



The Prompter



Workington Playgoers' newsletter – May 2014.

Welcome to The Prompter. We look forward to seeing you in the theatre in the near future.

Our Next Production...

'How The Other Half Loves'

Written by Alan Ayckbourn

Directed by Brian Young

Tuesday May 13th – Saturday May 17th 2014

Two homes occupy the same stage at the same time but the occupants are very different couples and the double image delivers a wonderful range of double meanings, both verbal and visual. As the couple give simultaneous dinner parties hilarity abounds, along with adultery, snobbery, hope and despair. Featuring Playgoers both old and new, this show should send you home smiling.



UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Deputy Chairman

We have been discussing succession planning in recent Council Meetings and have agreed to create a new position of Deputy Chairman. The Deputy Chairman, as the name suggests, will deputise for the Chairman from time to time and will also be available to help with the planning and implementation of the changes when our grant application is successful and work starts. In the fullness of time, I would hope that Members would consider electing the Deputy Chairman to the post of Chairman. If anyone is interested in being co-opted onto Council as Deputy Chairman, please would they let me know as soon as possible.

Theatre Maintenance.



I am very pleased to be able to confirm that Tony Maggorian has agreed to become the Maintenance Manager for the Theatre. This is a new role which will reduce the burden on the Technical Director and help to ensure that maintenance jobs are not delayed when set building and the next production are the main priority. Tony has already placed a Maintenance book in the front office which members are welcome to inspect. Please feel free to add any jobs around the theatre that you feel should be on the list.

Grant funding

I wrote an update on the current position for the last Prompter and can confirm that we resubmitted our application to the BIG lottery for the major refurbishment of the theatre and 30 Wilson St. mid April. It may take up to three months to get a response but I am very optimistic about the outcome and will be bitterly disappointed if we are not successful this time. Copies of the resubmission documents have been circulated to all members of Playgoers' Club Council, but if any Member would like to see these, please let me know. Pat Brinicombe and James Watson have done a huge amount of work on this resubmission and I would like to thank them again on behalf of all Members.

Golden Jubilee Club



Pauline has reminded me that we are twenty numbers short despite the fact that some Members (including the organisers I suspect) now have as many as six numbers each.

Despite all the hard work, this is the worst position for a long time (or ever!) Please consider subscribing if you do not already take part or take an additional number if you already have one - simply contact Pauline at kph.threesteps@btinternet.com. After all, the odds on winning £1,000 or even one of the monthly £12 prizes are much, much better than the National Lottery or Premium Bonds.

Best Wishes to all.

Peter.

Agatha and Gwyneth – a winning combination!

The Playgoers' April whodunit, 'The Unexpected Guest' proved to be a success with our audiences. Many complimentary comments were heard in the bar and foyer. It was interesting to note that the comments weren't just about the acting, but were also about the costumes, the direction, the props and the set. Nice to see appreciation for other aspects of our art!



Few of the audience seemed to have guessed the identity of the murderer. I wonder if it was because we are so used to associating Geoffrey with the side of the right and good? A number of those who were more perspicacious left looking very pleased with themselves! This isn't surprising as the swift pace of the second act and the frequent red herrings left the audience bouncing from wrong culprit to wrong culprit. The shocking denouement meant the audience left buzzing with chatter and praise.

For many reasons, it is a long time since we have seen a Gwyneth Savage production. With Nicola Woodier working alongside her, this was a most successful return to direction and I look forward to her next play. (Gillian Scholey)

Money, Money, Money...

Don't forget that your subs are due in June. It is £20 for adults and £10 for juniors. If you want bank details so that you can arrange a standing order then please email Gilda Wells, our treasurer, on gilda.wells@btinternet.com. Gilda asks me to remind you that our AGM is in September and you won't be allowed to vote if you have not paid your subs!

BBQ – July 20th



Once again this will take place at the home of Ron Dickens. (Many thanks, Ron). It starts at 1.00pm and finishes who knows when!

Admission is £6.00 and for this you get your first drink, a burger, a hot dog, salads and dessert. There is a bar. Please bring a rug or chair to sit on.

If you intend going, please ring either Glynn (63018) or Louise (601231) to let them know and they will give you directions if needed. We can't guarantee good weather but it is always a good 'do'.

Celebrate the Bard's Anniversary.



'Shakespeare in the Garden'.

On Saturday July 26th Higham Hall is hosting another performance by The Festival Players. They are performing 'The Comedy of Errors' in the grounds of Higham Hall. This goes ahead whatever the weather! The grounds are open at 1.30 pm for picnics and the performance begins at 3.00 pm. Bring your own chair or blanket.

Billed as 'A brilliant farce of mistaken identities combined with a few undertones of the dramatic and sinister... a riotous train of misunderstandings, seduction and pursuit' this promises to be an entertaining afternoon. Tickets

cost £13.50, £10 for children. It can be combined with a full weekend's study course on Shakespeare if so desired.

Looking towards Autumn!

As summer fades (!), why not treat yourself to an educational delight at Higham Hall.

EXPERIENCE THEATRE with Theatre by the Lake

Sun 7 Sep 2014 6:30pm to Fri 12 Sep 2014 1:30pm

See & explore all six plays in Theatre by the Lake's Summer Season: Ben Travers' famous farce Rookery Nook; Bram Stoker's Dracula adapted by Liz Lochhead; William Shakespeare's The Comedy of Errors; the regional premier of The Winterling by Jez Butterworth; the world premiere of Seeing the Lights by Brendan Murray and Harold Pinter's master-work Old Times. Practise the theatre critic's art, learn about each playwright, meet backstage teams, directors & members of the Company.

Jim Smith & Eileen McLean of Keswick's [Theatre by the Lake](#)

Residential: £640 Non-residential: £460 (incl. tickets, programmes, coach transport)

DOWNTON ABBEY REVISITED with [Jackie Wilkin](#) (literature expert, retired university lecturer)

Wed 3 Sep 2014 6:30pm to Fri 5 Sep 2014 1:30pm

The enduring appeal of the 'upstairs-downstairs' world. Series 1 scripts published with writer's commentary will help us examine characters and themes of this terrific series. Lively discussion guaranteed!

Residential: £209 Non-residential: £146

HOW DO YOU LEARN THOSE LINES? AN ACTOR'S CRAFT with **Peter Macqueen** (professional theatre, radio, TV & film actor)

Fri 5 Sep 2014 6:30pm to Sun 7 Sep 2014 1:30pm

Delve into the world of creating characters, learning scripts and 'not bumping into the furniture', as a professional actor exposes his craft. For anyone wanting an insight into treading the boards, whether you've ever done it or not!

Residential: £219 Non-residential: £156



AN OPEN MIC POETRY EVENING

JUNE 5 - 7:30 PM

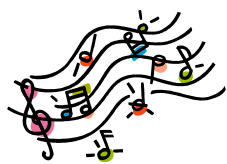
If you like to read, write or hear poetry:
Come and hear people read their own poems or...
...Come and read your own.
No famous poems or famous poets.
Just people like you, who like to write for
themselves
Or who, like you, like to listen and enjoy the work
of other people,
Who'll take the mic and read their work to a
sympathetic audience.
In the cosy confines of our own theatre;
A safe environment for sharing your work
And your ideas in this very personal form of self-
expression.

You are equally welcome, whether you come to
read or simply to listen.

If you are interested please contact Morgan
Sweeney at:

morgan.sweeney@icloud.com or 01900
825 221

**This event will be open to members and their
friends.**



Live Music!

Greg Russell & Ciaran Algar

A reminder that on the **25th of June** the Theatre
Royal is going to do another first – a 'live' concert
is going to be filmed for a **DVD release**. The
concert will feature **Greg Russell & Ciaran Algar**.
Greg & Ciaran are two hugely popular young folk
musicians. Last year they won the **BBC Young
Folk Award** and this year they have just won the
Horizon Award (best newcomers) in the **BBC
Radio 2 Folk Awards** which was televised from
the **Royal Albert Hall** last February. Tickets £10.
(Students and under 18, £8). Don't miss this
unique night.

THEATRE ROYAL FINE DINING CLUB

JULY 12 - 7:30 PM

Do you like Fine Dining and Good Conversation?

If so, consider coming to eat, on
* our own stage, with the Fine
* Dining Club at The
Theatre Royal on
Saturday night July 12 -
7:30 for apéritifs
and canapés. The dining

will have to be limited, on this first occasion, to
16 diners so that we can work out the technical
demands of cooking in a venue that has limited
kitchen facilities. However: be assured that the
food will be of the first quality and beautifully
cooked. Otherwise - what would be the point? A
contribution of £15 per person will cover the
purchase of comestibles and, if there is a surplus,
it will be lodged in a Playgoers' Dining Fund to
provide ongoing finance for subsequent fine
dinners.

Good food and worthwhile conversation with
like-minded people. What better way to spend
your evening?

If you are interested please contact Morgan
Sweeney at:

morgan.sweeney@icloud.com or 01900
825 221

This will be a members only occasion.

Tutus and Tiaras.

The theatre hosted another dance festival just
prior to Easter. We do two each year and they are
VERY popular. We used over forty five pints of
milk, gallons and gallons of coffee and several
sixteen-pack trays of good old fashioned Vimto.
There were over one hundred and twenty
sandwiches each containing one of twenty
different fillings made and sold, along with well

over one hundred bags of crisps and several trays of Pringles. Numerous willing volunteers manned the coffee bar which was open for nearly twelve hours each day. Delicious home baking was provided by several of our talented members. Almost every corner of our theatre was in steady use throughout the festival with even the front office being used as a changing room! It was a marathon effort but much appreciated by the dancers, their mothers and the organisers. Oh, the dancing was pretty impressive too! Glynn says a huge thank you to all those who helped out in any way.

Alternative Drama



With no dramatic productions in our theatre during June, July and August perhaps you might wish to sample what is on offer at Keswick's Theatre by the Lake. This summer they are showing...

Rookery Nook by Ben Travers. Commences May 24th. 'A chaos of embarrassments, excuses, and evasions, minor deceptions and major misunderstandings'. A family show.

The Winterling by Jez Butterworth. Commences May 24th. 'A brilliant twisted thriller about living on the edge'. Contains frequent strong language.

Dracula by Liz Lochhead. Adapted from the novel by Bram Stoker. Commences June 7th. 'Desire and terror abound in this spine-tingling, sensual adaptation of Bram Stoker's famed Gothic novel.' Scenes of a sexual nature and possible nudity.

Seeing the Lights by Brendan Murray. World Premiere. Commences June 13th. 'A brand new hilarious comedy about family relationships, rivalries and responsibilities.' Will mum ever get to see Blackpool Illuminations one last time?

The Comedy of Errors by William Shakespeare. Commences July 26th. 'A brilliantly colourful, mystical romantic comedy of confusion, reconciliation and reunion...riotous chaos'.

Old Times by Harold Pinter. Commences August 1st. 'Pinter's most passionate and mysterious of plays leaves you questioning where the truth really lies. Don't miss this electrifying, enigmatic and gripping masterpiece'.

(All quotes are from the Theatre by the Lake's summer brochure.)

WW1 Revue

We are planning on staging a joint Playgoers/CADS revue to commemorate WW1. It will probably take place in April 2015 as this is the earliest convenient time slot for both organisations. Both groups are involved in the planning of the event and it is hoped that there will be lots of willing volunteers from both groups when it comes to deciding on actors.

Morgan Sweeney, Pat Brinicombe and I are on the planning committee for the Playgoers. Peter and Gilda are also keeping a close eye on proceedings with regard to the business aspects. The production will involve acting, poetry and music with a number of WW1 songs included. It is very much in the planning stage at the moment with frequent script writing sessions taking place in Cockermouth. More details in the September Prompter. (Gillian Scholey)

Xmas production 2014!!!



We intend to hold open readings for our **Christmas production, 'When Did You Last See Your Trousers'** on **Wed 21/Thurs22** of May at 7p.m. As you can probably tell from the title, the play is a farce. You can just come and see what the play is about, **read a part for experience/fun** or read with a view to taking a part in the production. Rehearsals obviously won't start for some time but productions would like to get an idea of who would be interested so that casting can commence.

Bits and Bobs!

Last term before the luxury of retirement, Viv! Count the days to freedom!... Glynn hit London during April. The city is still recovering... Thanks to those who filled in theatre interest returns. Very helpful... Thought Sarah looked delightful in those 50s dresses. Such a lady!... Good to see Stephen Mitchell back on our stage... Have you



sponsored Nicola and Gwyneth for their marathon walk in aid of The Henderson Suite at WCH and our theatre? There's still time to do so... Have you a theatre tablecloth lurking in your airing cupboard? Please check and return it if you find it... Watch out for details of a Youth Theatre School taking place in our theatre during the October half term. Four days of rehearsals followed by an evening performance all linked to J M Barrie and Peter Pan... Don't forget to put an evening with Boycie from 'Only Fools and Horses' in your diary for October... Did you see Morgan baring his soul in The Full Monty in Egremont at the start of May. Phew! You've got courage Morgan!... Another of our members, James Shepherd, was also treading the boards elsewhere. A superb performance from James in Singing in the Rain at Keswick's Theatre by the Lake...Mention should also go to a row of our seats who had a 'supporting' role in that same production! (Lent by props)...Welcome to new member Fleur Greening.

Back by Popular Demand - Jeff Barnhart. August 22nd.

Has the Theatre Royal ever has visiting musician who has proved so popular that he has returned to give an annual concert for over ten years? If not then Jeff Barnhart from Mystic, Connecticut, USA, is about to enter Theatre Royal history.

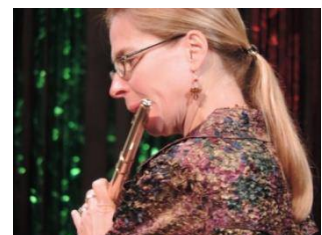
Jeff appeared as a guest at the Keswick Jazz Festival in 1996 and has been returning every year since. He met up with our own Paul Adams whose day job is as a record producer and who has recorded 8 CDs with Jeff - some recorded in the theatre - and also became a member of Paul's band The Lake Records International Jazz Band. The theatre is always trying to get grants and if it is shown to do more than put on its own plays it

looks good on application forms. With this in mind Paul decided to try a concert with Jeff and see what happens. What happened was that the audience wanted more, so Jeff has returned every year since 2004!

Jeff is described as a "Jazz musician" which he is - and a very talented one - but he is much more than that implies: in simple terms he is an entertainer in every sense of the word. He will dazzle you with his piano playing, he will sing a wide range of songs from Jazz to Broadway, he will have you laughing until your sides ache with his humour. One publication stated that Jeff was "A dazzling exuberant performer - one extraordinary entertainer". That sums it up.

As before he will be accompanied by his wife, Anne (a very gifted flautist), John Hallam (one of the UK's finest clarinetist and saxophonists) and bass player, Roy Cansdale. If you think you don't like jazz, don't worry there's nothing heavy about this show - just pure class from start to finish and you'll walk away with a smile on your face.

Paul Adams.



(Photographs clockwise from top left – Paul Adams, Jeff Barnhart, Anne Barnhart and John Hallam, Jeff Barnhart and Roy Cansdale, John Hallam, Anne Barnhart. Taken at last year's Theatre Royal concert. Copyright M Davidson.)

Quick Quiz.

A film slant this time...



1. Geoffrey Rush received a Best Actor Oscar for which 1996 film?
2. Which film director advised that the length of a film should be directly related to the endurance of the human bladder?
3. For the leading role in which film did Robert De Niro put on over 70lbs in weight?
4. What Clint Eastwood film role was originally given to Frank Sinatra but relinquished by him before shooting started?
5. 'I'll have what she's having' is a quote from which film?
6. **007** Which Bond girl starred with Elvis Presley in 'Fun in Acapulco'?
7. Who sang the theme song to Iron Man (2008)?
8. Who played Maximus Decimus Meridius in a 2000 Ridley Scott film?
9. Name the actresses who played the title roles in Thelma and Louise?
10. What 1989 Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones film was adapted from a Tom Sharpe novel?



- Set building, scenery painting, stage management - contact Geoff Brinicombe or Gwyneth Savage
- Lights and sound – contact Geoff as above.
- Acting, prompting, directing - contact Brian Young
- Bar work during a show run - contact Heather Scholey.
- Props - contact Anne Chambers
- Publicity - contact Pat Brinicombe.
- Wardrobe - contact Helen Earl.

For detailed contact details for the above please ring Gillian Scholey 01900 61828 or GillScholey@aol.com. If you have anything YOU would like to contribute to The Prompter, please use my contact details above.

Gillian Scholey

AGM



The AGM for Workington Playgoers will take place on **September 16th at 7.30 pm**. Any paid up member is eligible to vote and to stand for any position on Council. A list of positions with spaces for nominations will be posted in the theatre two weeks before the meeting. If you wish to stand then you need to be nominated and seconded. If two people stand for the same position then an election will take place that evening. Council minutes (March meeting) state that, 'It was also agreed that should 2 people stand for the same position necessitating a vote, those people be invited to stand up at the meeting, introduce themselves and say a little about their planned role.'

.....

Contact!

Have you joined us in the last few months?
Do you know who to contact for information?
All aspects of the club are open to members and will really welcome your help.

Have you thought about volunteering for the following:

- Saturday Morning Coffee duty - contact Jane Douglas or Viv Young
- Front of House – selling coffee, sweets, raffle tickets etc. - contact Glynn Scurr

Sad News

We have recently heard news of the deaths of two of our loyal members. John Holmes passed away on February 18th. He was a long serving and dedicated member, acting in numerous productions and attending all shows. His cheerful chat will be missed. Ruby Stockdale passed away on April 18th, aged 93. Mrs Stockdale was a faithful supporter of our shows for many, many years.

Dates for your Diary

Our aim is to let you know not only what is going on in our theatre but also some of the events in the local area. Events at the Theatre Royal are in bold type.

May 13th - May 17th ‘HOW THE OTHER HALF LOVES’ THEATRE ROYAL

May 21st & 22nd Read through – Xmas farce Theatre Royal

May 24th Keswick Summer Season commences

May 31st American Wrestling Live!! Carnegie Theatre

June 5th Open Mic Poetry Night Theatre Royal*

June 25th Greg Russell & Ciaron Algar Theatre Royal

July 12th Fine Dining with Morgan Theatre Royal*

July 26th ‘The Comedy of Errors’ Higham Hall

July 20th BBQ Home of Ron Dickens*

August 22nd Jeff Barnhart and Friends Theatre Royal

September 10th-13th ‘CATS’ Carnegie Theatre

September 16th AGM Theatre Royal*

October 7th – 11th ‘Stepping Out’ Theatre Royal

October 29th ‘Only Fools and Boycie’ Theatre Royal

November 20th ‘Swan Lake ’ Carnegie Theatre

December 2nd – 6th ‘When Did You Last See Your Trousers’ Theatre Royal

***Members or members and friends. See notices.**

Answers to Quick Quiz.

- 1) ‘Shine’ 2) Alfred Hitchcock 3) ‘Raging Bull’ 4) Harry Callahan – ‘Dirty Harry’. 5) When Harry Met Sally. (1989) 6) Ursula Andress 7) Black Sabbath 8) Russell Crowe - Gladiator 9) Susan Sarendon and Geena Davies 10) ‘Wilt’.

