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H.A.T.S.

2015

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

**BODMIN STREET
HOLSWORTHY
01409 253826**



UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS



Play ‘Noises Off’

Michael Frayn’s award-winning comedy, ‘Noises Off’ is this year’s autumn play by HATS. The hilarious farce, which features a play-within-a-play, first opened in 1982 and has subsequently been produced around the world to great acclaim. Frayn had the idea to write the play while watching a production of another comedy from the wings, noting that what was going on backstage was even funnier than what the audience could see.

The production captures a touring theatre company’s production of a farce ‘Nothing On’ in three stages: the final dress rehearsal, the opening night and a performance at the end of the run. The relationships between the actors steadily deteriorate, along with their ability to remember their lines. Add to this chaos a love triangle, an alcoholic cast member, giant egos and some flying sardines, you have the recipe for the funniest play you may ever have seen. The picture is completed by all the elements of a traditional British farce – slamming doors, dropped trousers, slapstick, collapsing scenery and exploding props.

Director Sarah O’Connor said: “Treat yourself to a great night out. Michael Frayn’s play is clever and witty, combined with all the nonsense of a farce. If you’ve never seen one of our productions, I urge you to come along and give it a go.”

Tickets are on sale now from the theatre box office, from 10am to 3pm (not Sundays) or call 01409 253826 during the same hours.

The play runs on Thursday, Friday and Saturday for two consecutive weeks:

17, 18th 19th and 24th, 25th, 26 September.

Tickets are £8 (£6 concessions). Doors open at 7.00pm and it is curtain up at 7.30pm.

Pantomime 2016

‘Dick Whittington’ 25 January – 6 February 2016

Written by Peter Long and Keith Rawnsley.

To be directed by Phil Barfett and Eve Earles.

First reading for parts will take place on Monday 28th September, immediately after the AGM at the theatre.

Spring plays 2016

19-21 May and 26-28 May 2016

Two one-act plays, to be directed by Kay Napier. Readings will take place after the end of the pantomime.

Black Comedy (by Peter Schaffer) is about a man, Brindsley, who has ‘borrowed’ his neighbour’s furniture to impress the art dealer who is visiting that night. However, it’s also the night his father-in-law-to-be is visiting. And the night that the same neighbour happens to return home. And, Brindsley’s ‘other woman’ drops by. And all this happens in a power cut ...

The Real Inspector Hound (by Tom Stoppard) follows two theatre critics watching and reviewing a farce (a play within a play) but the critics get drawn into the happenings at Muldoon Manor a little too much ...

‘Hound’ requires 5 men, 3 women, the voice of a radio and someone happy with lying on the floor for a long time! ‘Black Comedy’ needs 5 men, 3 women.

The good thing about these plays is that pretty much anyone can have a go – there are parts for everyone, old or young. The parts vary in size – there’s a few that ‘lead the charge,’ and a few supporting roles – the voice of the Radio has two lines, and is unseen, so if you haven’t been involved for a while and want something light, there is even a part for you! So – there are 18 parts up for grabs: 6 women, 10 men, a radio voice, and a dead body. There are large roles and small roles – there really is something for everyone!



MEMBERS’ NEWS

HATS BBQ

Kindly hosted on 25th July by Peter and Sally Whitehead and about 55 HATS members turned out for a most enjoyable summer’s afternoon. The food was delicious, the setting, the games and the company were all excellent, and even the sunshine obligingly came along. It was unanimously agreed that we should do it again next year. Thank you Peter and Sally. (See photos)

Taming of the Shrew

Around 20 members of HATS shared a picnic and enjoyed an evening of high quality entertainment, provided by professional travelling theatre group Illyria. Another great opportunity for members to socialise and also to appreciate drama from another perspective.

St Peter’s Fair

HATS members who manned the barbecue in shifts on Wednesday 9th July raised a total of £262 for the theatre. Good work!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **HATS AGM**
Monday 28 September, 7.30 pm in the theatre
Members, please see letter enclosed with this newsletter
- **Stagecraft Workshop**
12 October 2015, 7.30 pm in the theatre
Kay Napier will present a 2-3 hour workshop for all members. It will cover theatre history, theatre terminology, a practical exercise in the importance of blocking and stage positioning, exercises and techniques for vocal projection (both singing and speech) and an option to ask questions to improve understanding and technique. It should be fun both for those who are new to performing and for those who have been onstage for years – there will be the chance to refine their techniques or learn new ones. Depending on interest there could be a follow-up session. It is expected that all members will attend!
- **Defibrillator / Basic First Aid training for members**
Wed 21st October 7.00 pm in the theatre

This will take about an hour and is for those who are doing this for the first time and also as a refresher course.
- **Christmas Concert**
13th December 2015 7.30 in the theatre
Holsworthy Town Band will put on a concert in conjunction with HATS members.
- **Dinner and Dance 27 February 2016**
The committee has decided that the best option was to stay with the roast carvery option and to have a swing band for the entertainment. The same venue as before – the Memorial Hall in Holsworthy.
- **Play for Autumn 2016**
Ken Tyrrell will be back to direct another comedy by Ray Cooney called ‘Funny Money’ in September next year.

RECENT PRODUCTIONS



Blithe Spirit by Noel Coward Directed by Eve Earles+

Here are some snippets from the NODA report by Ian Goodenough on HATS spring play:

"Noel Coward's spirited comedy has long been a favourite of mine, so the chance to see HATs take it on was a treat

First impressions were of a great looking set. Solid and well dressed with appropriate props and trimmings which is such an important feature in a single-set piece. Add to this the splendid costumes and our transition to the 40's was complete

Edith, the Condomine's house keeper, was seen onstage infrequently, but managed to steal several scenes with her comic timing and simple-mannered charm

Charles and Ruth were both well cast and perfectly portrayed a couple who court the well placed in society to improve their own standing. Chief amongst these is Dr. Bradman and his wife, both played well and in Dr Bradman's case I was pleased to see him out of "Dame Clothes" and in a dramatic role!

Elvira sweeps in with a mischievous glint in her eye and an air of confidence that reduces Charles to a gibbering wreck. Her costume and make up were elegant, ethereal and avoided any clichéd 'ghostly' looks, with a performance that worked beautifully

But lighting up the evening's performance was that new-age mistress of spirits, Madame Arcati. Everything from her costume to gentle tone was perfect and sat well within a production that had been directed to avoid any extreme characteristics that would draw focus too much.

Excellent technical work with the cameo by Daphne. A great effect that provided one of the creepier moments of the performance which was a successful crowd-pleaser and another feather in HATs' cap!"



Theatre Storage Unit / Working Parties

A set of racking shelves has been ordered, delivered and erected in the unit thanks to the efforts of a team of members. (See photo)

Another team set to and cleared out the understage storage area, which will enable props teams in future productions to locate items much more easily.

New Stewards Coordinator

Amy Clarke is now organising steward cover for all productions. You may already have had a call from her to steward for Noises Off! Her number is 01409 254683, or she can be contacted via HATS Facebook page.

Publicity Team

The new team met and discussed proposals to improve publicity for productions. A plan was drafted which will hopefully allow us to let more people know of the brilliant shows that are offered to them locally.

Long House

Members of the committee were invited to look around the recently opened Long House, which will offer a range of services for people with cancer and their families and is located next to the Holsworthy Medical centre. HATS donated the first night's takings of the pantomime 'Babes in the Wood' to the Long House appeal. (See photo).

Radio microphones

Backstage crew have suggested that the radio microphones were in need of refurbishment so one new set has been acquired with a view to trialling them and obtaining more sets in the future.

Visit from WI

Lewtrenchard WI requested a tour of, and talk about the theatre, which was provided in June by members of the theatre; this was greatly enjoyed by the ladies.

Deadline for the Christmas newsletter is Friday 20th November.

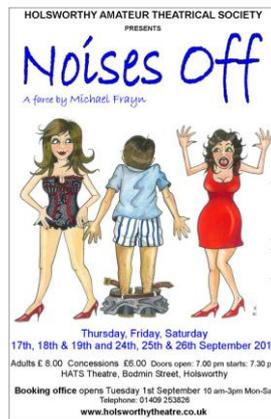
Thanks to the many members and sponsors who have registered to have their newsletters delivered by email, which saves quite a bit of cash for the society.

Please send any changes of email / postal address to: moorleydenise@gmail.com

PHOTO GALLERY



Rehearsing Noises Off



HATS makes a donation to the Long House appeal



HATS summer barbecue



Working party installs shelving in HATS' new storage unit