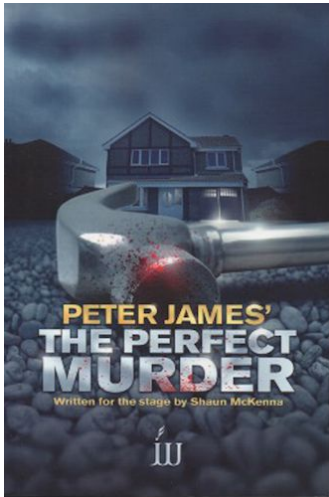




The Prompter



Workington Playgoers' newsletter – September 2016



**THE PERFECT
MURDER**
By Shaun McKenna
Directed by Jenni
Rushton
4th – 8th October



Yes its nearly
ready!!

Keep an eye out
for the
New Theatre
Royal Website
Coming next
month!!
With Online Booking



**The Professor of
Adventure**

Written by Peter
Macqueen
Friday 3rd Feb 2017

The Perfect Murder - Notes from Director Jenni Rushton

Have you ever wondered how to commit the perfect murder? Victor Smiley has. Victor's been married for 20 years but the marriage has reached crisis point and there's only one way to get his wife out of his life forever... As young Detective Roy Grace investigates his very first homicide case, dark forces intervene and he begins to realise that nothing is quite as it seems...

Shaun McKenna told me in January 2015 that The Perfect Murder would soon be available for amateurs. He also said he hoped we would have a lot of fun with it!

We certainly have! Andy Palmer is playing Victor Smiley (we saw him in Much Ado about Nothing in July) and Andrew Young is playing the young Detective Constable Grace, both taking major parts for the first time. Sarah Delorme is playing a *stormer* of a part as Joan Smiley, Mike Hoggarth is playing Don Kirk and Jane Douglas is playing Kamila Walcak.

The Crew, Props Wardrobe and Technical Departments have pulled out all the stops to produce a very complicated set with challenging sound and lighting effects.

Several homes are being plundered, as we speak, for just the right props. Please come and enjoy the play but I would recommend that you don't watch on your own...

2017 Production Schedule

March - Tuesday 21st - Saturday 25th

THE BEAUTY QUEEN OF LEENANE
by Martin McDonagh

Director Brian Young

A Workington Playgoers Production

July - Friday 28th - Sunday 30th

WIND IN THE WILLOWS

A Theatre Royal Second Star Youth Theatre

**Adapted from the book and Directed by Millie
Hardy Sims**

April - Friday 7th - Sunday 9th

THE WIZARD OF OZ

**A Theatre Royal / Second Star Youth Theatre
Production**

**Adapted from the book and directed by Millie
Hardy Sims**

October - Tuesday 10th - Saturday 14th

THE THRILL OF LOVE

by Amanda Whittington

Director Pat Brinicombe

A Workington Playgoers Production

May - Tuesday 23rd - Saturday 27th

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

by Alan Ayckbourn

Director Tony Parker

A Workington Playgoers Production

December - Tuesday 5th - Saturday 9th

GOODNIGHT MR TOM

Adapted by David Wood

From the novel by Michelle Magorian

Director Gwyneth Savage

**A Workington Playgoers / Second Star Youth
Theatre Production**

July - Tuesday 11th - Saturday 15th

MACBETH

by William Shakespeare

**A Theatre Royal Shakespeare Players
Production**

Director Morgan Sweeney

*Details of Cast Lists can be
obtained from individual directors
or Jenni Rushton*



Booking Your Tickets!

If you have had the opportunity to come into the theatre over the last few weeks, you will have seen our new box office taking shape. It has been designed and built by Gordon Rushton and Geoff Brinicombe and is going to look stunning. By Christmas it should house our new on-line booking system which will bring us into the 21st century. Customers will need to be patient whilst the staff catch up with the

technology!

You should be able to book in the following ways and we'll let you know when the on-line system is actually up and running.

- On-line via the website
- On the door
- By phone to the theatre answer machine
- Through a ticket agent

For 'The Perfect Murder' you can book

- By email Gillscholey@gmail.com
- On the door
- By phone to the theatre answer machine 01900 603161
- Through a ticket agent – please let Glynn Scurr or Gillian Scholey know if you want a ticket agent.

Please note, you can no longer book through The Carnegie Theatre

The Socialites!

The 'Socialites' are the newly formed social committee created in April, consisting of Viv, Lyndsay, Rosie, Ruth and Heather . At our first meeting we agreed to have a regular Members' Night on the last Wednesday of each month, held in the new foyer with the bar open and so far these have been very successful.

The first evening in June gave us a chance to find out from the 22 members who attended what people would like these evenings to look like and we got some great ideas. In July we had an Open Mic evening with singing, poetry reading, short play readings and a monologue. Our August evening saw 30 members gather together for a film and theatre quiz night, which challenge the grey matter and had us all scratching our heads!



We're hoping to hold a games evening for the 28th September and in October we will revive the Hallowe'en Party (which will take place on Friday October 28th due to the Second Star half term project) As this is a party we thought we would have food – our usual faith supper style would be the easiest option. Wednesday November 30th is at the moment a blank page. We'll host a Christmas party on Wednesday December 28th to fill the gap between Christmas and New Year.

The initial idea was to provide a regular evening when everyone knew the theatre would be open and the bar available for members to come together and keep in touch. The committee have sorted events so far but would like members to feel that they can 'adopt' an evening to provide a suitable 'theatre-based' activity. Millie has proposed a play reading on January 25th. Any other offers to run an evening would be very welcome. If you can help with the two party nights or any of the other planned evenings we'd be very grateful. The front of house team have provided the bar staff each month so I'm sure they would also welcome volunteers to help. Cheers!

Viv Young

Cheers!!

New stock, new equipment AND new staff! We have welcomed several new recruits behind the bar and they have all volunteered to return! We can always use more volunteers so spread the word and let us know if you are interested. Thank you Joy Bowmer for volunteering to look after the coffee rota, we also have several new

people serving coffee on Saturdays. With the bar being on the ground floor it is now accessible to all. It can get quite noisy and crowded so the old bar/green room is being used when the bar is extra busy. Our Members' Nights take place in the foyer and bar which is proving very successful.

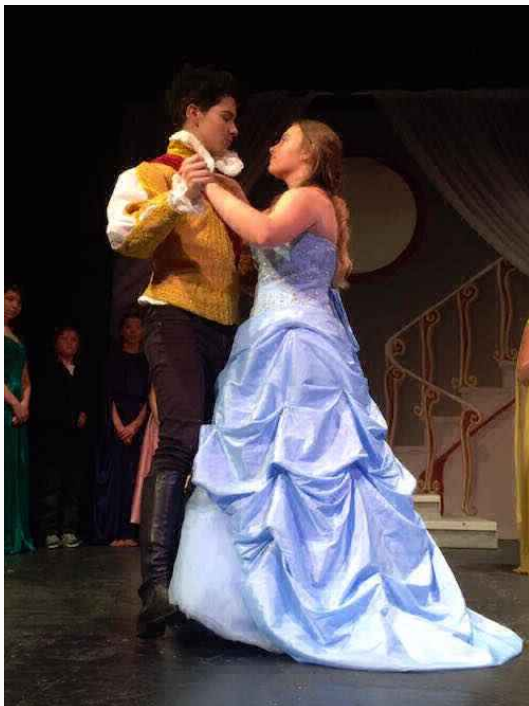
Glynn, Heather and Gillian



The Carnegie Singers

Watch out next year for another splendid concert from this renowned choir. Returning to us in the late spring, they will present 'From Bach to Bacharach'.

It promises to be an evening to remember with music for all tastes!



Cinderella performed by *Second Star Youth Theatre*

received the following crit from Pat Brinicombe.

If you didn't see the Theatre Royal's Youth Group you missed a cracking good play! The young performers really excelled themselves. From a slow start, it developed into one of their best performances yet. A special mention must go to the ugly sisters. Two of the prettiest girls on the planet portrayed a couple of horrid, spoilt, brats to perfection, their characters were thoroughly ugly throughout the performance! The set was stunning and the techies excelled themselves with back projection and magical transformation scenes.

Well done Millie and the team.

'The Haunting'



Members were asked a while ago if anyone would like to try directing and I expressed an interest. The idea was to direct a rehearsed reading to be performed at a members' night and be mentored by an experienced director.

The date was set for September: a week of rehearsals scheduled, a play selected and a cast approached.

The Haunting is a ghost story based on some of Charles Dickens' stories and asks for 2 men and a young girl. It also requires lots of sound effects and special effects.

Phil Cram, Craig Norendal and Kelly Pearce agreed to take the roles and we rehearsed 6 times during the week before the performance.

The timing was a little unfortunate as the stage crew were busy building a complicated set for the public performance of The Perfect Murder that also requires lots of

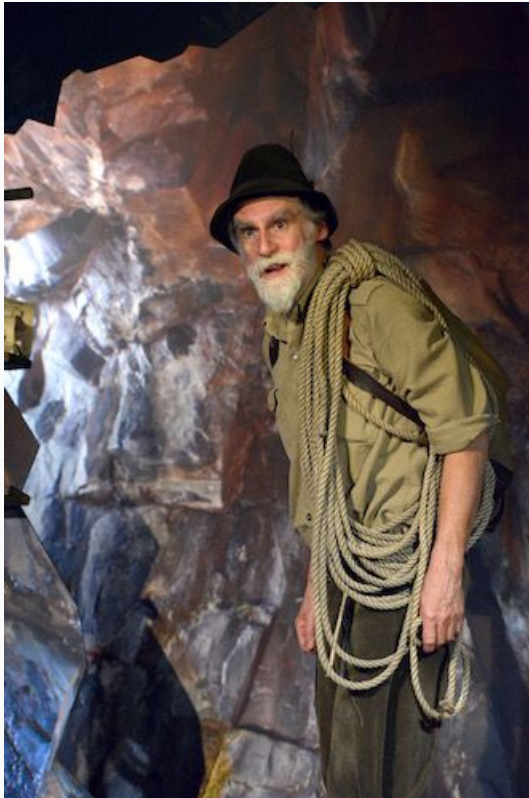
sound effects. However, in true Playgoers fashion, everyone pulled together and there were some fantastic effects that made the show really spooky. I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped: stage, sound, costume, props etc. A big thank you also to Pat Brincombe who stood in quite late on to mentor me and did not interfere – was just there when I needed her!!

Of course I need to thank the actors who were willing to be told what to do by me and did so really well; Thank you!! I really enjoyed the whole experience and would definitely like to do it again (if anyone will let me!!) The only disappointment was the size of the audience – I hope that if we do this kind of thing again - and I hope we do, that more people support it.

Jane Douglas

Your Newsletter (s)

Watch out for a new venture nearer to Christmas. As well as your Prompter which centres around the Playgoers there will also be a separate newsletter with information about all the other groups and activities that now take place in the Theatre Royal. This will differ to the Prompter in that it will be available to all the theatre's supporters rather than being a members' newsletter. Phil Cram will be running this.



Peter Macqueen Returns to The Theatre Royal

Peter Macqueen performed his one man play 'Old Herbaceous' in our theatre during 2013. It was a great success. We are delighted to welcome him back with his latest one man show 'The Professor of Adventure' which has recently played to great acclaim at The Theatre by the Lake.

The Professor of Adventure by Peter Macqueen

Friday February 3rd

LONELINESS isn't about being alone, it's about not having the choice and that is at the heart of Peter Macqueen's one-man play about the life of Millican Dalton, known as the Borrowdale Hermit.

Based on the real life caveman of the Lake District, the Professor of Adventure takes you not only into the cave he calls his home, above Keswick at the start of World War Two, it takes you into the mind of an educated man who was ahead of his time.

Rules for Living!



No, not another government 'help' guide! This was an incredibly intense but also darkly comic play which was done as a play reading over two nights in the theatre. Organised by Morgan Sweeney and held in the foyer, it was open to all members but sadly attended by just a few. The intention was to give everyone a chance to take a part in a selected play and to read in a relaxed and informal setting, thus perhaps gaining confidence and certainly having fun. No lines to learn, no pressure, no audience, just the sheer pleasure of acting. We had two cracking nights! Hopefully more of these will be arranged in the near future. Watch out for news of them.

Our Bookcase

Prior to our refurbishment we sold second hand books from a bookcase in the foyer and we will be resuming the service very soon! The stage crew have been busy constructing the Box Office, dealing with health issues and set building, Gordon has plans to build a bookcase next to the cleaner's cupboard in the New Year.

Please don't throw away your used books, watch this space for news on the bookcase!

Wardrobe

The Wardrobe department is happily settled in its new location. Thank you to everyone who helped with the move. Now we are looking forward to a busy schedule! We are delighted to welcome two new talented members who have offered their services to the department. But remember there there are always lots of jobs to do with the costumes and fabric and it's not always about sewing so offers of help are always welcome. We are looking forward to making period costumes for our Shakespeare actors, they'll be produced so they can be adapted to fit different shapes and sizes!

Helen Earl

I thought members might like to know how we are settling in to our new home 'below stairs'. We managed to downsize before making the move from Moorclose. A major sort out was done to get rid of some of the surplus stuff, some going to the charity Groundwork to be up-cycled and others to various charity shops. A sample of smaller items was sold to vintage and antique dealers, all who have expressed their wish to come and view what else we may have "for sale".

A list of proposals was presented to Council regarding developing 'props for hire' to other groups in order to generate income plus a programme of urgent health and safety precautions to carry out in the basement to utilise all the space available.

Despite a new ceiling and lighting, space underground still needs attention. Hopefully these improvements will be carried out shortly.

Newer members might be wondering "What do these props people do?" Well, in a nutshell, we seek out props required for each production from our own store, then beg steal or borrow from anywhere we can think of. So if you would like to find out more about 'propping' a play we'd love to hear from you. Pop in for coffee at the theatre on a Saturday morning 10am or e-mail me chamdean@gmail.com

Anne Chambers

A few words from the new Chairman....

By now it will have filtered through to all Playgoers that I have taken over the Chair from Peter Inglis who has tirelessly and brilliantly driven us through the very difficult morass of finding and achieving the necessary capital funding for our huge and successful refurbishment.he will be a hard act for me to follow.

Thankfully, he has offered to remain the Face of Playgoers in the continuing work still needed to be done with the BIG Lottery Fund. Peter has also agreed to take on the responsibility of fundraising for phase three (and hopefully the final phase), of the restoration of the Theatre Royal.

In the meantime, many of you might be wondering what I will be doing if Peter is treading the boards on the world's stage of business and finance. Well, it is my intention to do what I already do and that is to work hard alongside all the other members who want to bring continued success to the tiny building with a

big heart on Washington Street.

We need to work cohesively together and to quote the first Aim and Objective of the Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain, “ Promote close cooperation between members in all areas of the theatre” then we might feel we have achieved something positive, not only in our own lives but in the lives of others.

My words sound like a political manifesto, so just to finish, I will also be meeting mothers, kissing their babies in the street, working with the poor on Shap and being kind to bees.

Pat Brinicombe

To see the recent AGM report [click here](#)

Grace has also offered to send out copies of the AGM report and department reports if members want them

2017 Council

President Geoff Hool

Chair Pat Brinicombe

Treasurer Gilda Wells

Secretary Grace Walker

Tech Director Geoff Brinicombe

Productions Director Jenni Rushton

Company Secretary Geoffrey Hall

Contact!

Several contributors have asked for help in this issue of The Prompter. Grace has also offered to send out copies of department reports if members want them. If you do not have contact details for these people, please phone or email me, Gill Scholey: 07860 480306 gillscholey@gmail.com or contact membership secretary, Jenni Rushton and we will pass on your details to the relevant person.



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