

Newsletter

June 2019

OUR NEW
SEASON



9th - 14th September

The Haunting by Hugh Janes and Charles Dickens

4th - 9th November

The Herd by Rory Kinnear (Studio)

2nd - 7th December

The Railway Children by Kenny and Nesbitt

17th - 20th December

The new and improved **Christmas Entertainment**

27th January - 1st February:

Chase me up Farndale Avenue, S'il Vous Plaît!
by David McGillivray and Walter Zerlin Jr

24th - 29th February:

Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare

30th March - 4th April:

Heroes by Gerald Sibleyras
translated by Tom Stoppard (Studio)

11th - 16th May:

And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie

15th - 20th June:

Cranford by Elizabeth Gaskell and Martyn Coleman

SEPT
2019
to

JUNE
2020

Artistic Director

Jen Eglinton

Well, that's the reveal done. So, what's next? Let me see.....

1. Establish the list of Directors and their choices – still three left to give me their first, second and third choices!
2. Select Directors for each production based on their first, second and third choices.
3. Meet with production team to discuss individual needs for each show.
4. Assemble all the Availability forms – ongoing...come on, you guys!
5. Collate all the information onto Excel charts and circulate to PAG, consultants and the directors.
6. Contact the directors to discuss their thoughts and needs re casting and production.
7. PAG meeting to provisionally cast the first half, balance the season and hopefully give directors some of their choices.
8. Check, then publish the same.
9. Now spend ages reshuffling as people drop out, can't commit, and there is just no one available after all. Pass the Paracetamol!

Just thought you might like to see some of the things we do. We repeat again in the autumn to do the second half. Then in January the whole cycle starts again!



Did you think the job was easy?

Ha ha, you should see what the Chairman does!

I just want to thank everyone who has contributed to this season's success, and as we move towards the end with what promises to be a fabulous show, I hope you will all have a good summer and sign up for lots of things for next season.
When I say everyone, I mean everyone!



Have I forgotten anyone?
Oh yes

Gary, Nat and team,
and, of course, your
Chair and Committee!

So, let's all work together to tidy ourselves ready for September. Lots of jobs large and small to do to keep up and running.



Jen

Publicity

by Anne Booth

The end of one season marks the beginning of the next for publicity and the team are hard at work producing posters and arranging for the printing of the brochure for next season. There's a whole cycle of activities to keep the publicity wheel rolling and as ever I am grateful for the support of members who help in any way. Could you play your part? Help always needed for the following:

Sainsbury's

TESCO

BBC
HEREFORD &
VORCESTER

BROMSG
CHADDESL
WORC
RED

EDBURY
MALVERN
TOURPORT
DDF
ROMY
NYCHB



Distributing posters and brochures – would your local store, café, hairdressers or a society you are a member of display our material? Some Kidderminster folk STILL don't know that we exist!

Facebook – please share posts on your own page but also to other local sites or arts/theatre related pages

Uploading our shows onto web-pages – radio stations, events sites, listing sites and magazines – if you see anywhere you think we could advertise, let me know – or just do it if it's free!

Are you a member of another society that you could spread the word to? Thanks to those who have linked us to U3A, WI groups, Soroptimists – there must be more out there.

Front of House staff – many thanks for distributing material to our audience as they leave – keep this up! Customers regularly comment on the friendliness of our staff.

A successful venture this year has been the link made with Black Country Radio who have featured items on 'King's Speech' and 'Glorious'. Thanks to Tori who set up this contact and featured on air. Thanks also to Stuart and Richard who took time to be interviewed.

If you
have any bright ideas,
please get in touch
annebooth71@gmail.com



Chairman's Chat

Bob Graham



Hello and welcome to the latest newsletter. The first couple of times I wrote for the newsletter, I used the word 'busy' and it has now become extremely clear that for the chairman and the committee it is always busy. What this means is that the committee and I must prioritise our work, to try to make sure things get done.

Much of the last couple months has been spent pulling together the new season, details of which Jen has already divulged on the front cover of this newsletter, but I think she and her team should be congratulated on producing a varied and challenging season. I, like the rest of you, am looking forward with anticipation to hearing the first half of the season announcement in early July.



Since the last newsletter we have seen a studio sell-out with Sue Downing's beautifully directed Northern couple 'Elsie and Norm' and the fabulous 'Glorious' in the main house. The quality of direction, staging and performances just shows the strength in depth we have as a company, which, although small, is extremely talented. Lighting, sound, staging and costume are all of an equally high standard and, as those

who mingle with the audience in front of house roles will tell you, they are frequently highly commended by our audience. Well done to everyone on both productions. As for 'The Vicar of Dibley', well, at the time of writing, it is already sold out with three weeks to go.

Your committee resisted the temptation to offer a full-scale extra performance, but we did decide that offering a preview night for 60 lucky customers would ensure that our members and friends would not miss out on what will be a fun night, and already this preview evening is nearly half full. It also has the added bonus of giving the cast an audience, which so many shows need. This is not something that would be right for every show, but there clearly is a place for it.



One of the most important jobs coming up is the planning of the summer remedial work and I shall be meeting with Keith to decide what are the most immediate requirements for us to complete in the Summer recess following the clear out weekend on 27th/28th July. One area that is ahead of the game is the props department, as Helen and Ros have been doing sterling work. Unfortunately, neither of them is available on clear out day, but the cataloguing and tidying is not finished, so if this is something you would like to get involved with, please get in touch with either of them, as that work will continue throughout the summer.

I cannot stress how important clear out day is to the overall running of the society. I know everyone tries to keep things in order, but we do all fall short from time to time and things do get disorganised very quickly, so the once yearly clear out helps us to at least start the new season on the right foot. If you can spare some time on either or both days, we really do need your help.

There have been many things discussed by your committee over the last few months, but one that may be of interest is the importance of outside lets for the theatre going forward. For those who are relatively new to the company, outside lets are the one and two-night shows, often music acts, which we try to weave into our busy calendar throughout the year.



These "pro-shows" serve two main purposes: firstly to open our doors to a different audience, whom we hope to attract to our own shows, and secondly to raise revenue to ensure that we can continue to operate a financially sound business. We all know that making money is not the be all and end all of the society, but they have for several seasons been the difference between making a profit rather than a loss on our balance sheets.

In reality, they have enabled us to do infrastructure work, such as the installation of the air-conditioning system, without having to use the capital reserves we are required to maintain. Of course, "pro-shows" do not come without their pitfalls. We are legally required to provide front of house staff and some production support including lighting and sound. These shows are often on weekends, when many of us, myself included, have other commitments, so we are extremely grateful to those members who do support these events, because they are increasingly important to the running of the theatre. It is a fine balance and it easy to overstretch our resources, so from the start of 2020, we have agreed to limit the number of outside lets to an average of 10-15 shows per calendar year, split evenly over that period.

News from the committee

Meetings are a bit like this ...



The full cast of our real committee can be found in the 'members' section on our website.

Your committee plays an important role in keeping the theatre ticking over in lots of areas, looking after the nuts and bolts that keep the theatre functioning. Here are a few of the decisions made recently - it may not seem terribly exciting news but you can't say you weren't told!!



THOSE BLOOMIN' CARS!

We are changing the allocation of the disabled car parking bays to a number system 1,2,3,4 rather than the rather shoddy white board notice which is difficult to read, especially on dark nights and when rain has washed the name away!

The booking system will be the same and will be recorded in the folder, but patrons will be allocated a number printed on a ticket. This will be posted to them with their tickets and we will ask them to display it next to their blue badge.

We will have numbers on the wall and painted on the floor. This might ease CARPARKGATE situations that all Duty Managers know and love!
Not foolproof but we can try.

In an effort to encourage FOH staff for Pro Show nights we are trialling a scheme for the next season to award Double points for these nights. We acknowledge that many shows are at the weekend.

It was decided that Studio nights only needed two stewards but that having a third steward on some nights would be a good opportunity for training.





Following comments on the general upkeep and appearance of the office/kitchen/cloakroom area the following suggestions were made:

The office will keep lost property which has been handed in during shows in a container near the box office counter for a period of three months. We have been asked NOT to accept any garments or items as donations for wardrobe or props. Approximately every three months Natalie will recycle/throw out/send to charity shop any clothes, books, false teeth and limbs, tins, food containers, canteens of cutlery and cuddly toys etc. Could you please therefore label any tins or plates that you bring food in for teas/after show parties etc.

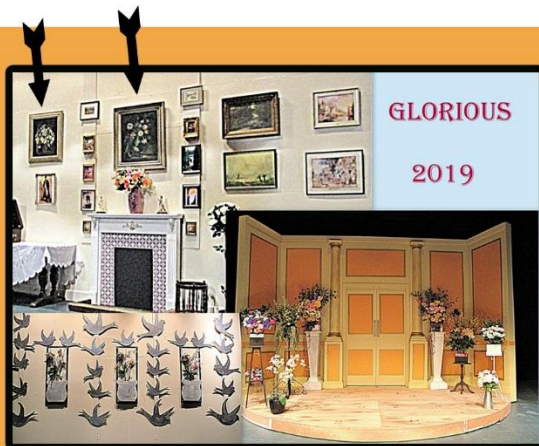
All food for personal use or props must be labelled. We will assume that any food left in the kitchen or fridge is available for general consumption (always grateful for leftover cake and biccies.) If it's past its 'use by date' it will be binned.

A big plea from Natalie – WASH YOUR CUPS! IF YOU DON'T KNOW HOW, PUT THEM IN THE DISHWASHER!



Another area to keep an eye on is the Green Room. This is a heavily used area for rehearsals, KRYPT and studio plays. Please can you endeavour to clear out all your props and costumes and other debris at the end of your usage of the room.

N.B. directors - PLEASE CHECK.



Did anyone notice anything unique on the set of 'Glorious'?

No, not the wonderful floral displays or the amazing birds, but something else. In Florence's drawing room there were two paintings hanging on the wall. (See the arrows to the left.)

For those of you unfamiliar with the history of the society, the Rose Theatre was named after Kenneth Rose, who was an accomplished artist and held exhibitions at some of the leading galleries in the UK. These two paintings are Kenneth Rose originals.

It is good to see us maintaining the history of the theatre in such an innovative way.

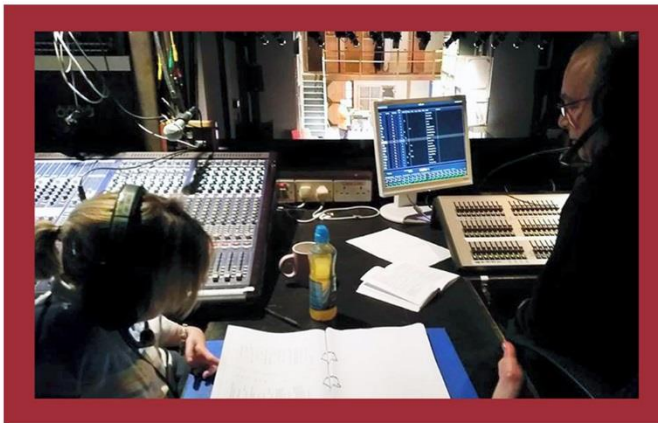
Techie Talk

Amy Baker & Andrew Davie



Props	Set Design	Lighting or Ops	Sound or Ops	Props	Wardrobe	Stage Management
		✓	✓			

Stepping into the role of Technical Managers for the theatre mid-season was not an easy task. We realised how limited we are when it comes to finding both designers and operators for upcoming productions. This last season some of the productions were only able to go ahead thanks to acting members and one new member - a media student with no previous experience in theatre - successfully taking on these roles.



Amy and David in rehearsal

With our new season announced the situation is no different to previous seasons, with only the same few members needing to cover the design and operation of productions one after another. Therefore, there is an urgent need for all members to consider whether they can help. Shows cannot run without lighting and sound operators - it's as simple as that.

For any members not cast in a part or other members interested in getting involved the requirements are not technically complicated and you will be working alongside directors,

actors and stage managers in creative support roles essential to putting on a show.

As a lighting or sound operator the task during a performance, when everything is set up, is in effect simply pressing one button, but you are doing so in tune with the performance on the stage and in tune with the actors - a sensitivity and understanding of timing gained during the rehearsal period and under the direction of the designer. You are following the script with lighting or sound cues marked in and you are in communication with the stage manager, who also has the cues written in his / her script. In terms of time, the minimum commitment is a couple of weeks of rehearsals plus the performance week, but you are welcome to sit in at any of the rehearsals from the start of the production, both to enjoy the process and gain familiarity with the play.

**'Elsie and Norm's Macbeth'
cast and crew
working together
(and having FUN!)
ENJOY BEING PART OF THE TEAM**





'Elsie and Norm's Macbeth'
lighting operated by member
Stanley Barten,
sound operated by student
Tom Chawner

Design in lighting and sound is another matter, requiring some specific knowledge and ability, combined with a creative approach, but the theatre welcomes anyone with an interest in these vital roles. Anyone wishing to get started is welcome to learn by assisting an experienced designer.

**We welcome everyone,
no matter what your age,
experience or lack of.....**

**CHOOSE A SHOW AND
COME AND HAVE A GO**

We are now looking at getting technical teams in place for the first part of the new season to meet with cast, directors and stage managers. If you fancy having a go at operating an upcoming show or you wish to learn more about operating or designing in either lighting or sound, or if you know any potential new members who could be interested, then please contact myself or Andrew.

Amy : ajbaker1991@gmail.com

Andrew: prdctn@yahoo.co.uk

We will always be pleased to demonstrate the theatre's facilities and instruct potential new members of the team.

**A theatrical nugget
from Pat ...**

"BREAK A LEG!"

We all use this familiar good luck phrase, but do we ever think what it means and why we say it?

In medieval days, street theatre was performed on a cart and a make shift curtain suspended from a wooden frame, consisting of 'legs' or struts.

If the curtain was lowered and raised many times (lots of applause), the

frame was prone to collapse. So wishing a company would 'break a leg' was wishing them lots of applause! Simple!



PROPS

A message from Ros and Helen



If you borrow items from outside the theatre for a play, we request that you please return them straight away as items tend to get lost or thrown away!

We thank all you budding props people for supporting our props evening.

We hope we inspired you rather than put you off completely!

A big welcome to Ruth who came to the evening as a prospective member and is now helping with props for Dibley.

If anyone is interested in putting their name down to do props, we will try to assist you in your search by finding what we already have, and by making suggestions for where to find other items.

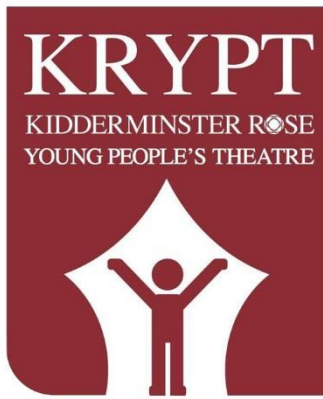
If it would be a problem for you to clear the set and put props away at the end of a run, we would be willing to help.

We hope to finish the re-organisation of the props room over the closed season and would like to ask for volunteers on clear out weekend.

Our aim is to catalogue all the props so that everyone knows at a glance what we have or have not got.



Don't forget that tick on your availability sheet!
If you've already sent it in, it isn't too late to let us know.
recasewell@hotmail.com / hspeake37@gmail.com



KRYPT

Becca Williams

We are having a very exciting time at KRYPT! In May, our Junior Group performed their devised murder mystery 'Whodunnit', which featured familiar faces such as Harold Porridge, Shylock Horns, Jane Maple and the Fortunate Five! Lady Asquith, the snooty mistress of the manor, was fatally poisoned at the grand opening of the International Detective Conference. Luckily, our bumbling sleuths were on hand to get to the bottom of it and, after an audience vote, the gardener was thrown into jail. If you could have heard the gasp from the audience during the denouement, you'd know what a knock-out success this studio show was. Well done, Juniors! There's no rest for the little though, and you'll catch our Juniors being incredibly rude in 'The Vicar of Dibley' very soon.

Meanwhile, our Seniors enjoyed their own success performing their Chronologies, a series of monologues and duologues which whisked the audience back in time. We really do have a group of highly talented teens here! They are now hard at work creating their next piece, 'The Light Burns Blue'. It's the familiar tale of Elsie and Frances Wright, the cousins who claimed to photograph fairies in Cottingley during WW1. The play has 30 short scenes which need linking together, so we are focusing on creating an ensemble and telling the story through movement. It's a new set of skills for us all and we're learning together! KRYPT are incredibly grateful to members of the Nonentities for their support in honing the piece - thanks to Anna, Keith, Andrew and Pat.

Exciting news! KRYPT are running our first ever Summer School for children between the ages of 8-18. It will take place at the theatre from Monday 22nd - Friday 26th of June. We'll be running a series of workshops about Shakespeare and his plays, and we'll produce our own reduced performance on the Friday evening. If you know any budding performers, they can email krypt@rosetheatre.co.uk for more details.

We always enjoy KRYPT trips to watch performances by the Nonentities, and one of our Senior Group recently proclaimed that 'Glorious' was 'the best thing I've ever seen!' We love supporting the main society, but why not show your support for KRYPT and come along to our next show? You're sure to enjoy your evening!



Spaces now available at KRYPT's 2019



Summer School!

Do you know a budding young performer aged 8-18 who belongs on the stage?

Summer School runs at the Rose Theatre, Kidderminster, from 10am - 4pm on 22nd - 26th July 2019.

Over the course of one fun-filled week, Summer School members will make new friends, hone their acting skills, learn about the greatest playwright in history AND collaborate to produce their own performance to parents and friends.

Each child attending will also receive some goodies to commemorate the week and our first ever KRYPT Summer School. At only £120 for the week, it's an opportunity that's not to be missed!

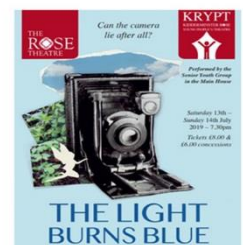
For more information and to fill out an application form, email krypt@rosetheatre.co.uk. Get in touch with the Rose Theatre by calling the Box Office on 01562 743745.

Want to see us in action?

Why not come along to watch our Senior term-time members in their next play, *The Light Burns Blue*?

It's the familiar story of Elsie and Frances Wright, who claimed to photograph real fairies in Cottingley during WW1.

Contact the Box Office or book tickets online at rosetheatre.co.uk





'Music and Monologues'

at the Heritage Opportunities Group coffee morning

Keith Rowland

Anne and our new Editor, Sue Hunt, have asked me to write about the recent HOG event that Pat Gale and I were involved in. We provided the entertainment at their recent fundraising coffee morning held in the Corn Exchange at Kidderminster's Town Hall.

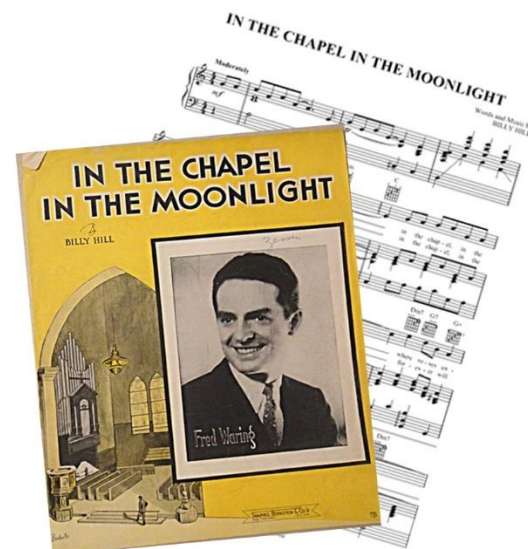
It was a pleasure to once again play the Steinway grand piano, following a request to myself from Colin Hill, who chairs this very worthwhile voluntary group. Although seeking to promote local heritage, which in turn assists in supporting, amongst other things, the local visitor economy, the group receives no funding from the local authority at either County or District level. Nor is it in receipt of any other grant.

We delivered a mixed programme of lighthearted songs and suitable melodies from yesteryear, interspersed with comedy monologues that Pat delivers with such seasoned skill. 'Charles and Fiona' made a brief sketch visit from a field hospital somewhere in France, although there was no sign of Mr Horne..!



Unexpectedly, two members of the public had brought along two Victorian / Edwardian pieces of sheet music with local connections. Holding my breath slightly, I sight read at their special request.

This was the first time that the Bridgnorth Rowing Club Govote and Rowland Hill Gallop had been heard by the lady and gentleman who collect vintage sheet music, or the wider audience, so an interesting moment all round! Coffee and cakes were likewise enjoyed throughout the morning at the event, which was attended by fifty or so members of the public.



Dates for your Diary



Monday 1st July
Membership Subscription due

Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th July
Krypt Senior Show - 'The Light Burns Blue'

Monday 22nd - Friday 26th July
Krypt Summer School

Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th July
Clear Out Weekend

Saturday 10.00 - 3.00

Sunday 10.00 til lunchtime

tea/coffee and sandwiches provided on both days



Friday 16th August
Stuffing Day

10.00 a.m. til lunchtime

tea/coffee and sandwiches provided

Monday 9th September
First Nonentities play of the new season
'The Haunting'

Saturday 14th September
Open Day

Well that's just about everything until September.

This has been my first go at the Newsletter and I hope that you've enjoyed reading it as much as I've enjoyed compiling and illustrating it.

If you have anything for the September edition, don't hesitate to contact me.

Sue Hunt

sue2hunt@yahoo.co.uk