



Thu 27th - Sat 29th July
and 3rd - 5th August 2017

The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society **MURDER MYSTERY**

by David McGillivray & Walter Zerlin Jnr.

Directed by **Gary Winn**

Social Secretary's Snippets

24 people are attending the Christmas Dinner at Penley's and can I remind you that it is booked for 7pm to eat at 7.30pm.

To Members and Friends who are not joining us at the Christmas meal may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Club nights:

Monday 12 December 2016: Christmas Dinner at Penley's, Richmond 7pm for 7.30pm.

Monday 9th January 2017: The Quiz has been cancelled and in its place Gregan Davis has kindly agreed for his rehearsal of 'The Herbal Bed' to be an Open Rehearsal for members and potential members to come along and watch the rehearsal and then perhaps get together in the pub afterwards.

Monday 13th February 2017: Workshop – Beki Stevenson has volunteered to conduct a workshop on 'Silent Comedy – Creating Comic Characters'.

Monday 13th March 2017: Drama/Film based Quiz compiled and hosted by Gary and Julie Winn.

Please try to come along and support these events and please let me know if you have any ideas for future club nights and/or any other social events.

Contact me by email socialsec@richmond-ads.org.uk or by phone 01748 818402.

Kind Regards, **Julie Winn**



Props and Wardrobe Items

Would all members be aware that the props room is overloaded and requires a clear out. Please do not leave prop items in the club rooms that you 'think might be useful'. Contact Gary Winn who will advise.

This also applies to items for RADS wardrobe - please contact Lynne Kerr who will advise whether or not costume items might be a useful addition to the wardrobe.

Thu 23rd - Sat 25th March 2017

The Herbal Bed

by Peter Whelan

Directed by **Gregan Davis**

D&S Times Review 18 Nov 16

For this year's autumn production, Richmond Amateur Dramatic Society chose a double bill which showcased the versatility of the eight performers and required double the input from costume and set designers. Happily, all acquitted themselves well.

The staging for Tom Stoppard's *The Real Inspector Hound* was that of the drawing room of Muldoon Manor, where a traditional fireplace, an oriental carpet and a chaise longue with a body prostrate behind it set the scene for a whodunit.

The action flashed between the stage and the theatre's Collman Box in which two theatre critics intermittently discussed the play in the traditionally esoteric and pretentious terms used by such folk (present company excepted!).

After the interval, the stage was transformed into an apartment for *Black Comedy* by Peter Shaffer in which the furniture had been "borrowed" for the night from an absent neighbour.

The opening portion was performed in total blackout, and when the stage lights came up, it was to indicate that the opposite was occurring and there had been a power cut in the apartment. As the characters stumbled around the stage, talking blindly to one another, muddling up their drinks and the identities of all present, the ensuing comic chaos saw the audience laughing along throughout.

The star of this double bill was Suzy Brown as Mrs Drudge and Miss Furnal. In fully embracing her two allocated characters, she created a stark contrast between the dowdy housekeeper deliberately overplaying her lines to create stage cues for an incompetent crew, with the snooty middle class, teetotal spinster who takes refuge from the dark.

Directed by Jim Brown, these two well-chosen 1960s' farces and RADS' hallmark enthusiasm provided hearty entertainment for those both on stage and in the audience.

Christina McIntyre (D&S Times)

Fire Safety Audit

At the beginning of November the Fire Service carried out a safety audit of the RADS clubrooms. They were generally happy with what we had in-place but pointed out it was our legal responsibility to maintain a safe environment for our members. They did however suggest some improvements and therefore we have put up additional fire exit signs, another fire alarm upstairs and had the fire extinguishers serviced.

We have purchased a fire blanket for the kitchen and emergency torches for the escape routes in the event of a power cut. We are asking all members to familiarise themselves with the new equipment and escape routes so that in the unlikely event of an emergency everyone can evacuate the premises safely.

Brian Rogers (Clubhouse Manager)



Chair's Corner

Well, we have concluded our Autumn production of the Double Bill - '*Real Inspector Hound*' and '*Black Comedy*'. Thanks are due to so many people. We had backstage hands, set makers and costume providers. I was heartened by so many people going the extra mile. Suzy Brown sorting out my moustache and beard. She came back a third night determined to get it right. Alex being calm and unflappable as Stage Manager while we changed box sets during the interval. Tilly practising her tennis ball throw with increasing accuracy. Norma prepared to propel the wheel chair onstage at sufficient velocity to mow down cast members. Who can forget Dougie's immortal line, "Where shall I put my swamp boots and loudhailer?" Gary and Brian have now laid to rest the sets.

It was a very successful production. Much enjoyed by audience and cast. If you missed it, we hope to enter it for the One Act Play Festival at the Georgian Theatre in February 2017.

'*Black Comedy*' was a tour de force. The furniture had a plot of its own. It needed to be on and off stage exactly at the right moment. Fortunately it was in the hands of the talented and very capable Scott Fenney, who manoeuvred lampshades and chaise longue around the stage like a Pickford's pro. The cast had to act in the dark while the lights were on. No easy feat. My suggestion of a rehearsal in complete darkness was vetoed on Health and Safety grounds! Our thanks to Jim Brown. Jim steered these plays through, always giving the cast confidence in the technically challenging circumstances. He is now planning a year off, so we wish him good luck with that.

We now move on to "*The Herbal Bed*". A new play, well received in the West End theatre and on recent tour. Our very own Gregan Davis is directing and hoping to cast it before Christmas. We still need two males. One young lad and one not so young. Please ask around.

Martin

email: chairman@richmond-ads.org.uk

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