – Walk

19th July – Audition or play reading

26th July – Audition or play reading

News from Amateur Stage

Stagestruck – Professional Mentors Announced

Actors Roger Allam, Martin Shaw, Richard Wilson and Niamh Cusack are among the eight mentors who will work with the amateur companies in Sky Arts' new series Stagestruck.

They will join Julie Graham, Paterson Joseph, Jill Halfpenny and Harriet Walter as mentors in the series, which follows eight companies as they compete against each other by performing extracts from well-known plays, for the prize of appearing at a London theatre.

The amateur companies will be whittled down to one to one over three knockout rounds, with the winning company then having eight weeks to rehearse a play to perform in the West End, at a yet to be disclosed venue.

Each group will be assigned one of the mentors to help them prepare their performances for the different rounds.

Cusack, who has been assigned Edinburgh Graduate Theatre Group, told The Stage: "Not enough people are put in touch with how great it is to watch plays and be in plays, and one of the ways of getting people interested in watching plays is for them to get up and do it themselves.

"I am not a director, but i love enabling actors with less experience than myself."

She added that there should be more mentoring in the industry, claiming there was a place for "older actors mentoring other actors."

"I think we should do that more. It happens in ballet and it happens in opera, and I don't think it would be a bad thing if it happened more in the theatre. I think amateur dramatics can benefit in that way," she said.

Thanks to John Ahern

This is Your Life..... Vanessa

Tell me about your first play, the role and how it went?

In my first play, Day of Reckoning, I played your poor downtrodden wife, putting up with your affair and standing by you! How could you Steve.... :-) I'd never had any acting training, but managed to learn my lines, move around the stage as directed and enjoy doing it - friends who know me, couldn't believe I'd ever have had the nerve to do it.

What has been your favourite role?

I've enjoyed all of them but think 'Sandcastles' was the most fun with some funny characters, I played a chavvy mum.

Do you get nervous, how do you deal with nerves?

I think apart from you, I must get the silver medal for the person with the most nerves! Its not so bad once on the stage but waiting to go on..... its just awful.

(this is apparently a reference to me, Vanessa seems to think i suffer with nerves, Steve)

How do you learn your lines?

I lose my friends trying to persuade them to go through them with me.... other than that I write them like doing lines at school - not that I got many lines of course!

Have you had any scary moments/ funny moments on stage?

The scariest thing for me is forgetting my lines, that moment when they just fly from my mind.....

Is there a particular role or play you would like to do?

Play a baddy!

Any desire to produce?

No

Would you want to perform professionally?

Not good enough

The new executive producer of Eastenders has seen you perform and wants you to be the new landlady of the Queen Vic, would you do it?

Not the landlady but I always watch it and think that it must be a lovely way to make a living.....

Is there anything you wouldn't do for a role?

I don't think I could kiss someone or do an accent!

Many thanks to Vanessa for responding to my questions.

The Newsletter of Editor

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