

Issue 83

June 2004



THE GRAYSHOTT STAGERS'

Newsletter

Chairman's Note

Congratulations again to everyone involved in *Copacabana*. It really was a most spectacular show, thoroughly enjoyed by everybody who saw it. It was a pity that The Herald didn't print the review during the week of the Haslemere run, but particular thanks on the publicity side to the hardy souls who turned out during the damp and cold Charter Fair to hand out leaflets and sell tickets. During that week, over two hundred tickets were sold, so they certainly did a good job.

The next show is *Cabaret*, to be directed by Andy Boughton, musical direction by Grant Hossack and choreography by Mandy Sutcliffe. As most of the show is set in the "Kit Kat Club", we have decided to make the Saturday evening performance a "Café Theatre" experience, with the audience sitting around tables, rather than in rows, and with food, although not a February style meal, available beforehand. This arrangement means that our audience capacity for the Saturday evening will be limited to around 80, so book early to avoid disappointment. Assuming that the Saturday evening performance tickets sell quickly, there are plans to put on an extra performance on Saturday afternoon, also in "café style", probably at 4.30pm.

As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, the play for May 2005 has been chosen, and we are delighted that Tony Harris has agreed to direct it. *Holiday Snap* by Michael Pertwee & John Chapman takes place in a time share villa in Portugal that has been double booked, with hilarious results. I won't give away any more of the plot now, but rest assured that it will be a riot!

The Grayshott 24, as you will also read elsewhere in the newsletter, is almost upon us. Please support if you possibly can, as there will be a thousand and one things to do. If you are unable to take part, please come and see how we do; tickets are only £5.00.

Postcard Piece

As promised, New York in February, with 40 teenagers. We started with the security people at Heathrow taking exception to the fake ammunition in the belt of one of the girls, so the belt had to be left behind. Arriving in Manhattan, the views from the Queensboro bridge were spectacular, including the cable car to Roosevelt island, as featured in the 'Spider Man' movie.

We visited the John Lennon Memorial in Central Park, The Statue of Liberty, Chinatown, Times Square, South Street Sea Port, Wall Street and saw *42nd Street*, which is playing, appropriately, on 42nd Street: the music and dancing was amazing. The views from the 86th floor of the Empire State Building are breathtaking, particularly when you see the aircraft all around New York queuing to get into JFK, La Guardia and Newark.

Keeping 40 teenagers on the go for four days is tiring, as you might imagine, but it seemed to tire them even more than it did us!

Next time: The US Grand Prix at Indianapolis.

Tony

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of The Grayshott Stagers will be held in the Small Hall of the Grayshott Village Hall on Wednesday 8th September 2004 at 8.00pm. The Agenda, Nomination Form and a copy of the Minutes of last year's meeting will be sent to you nearer the time.

Please remember that only paid up members are eligible to vote, take part in the A.G.M. or to submit nominations. You are reminded that any fully paid up member is eligible to stand for election to the Committee - current Officers and Committee Members resign at the end of each A.G.M. and have to be nominated for re-election. It is likely that this year there may be one or two vacancies on the Committee, so please get recruiting or nominate yourself!

Also, don't forget that if there is any matter that you wish to be discussed formally and added to the Agenda it must be submitted to me, the Hon. Secretary, in writing, properly proposed and seconded, not later than 7 days prior to the Meeting (ie: by 31/8/03). Any other matter may be discussed at the Meeting without notice being given, by leave of the Chairman or on demand by not less than two thirds of the members present and voting, of any matter which may have arisen meanwhile subject to Rule 13.

Following the main business, members are invited to stay on and partake of some wine and cheese.

Melanie

The Grayshott 64

I have received a number of entry slips already, although, in true Stagers' fashion, not very many yet from our own members. Please let me know as soon as possible if you intend to take part so that I have an idea of how many we shall be.

In keeping with the spirit of the event, participants may like to bring sleeping bags / camp beds / etc in order to catch forty winks whenever there is an opportunity.

On the catering front, the tea and coffee pots will be bottomless and free, and cooked breakfast will be available on the Saturday morning at a very reasonable price. If you want food at other times, and I expect that you will, bring supplies with you.

Please remember that the show will be announced on the Friday evening at 7:30. Casting and rehearsals will commence simultaneously at 7:31.

All that can be done in advance has been done, and we eagerly await the 2nd July. I am going to direct the show, and Graham Ross & Chris Lillywhite have agreed to take charge of the music. The conductor on the night, mostly for the benefit of the cast rather than Graham & Chris, will be Jeremy Legat.

The following update is, largely, a repeat of the one that I sent out in 1998, and is addressed to various groups according to their current "status" regarding the event.

Group 1 Declared participants: For you, twenty strong as I write, a reminder. The name of the show will be announced at 7:30 on Friday 2nd July. I hope that everybody taking part will be there in good time, and I would add that casting will take place immediately after the announcement.

It is hoped that most people will have time to snatch 40 winks, and you are very welcome to bring camp beds / sleeping bags etc.. As you will all have armies of supporters wanting to come and see the show, book your tickets now to avoid disappointment - there will only be one performance.

On the 'planning in advance' front, I will repeat some of the suggestions that were made last time: *Please bring with you any basic costume items that you might have (white shirt, dark trousers/ long skirt, tights, dancing shoes, etc.) Also useful could be: make-up, hair spray, grips, a 'walkman' & a blank tape, and so on. Please don't go out and buy anything. Definite requirements: pencil & rubber.*

I look forward to seeing you all on the 2nd.

Group 2 Undeclared participant: Please hurry up and get your entries in, and then read the notes for Group 1.

Group 3 Undecided: See notes for Group 2.

Group 4 Frightened: Go on, where's your sense of adventure.

Group 5 Don't want to take part but would like to help: Lots of help is required. Please contact me with offers of assistance.

Group 6 Don't want to take part, but would like to see the show: We need you as well. There will only be one chance to see this, so book now.



Does anyone have...

A garden bench?

The props department would like to know of any small 2 seater garden benches going spare. This item seems to crop up as a prop fairly regularly.

If you do know of one, please let Barbara Badger know - we can collect!

01252 794515

barbara@grayshottstagers.co.uk

Bits and Pieces



Summer BBQ

The Summer BBQ takes place on the 1st August at Beefolds Cottage - cost £6.50 to include a drink on arrival. Please let Barbara Badger know if you are interested in attending.

01252 794515

barbara@grayshottstagers.co.uk

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Treasurer would like to remind all members that subscriptions are due on 1st July:

Ordinary Members £14
Junior Members (under 18) £7
Patron Members £17.00+

Cheques payable to Grayshott Stagers please, to be sent to:

Stephen Penny,
Honorary Treasurer,
Odessa,
The Avenue,
Grayshott, Hindhead,
GU26 6LA.



Holiday Snap



Our full length play for May 2005 will be *Holiday Snap* by Michael Pertwee & John Chapman.

Tony Harris will be directing this hilarious farcical comedy and will be looking for a cast of 4 men and 4 women.

The laugh-filled tale of mistaken identity unfolds as a Portuguese time-share villa has been double-booked without the company representative, the shortsighted and tipsy retired English Commander Chittenden, knowing. When Mary and Henry arrive shortly after Eve and Les, the confusion is comically complicated when

each couple mistakes the other for the servants!

Henry seems to have the upper hand when he discovers that Eve is married, but not to Les, when his mother-in-law arrives and he has to bribe the other couple to impersonate his alibi, Sir Piers and Lady Marchbanks. It looks as though things will work out until the real Sir Piers arrives, followed by Henry's wife!

The read-through of *Holiday Snap* will take place in the Grayshott Village Hall Common Room on 1st December and auditions will take place in the main hall on 8th January.

Cabaret 18 - 20 November

Auditions took place on the sunny afternoon of Sunday 13th June for our November production of *Cabaret*. Unfortunately, the turn out was rather small but those auditions that did take place were of a high standard. The cast so far, is as follows:

EmCee - Tony Creasey
Sally Bowles - Racheal Roberts
Frauline Kost - Rachel Perkins
Herr Schultz - Peter Gardner

Kit Kat Klub Girls:

Alex Boughton, Natasha Wheeler
Susanna Meadowcroft, Jane Whalley
Rebekah Lawes, Helen Hamilton



There are still some parts uncast, so if you would like to be involved please get in touch with one of the Production Team. And if you know any young men who would like to get involved...

Direction under the watchful eye of Andy Boughton and Grant Hossack will begin shortly.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2004

02-03 July, Grayshott Village Hall
08 September, Grayshott Small Hall
18-20 November, Grayshott Village Hall
22 September, Grayshott Hall Common Room
25 September, Grayshott Village Hall
02 October, Grayshott Village Hall
01 December, Grayshott Hall Common Room

Grayshott 24
Annual General Meeting
Cabaret
Read-through February One Act Plays
Nicky Irvine Performance Workshop
Auditions for February One Act Plays
Read-through of Holiday Snap



2005

08 January, Grayshott Village Hall
25-26 February, Grayshott Village Hall
19-21 May, Grayshott Village Hall
08 June, Grayshott Hall Common Room
18 June, Grayshott Village Hall
01-03 December, Grayshott Village Hall
08-10 December, Haslemere Hall

Auditions for Holiday Snap
February One Act Supper Evening
Holiday Snap
Me and My Girl Presentation
Me and My Girl Auditions
Me and My Girl
Me and My Girl

Nicky Irvine Performance Workshop



Have you ever wanted

- to make even a whisper heard at the back of the Hall?
- to move effortlessly from comedy to pathos by using a different voice?
- to dominate the action simply by breathing ?

Then come to the second

Nicky Irvine Performance Workshop

Saturday, September 25th, 2004 at the Village Hall.
from 10.00 a.m. until 1.00 p.m.

After the success and enjoyment of the first workshop on posture and body language, the theme this year, of interest and importance to aficionados of both the musical and the drama, will be:

Communicating character and action by voice projection, emphasis, tone and pace

The workshop will be facilitated by Bill Whympier, a professional jobbing actor, who has done three seasons with the RSC, TV work and teaches and directs at Guildford School of Acting. He is currently performing with Farnham Repertory Company, having previously been with the Redgrave Theatre.

All members of the Stagers will be welcome.

The fee for **adult members** is **£5**,
to offset part of the cost and to support the continuity of these workshops..

Members and friends of the stagers under the age of 18 are welcome **free**.

It was Nicky's wish by her bequest The Grayshott Stagers to encourage and support the involvement of young people in theatre.

Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. A proportion of places will be reserved for younger participants.

Reserve your place **today** and become an even more accomplished performer!

Contact Richard White: Tel: 01428 643352 or richard@grayshottstagers.co.uk