

The Prompter

The newsletter of Workington
Playgoers and the Theatre Royal



Welcome to your March edition of *The Prompter*. We know what you are thinking; "Two prompters in two months. That's amazing and so very welcome!" And you are right. Here you will find out about our next production with contributions from the director (and the internet) as well as updates from the dedicated volunteers involved in our work at the Theatre Royal.

Our next Playgoers production!

20th—24th March 2018

7:30pm

 The title 'The Ladykillers' is written in a large, stylized, serif font. The word 'The' is smaller and positioned above 'Lady'. The background features silhouettes of five people in formal attire (suits and dresses) standing in a row.

The Ladykillers

Father Ted writer, Graeme Linehan's adaptation of *The Lady Killers*. This farcical comedy charts the exploits of 'Professor' Marcus as he attempts to mastermind the perfect heist. The only thing standing in his way is a delightful little old lady. What could possibly go wrong?

Visit our website for a full list of productions: www.theatre-royal-workington.co.uk

2018 Programme of plays



MARCH:

Tuesday 20th - Saturday 24th

The Lady Killers by Graham Linehan
A Playgoers Production

APRIL:

Saturday 21st - Sunday 22nd

Alice In Wonderland

by Brainerd Duffield
A Theatre Royal Second Star Youth Theatre Production

MAY:

Tuesday 22nd - Saturday 26th

Snake in the Grass

by Alan Ayckbourn &

Bosom Pals

By Carol Donockley
A Playgoers Production

JUNE:

Friday 1st

Roald Dahl's B.F.G.

A Theatre Royal Second Star Youth Theatre Production

JULY:

Tuesday 17th - Saturday 21st

The Tempest by William Shakespeare

A Theatre Royal Shakespeare Players Production

AUGUST:

Wednesday 1st - Friday 3rd

Cat in a box

by Morgan Sweeney
A Playgoers Production

AUGUST:

Saturday 18th - Sunday 19th

SUMMER PROJECT: OLIVER TWIST

adapted by Millie Hardy-Sims
A Theatre Royal Second Star Youth Theatre Production

SEPTEMBER:

Wednesday 26th - Saturday 29th

TWO

by Jim Carwright
A Playgoers Production

OCTOBER:

Tuesday 16th - Saturday 20th

Murder in the Studio

by Agatha Christie
(A collection of three spine-tingling radio plays)
A Playgoers Production

NOVEMBER:

Saturday 10th—Sunday 11th

A Christmas Carol

by Charles Dickens
A Theatre Royal Second Star Youth Theatre Production

DECEMBER:

Tuesday 4th - Saturday 8th

Brassed Off!

By Paul Allan adapted from the screenplay by Mark Herman
A Playgoers Production

Also, don't forget every other Sunday there is a chance to watch a movie in the theatre with the Dancing Lights Film Club.

Email: tickets@theatre-royal-workington.co.uk

Bookings: www.theatre-royal-workington.co.uk

Need to send us a cheque?

If you need to pay your subs or want to send a donation to support the theatre, here's how:

Please make cheques payable to:

Workington Playgoers

Theatre Royal

Washington Street

Workington

CA14 3AW

Tel: 01900 603161 (Answer-phone)

Email: membership@theatre-royal-workington.co.uk

Prompter Email:

news@theatre-royal-workington.co.uk

Don't forget to provide details of what the payment is for in any correspondence.

Film Group News!



Morgan, Sarah and Leon on set at Higham Hall.

Reflection," the Theatre Royal Film Group's first short feature is part way through filming. 2 long days were spent at Higham Hall near Cockermouth with a crew of 9 people and 5 actors being lucky with the weather and managing a constant flow of delightful elderly ladies walking into shot whilst searching for a phone signal in the house grounds.

Next, the shoot will move to Wordsworth house some time in April in which the final scenes will be filmed.

First Aid Course Available!

The Theatre Royal needs approximately 4 people who can volunteer to undergo the necessary training in order to comply with Health and Safety legislation for places of work and buildings used by the public.

A First Aid training course is being held on:

Tuesday 20th March, Leaside,

Longthwaite Road, Wigton

From 9.15 am to 4.15 pm

Please provide your own lunch.

Workington Playgoers will meet the cost of the course (£50).

Please apply to Pat Brinicombe if you would like to attend.

patbrinicombe@gmail.com.

If you can't make this course and would like to be considered for a future course, let Pat know.

BOXOFFICE And front of house

Anne Bowmer is looking for people to train on the box office system. It's not as hard as you would imagine and is a great help during the week of shows if we have extra people to help out. Contact Anne at: annebowmer@googlemail.com Anne has recently taken over the booking office and will be in the theatre on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:45 until 7:30pm. She can take payment over the phone. The box office will also be open the 2 Saturdays before every play from 11am to 12.

Also, Heather is always looking for people to man the bar on show nights please contact h.scholey1991@gmail.com If you work behind the bar, the dress code is black with a flash of red. A dress code perfect for any Ninjas looking for a career change.

In search of the *LadyKillers* Directed by Morgan Sweeney

The playwright, Graham Lineham, sticks closely to the outline of the William Rose screenplay but what he has come up with is a very different animal from the 1955 movie; and, while it may lack the Ealing touch, it works very well as a slapstick farce.

A criminal gang occupy the upstairs room of a demure old lady's rickety house, and pose as a string quartet to cover a planned King's Cross heist but everything about the character of the villains is exaggerated. The professorial mastermind is palpably unhinged, while his gang now comprises a closet transvestite, a young druggie, a Romanian cutthroat, and a brain-numbed ex-boxer.

What was once macabre comedy has acquired a madcap, Marx brothers quality. At one point the whole gang hides in a tiny cupboard; when asked the reason for their concealment, they reply: "Mrs Wilberforce, we are artists." And we see them giving a concert to the old lady's teatime guests which turns into a wild parody of avant-garde music.

If something is lost in the process, a great deal is gained. The play has a good deal more pace than the movie and incorporates comic wordplay as well as visual, character and situation comedy, as each criminal tries to either murder, or to avoid murdering, the sweet old widow from whom they're renting their house.

Cast:

Mrs. Wilberforce.....Chris Jackson
Constable MacDonald.....Jim Samson
Professor Marcus.....Joe Winter
Major Courtney.....Will Tillotson
Harry Robinson.....Jack Sewell
One-Round.....Ben Brinicombe
Louis Harvey.....Gareth Douglas-Brown
Mrs. Trombleyton.....Gill Scholey

Directed by Morgan Sweeney



Ealing Comedy historians agree that the 1955 movie is a commentary on the state of Britain as a nation at that time. The cluttered old house, standing by the railway yards, symbolised decrepit England in extremis, waiting to collapse. The gang personified the country's feeble, grasping, self-deluded citizens. Mrs Wilberforce embodied the faded grandeur of the industrial revolution and the British Empire that was holding the nation back.



The 2004 movie remake relocates action to the USA and the robbery from post van to casino. Tom Hanks takes on the Alec Guinness role.



In 2011 the Lineham play version came to the Geilgud Theatre starring His DoctorWhoiness, Peter Capaldi. The Daily Mail review said, "there is no mistaking the genuine appeal of this thoroughly jolly and classically produced show."

Theatre Management Group (TMG) News!

About the TMG: All members are welcome to attend the TMG. The next two meetings will be on the 21st March at 1pm to 3pm and on the 15th April at 9.30am to 11.30am. If you would like to become the group's secretary, please also get in touch by contacting Gilda Wells on welligilda63@googlemail.com or phone 01900 64632 mobile 07507859362. The minutes of the TMG are on the notice board in the foyer.

Ticket Prices: Council have agreed to increase ticket prices by 50p from the May play onwards. This will mean a full price ticket will cost you £11.50 and concessions £10.50. Season Tickets will remain the same at £44 and concessions £40.

Council have also agreed that all tickets need to be paid for at the time of booking following a number no-shows after people have rung up to have tickets set aside for them.

Coffee Mornings, every Saturday: Volunteers running a coffee morning, please remember to leave the bar area and the tables clean. We have very good cleaners but it is not in their contract to clean the bar area or the foyer tables.

Dirty Cup Shocker!: It's always nice to have a cup of tea during rehearsals, but remember, if you are using the facilities that it is only right to wash your dishes and put them away at the end of your evening.

Avoid wardrobe malfunctions: Please not remove costumes and/or accessories from the wardrobe department without speaking to Helen Earl - our wardrobe mistress. If you do remove something, make sure you use the signing in/out book in the front office.



Our Next Production!

Doors open: 6:30pm
Performance:
 7.00pm
Running
Time: 2.5hrs
Date: Sat 21st – Sun
 22nd April

Tickets:
 Adults £7
 Concessions £5

A Theatre Royal Second Star Youth Theatre Production is our next offering. Alice plunges down the rabbit hole and becomes involved in a series of madcap and deliciously satiric adventures. A kaleidoscope of action and madness, with the necessary elements of suspense and frustration, this show features the talented members of our Second Star Youth Theatre and will appeal to the whole family.



A Prompt Response

A letter has come flooding in to the Prompter Head Office. If you would like to send in an email comment or letter, go for it! Send it to: news@theatre-royal-workington.co.uk

Sir,

I would just like to say how much I enjoyed helping to put on Under Milk Wood. We had some lovely rehearsals, no-one argued with the directors (not even Geoffrey!!) and we had some fun.

I was also very pleased with the size of the audiences and I think they enjoyed the experience which was quite different from our usual productions.

I was, however, very disappointed in how many members of the club came to watch (I was 'out front' each night so I know!!). I appreciate that some people were on holiday or were unwell but I know many who weren't who didn't come.

Whilst I'm moaning - can I also ask that members support our regular Saturday coffee morning? Joy Bowmer does an excellent job and it would be lovely to see more members coming. There is always someone to talk to and really helps with the finances of the club.

Jane Douglas

(Letter edited for space reasons, not extra-terrestrial, just how much room there is on the page)

Call for Chaperones!

A Chaperone (or Matron) is the title of a licensed person appointed to protect, control and care for children whilst they are performing. The law states, "The Chaperone is acting in loco parentis and should exercise the care which a good parent might be reasonably expected to give that child."

Chaperone have responsibilities such as logging certain activities during a performance i.e. arrival & departure times at the place of the performance etc, the chaperones are often asked to monitor and record all the times that the children are working, having a break or having lessons. This documentation is a legal requirement for the children's licensing authority. It can take up to twelve weeks for a chaperone license to come through once the DBS checks have been made and proved successful.



A poor quality chaperone, yesterday.