

The Linda Line

This newsletter is a little unusual as it is all about Linda Hirst.

Linda has provided some feedback as the producer of the last play; 'When We Are Married'

Linda suggested that I make the whole newsletter about her.

'I could be your subject for this is your life'.

Linda suggested excitedly.

'Must you' i said

'Well it is what my public want; after all i did produce the last play and am now the lead in the next play. Linda added.

'Well alright,' I reluctantly agreed. 'But only if you don't say anything horrible about me in your answers to my questions. 'I added.

'Of course I won't say anything nasty about you.' Linda promised.

So here it is Linda's newsletter.

Messages from Committee

Treasurer's Report

Re takings from Oct production:

Expenditure: £1,478.89

Income: £1,532.25

Profit £53.36

Total assets £6284.42

January 2013 Production

31st January, 1st and 2nd February

Life & Beth by Alan Ayckbourn

Cast:

Beth – Linda Hirst

Connie – Joyce Owen

Ella – Klara

Martin – Robert Mckeever

David – Richard

Gordon – Steve Barker

Rehearsals as normal except Christmas Eve 24/12/12 and New Year's Eve 31/12/12

It's Christmas and Beth Timms is mourning the recent death of her health and safety officer husband, Gordon. Beth's sister-in-law Connie and son Martin have come to stay, determined to ensure that she should have a stress-free Christmas, but between Connie's drinking problem and Martin's unspeaking and emotionally volatile girlfriend Ella, their intentions prove to be short lived.

Only David, the local vicar, provides Beth with any comfort, but when he says a prayer for her bereavement he unwittingly summons Gordon's ghost to return to the family home. Gordon has been busy implementing health and safety measures in the afterlife and is now determined to stick around to help Beth manage her affairs. It soon becomes apparent, however, that his return is not altogether welcome.

AGM

To be held at St James Hall on 7th February 2013

New Members

The Centralians would like to welcome five new members.

Joyce Owen

Robert Mc Keever

Lorna Betts

Maddie

Jane

To have five new members has been a huge boost and really strengthens the Centralians. We really hope the new members are enjoying themselves and have a long future with us

Producers Feedback- Linda Hirst

Well, 'When we are Married' is over, the costumes are packed away and I have heaved a sigh of relief that despite hiring the extension, we have not lost money on the production! I can honestly say that I enjoyed it enormously, both my debut as producer, and watching it on stage.

I'm so grateful to everyone for all their support, particularly Janet for the costumes, and for all the hard work that everyone backstage did, (in Paul Hammonds case onstage as well.)

I loved the play when I saw it onstage in the West End 2 years ago, and never thought for a minute that we would be performing it, so it's a big thank you to the influx of new members, without whom I couldn't have cast it. Lorna, Robert and Maddie you know who you are! A special thanks to Joyce who with so many in the cast had her work cut out as prompt.

My debut as producer was a piece of cake, but it's my suspicion that I just cast it, sat back and let everyone else do the hard work, so thank you one and all, I do know that I couldn't have done it without you.

This is Your Life – Linda Hirst

You are currently rehearsing for your 15th role, which was your favourite?

I think it would have to be Ouiser in Steel Magnolias. I hadn't asked to read for the part as I didn't think of playing her, but John Aherne must have seen something in me that suited the part of a mad, crotchety, old, battleaxe, I'm not sure what! Anyway she was enormous fun to play and friends seemed to love her. (It didn't hurt that I got quite a good review in the observer!) What recollections do you have of your first play 'The Miracle Worker'?

It was a fleeting appearance and a non speaker, so I don't remember a lot. I just remember Karen keeping me in line with plates and cutlery, so at least I didn't drop anything!

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

Oh so many! But number one on my list would be to play Geraldine Grainger in the "Vicar of Dibley" when it becomes available. I have the figure for it you know! I'd like to produce "A Midsummer's Night Dream", but I think that's probably a bit of a dream too!

'When we are married' was your first play at producing. How was the experience and will you repeat it?

I loved it. I love the play anyway, but I genuinely enjoyed producing it, I was just jealous that I wasn't in it. I watched it so many times, but still laughed at different parts every night. Everyone did so well, and Janet excelled herself with the costumes, and yes I would do it again.

Tell me about appearing in 'Stepping Out'

Ha! I loved that play too. I was playing the 'fat one' Sylvie, but by the performance I had lost so much weight tap dancing and rehearsing, that I was the slightly less slim one, marvellous! I also got to wear some really garish, clashing leotard and tight combos, so even better.

You have appeared with your daughter, Georgia, in two plays now, how was it, were you nervous for her, did you feel more relaxed?

Georgia is a natural, she makes no effort but still does much better than me, so apart from a bit of green eye, it was just nice to spend time with her too.

Is there a role that you have performed in which you thought 'Even if I say so myself, I was bloody good?'

See above answer to question number one! I may be deluding myself but I think I did a fairly good job. Please don't let anyone tell me otherwise or I will be devastated!

Is there a role which you struggled with?

I struggled with Miss Maudsley in 'Ladies of Spirit', not because she was elderly but because she was so timid. Not an attribute I am known for!

How do you learn your lines?

Painfully, I find it torture, but just have to keep going over and over them.

What was it like to play opposite Steve Barker in 'Deadly Embrace?'

Oh my, it was awful. He's a nightmare to act with, such a drama queen, so demanding with so many riders, and would steal any scene without conscience. (You weren't fishing for compliments there were you?)

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

That is an extremely leading question! I wouldn't shave my hair off but apart from that, there's not much I wouldn't do, not thinking of doing Calendar Girls are you?!

January Production - 31st January 1st and 2nd February

May Production - 16th 17th and 18th May

October Production - 17th 18th and 19th

October

The Newsletter of Editor

**The Centralian Players, Steve Barker,
86 Malvern Way, Croxley Green,
Rickmansworth, Herts, WD3 3QD**

Telephone

01923-467084

Email steve.barker70@hotmail.co.uk

