

Issue 77

November 2002



THE GRAYSHOTT STAGERS'

Newsletter

Chairman's Note

Although it will be November by the time the newsletter goes out, as I begin to write this, I have been 'in the chair' for one month, and there has been so much going on that my feet have hardly touched the ground.

Firstly, we had the presentation meeting for 'Annie Get Your Gun' and the first opportunity for everybody to meet our director, Kathryn Wignall. I am sure that everyone who was there will agree with me that Kathryn's enthusiasm is sure to lead to fun-packed rehearsals, and a really great show.

Secondly, there was the Costume Sale – the culmination of a lot of hard work undertaken over the summer, and a great success. It is now possible to get into the wardrobe, it is possible to see what is there, and what's more, we have raised some money for the society in the process. I should like to thank everybody who assisted in this task, and especially Andy Boughton, who came up with the original plan.

Thirdly, there was the entertainment that we provided for the Village Hall Centenary Celebrations. I missed this as I was away indulging one of my other passions – Formula 1 motor racing. Indeed I am even more addicted to the sport having had my own opportunity to drive a single seater

race car at Brands Hatch on September 14th. Why go all the way to Indianapolis to watch a Grand Prix when there is one held each year, approximately 4000 miles closer, at Silverstone? Well, all I can say is that having attended various Grand Prix circuits over the years, the (self styled) 'Racing Capital of the World' has a very special atmosphere about it. However, I digress, but talking of special atmospheres, I understand that the entertainment provided on Saturday 28th September was also very special, and was very well received by the audience. My thanks to Heather Legat and Richard White for organising the event.

Finally, there was the second instalment of the Costume Sale. On Saturday 5th October, a small band took some of the costumes remaining from the first sale to the Apple-garth car boot sale, and raised an additional £50 plus.

All this in one month!

As I conclude (I've taken my time over this), another month has passed, and 'Deathtrap' is almost upon us. I understand that rehearsals are progressing well, and I am sure that it will be a very good and thoroughly gripping drama.

I look forward to seeing you all there.

Nicky Irvine Performance Workshop

The first **Nicky Irvine Performance Workshop** will take place on Saturday, March 22nd, 2003 at the Village Hall from 10.00 am until 1.00 pm.

Its theme, of interest and importance to aficionados of both the musical and the drama, will be:

Communicating character and relationships by
positioning, posture and body language

The workshop will be facilitated by Martin Wild, director of the Forest Forge Theatre, a professional theatre group based in Havant.

All members of the Stagers will be welcome. The fee for **adult members** is **£5**, to offset part of the costs of the workshop and to support the continuity of these workshops. Members and friends of the Stagers who are under the age of 18 are to be welcomed **free**. It was Nicky's wish by her bequest 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



Social Committee



Membership of the sub-committee has changed a little, although luckily Jennifer has chosen to stay with us and we can draw on her experience and knowledge. Barbara Badger and Jane Sargeant will welcome any hints/suggestions from anyone. Barbara can be contacted on the telephone number below.

A few things to think about before Christmas.



The Rocky Horror Show

5th December 2002

Show starts 8pm - Price £14 (cheaper if we get a party together). Time is short, so get in touch as soon as possible if you are interested.

Grayshott Carol Singing

13th December 2002

Meet at 7.15pm in the Village Hall car park - All proceeds to charity (Cancer Relief MacMillan Fund). Afterwards to Liz and Malcolm's for refreshments at £1 a head.

Proposed ideas for 2003

Theatre or theatre/supper - in the Strand:

Mrs Warren's Profession with Brenda Blethyn - January.

Murder/Mystery Evening,

Petworth Park Concert

Karaoke/Line Dancing

Contact telephone number

Barbara Badger 01252 794515

February Plays

We have been very lucky to acquire the services of Shirley Jelliss who will direct *Shop for Charity* and Audrey Siddle who will direct *Alarms* for our February One-Act Play & Supper Evenings. Shirley's play requires 3 middle aged ladies, 1 older lady, and 1 elderly gentleman, while Audrey's needs 2 men and 2 ladies aged 30 to 50ish.

The auditions will take place on **Friday 6th December at 7.30 pm.**

If you would like to audition for any of these roles please get in touch with me and I'll let you have the required script. Do come along and take part - there are some great character parts in these plays, and I am sure they will be great fun to do.

Marian Walker 01428 605046



Deathtrap

21 - 23 November 2002

A cleverly constructed thriller

Tickets from Perfect Settings,

Grayshott

With invites to

Christmas parties

stacking up and **NEW YEAR'S EVE** just around the corner, don't forget to make the newly organised

STAGERS' WARDROBE

your first stop for fancy dress.

Contact Thelma Robertson or Alan Stone

Snippets

A Tarantara! Tarantara! after show party/reunion will take place on Tuesday 10th December at 7.30pm in the Grayshott Social Club (Hill Road, Grayshott). As with most after show parties, please bring some food. Drinks will be available at the bar. For further information, contact Tony Legat on 01428 606501 (tony@grayshottstagers.co.uk).

We are currently looking for a Production Secretary and a Director's Assistant for the November 2004 production *A Chorus of Disapproval*. Anyone who would like further information should contact Melanie Tyrrell on 01428 643352 or by email at melanie@grayshottstagers.co.uk.

The Musical Subcommittee are now thinking about choosing shows for 2004 and 2005. Any suggestions would be gratefully received. Please contact Heather Legat on 01428 606501 or at heather@grayshottstagers.co.uk.

STOP PRESS: Does anyone want to go skiing?

First class, rent-free accommodation in a snow-sure area of Austria: 22 Feb - 01 Mar. 10 beds available, make up a party or come on your own. Detailed budget and travel plans on request from Mike Lee 01428 605850.



Annie Get Your Gun

24-26 April, 1-3 May 2003



The auditions for Annie Get Your Gun took place at the Haslemere Hall on Saturday 9th November.

The cast is as follows:

Annie Oakley - Alexandra Legat
 Dolly Tate - Laura Musco
 Charlie Davenport - Peter Jones
 Buffalo Bill - Bob Fells
 Chief Sitting Bull - Alan Stone
 Pawnee Bill - Michael Clarke
 Foster Wilson - Jeff Morris
 Mrs Potter-Porter - Teresa Marsh
 Minnie - Lucy Clayton
 Jessie - Jessica Lelew
 Nellie - Rebecca Lelew

The show has some great tunes, including *There's No Business Like Show Business*, *Anything You Can Do*, *Sun in the Morning* and *the Moon at Night* and *Moonshine Lullaby*.

There are also some lovely characters to be created such as Mrs. Black-Tooth, Yellow-Foot, Iron-Tail and Wild Horse.

Kathryn and Doreen are keen to get the show on the road, and as usual the chorus is a little thin on the ground, so please do come and join in if you can.

For those of you who need reminding...

The story is about a girl, Annie Oakley, who breaks into show business with her rifle marksmanship. She joins Colonel Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show to be with Frank Butler, the man she fell in love with and the star of the Wild West Show. After some time, a falling out takes place, causing Frank to leave Annie and the Wild West Show to join the rival show. Annie and Buffalo Bill travel the world, but later, both shows begin to struggle and are in need of money. An agreement is reached to merge the shows and, in true happy-ending style, Annie and Frank marry. The show is based on a true story.

Dates for your Diary

2002

21—23 November, 7.30pm, Grayshott Village Hall
 06 December, 7.45pm, Grayshott Common Room
 10 December, 7.30pm, Grayshott Social Club
 13 December, 7.15pm, Grayshott Village Hall

Deathtrap
 Auditions for February One Act Plays
 Tarantara! Tarantara! After Show Party
 Carol Singing

2003

09—11 & 17—18 January, Haslemere Hall
 21—22 February, Grayshott Village Hall
 22 March, 10am—1pm, Grayshott Village Hall
 25—29 March, Haslemere Hall
 25—29 April, Grayshott Village Hall
 01—03 May, Haslemere Hall
 21 May, Grayshott Common Room
 21 June, Grayshott Village Hall
 03 September, Grayshott Small Hall
 10 September
 17 September
 11 October
 20—22 November, Grayshott Village Hall

Haslemere Thespians' Pantomime
 February One Act Supper Evening
 Nicky Irvine Workshop
 Haslemere Players' Kismet
 Annie Get Your Gun
 Annie Get Your Gun
 A Chorus of Disapproval Read-through
 A Chorus of Disapproval Auditions
 Annual General Meeting
 2004 Spring Musical Presentation
 2004 February One Acts Read-through
 2004 Spring Musical Auditions
 A Chorus of Disapproval

2004

November, Grayshott Village Hall

Cabaret

Newsletter compiled and edited by Alexandra Legat (alex@grayshottstagers.co.uk).
Copy date for the next newsletter is 3rd February 2003.



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You know you work in amateur theatre if...

- Your living room sofa spends more time on stage than you do.
- You've ever appeared on stage wearing your own clothes.
- You've ever driven around looking for discards that can be used for set pieces.
- You can find a prop that hasn't seen the light of day in ten years, but you don't know where your own vacuum cleaner is.
- The staff in the local charity shops know you by name.
- You've ever taken time off your job to work on the show
- You've worked your holiday time to coincide with technical/set up week.
- You've ever cleaned a tuxedo with a magic marker.
- You've ever appeared on stage in an outfit held together with sellotape.
- You've ever appeared in a show where the cast out-numbered the audience 2 to 1 .
- You've ever had a part because you were the only one who showed up for auditions.
- You've ever had a part because you were the only male who showed up for auditions.
- The audience recognizes you the minute you walk on stage because they saw you in the last six productions.
- You've ever menaced/threatened anyone with a gun held together with electrical tape.
- You've ever had to haul a sofa off stage between scenes wearing an evening gown and heels.
- You've ever had to haul a sofa off stage between scenes wearing an evening gown and heels -- and you're a guy.
- You've ever played the father of someone your father's age.
- Your kids/family know your rehearsal schedule better than you do.
- Your kids/family know your lines better than you do.
- Your kids/family deliver your lines better than you do.
- You've ever appeared in a show where an actor leaned out through a window without opening it first.
- You know the difference between Good Shakespeare and BAD Shakespeare, and have tried to explain the difference.
- You've ever had to play a drunk scene opposite someone who was really drunk.
- The lead vocalist complains that the music keeps changing tempos, but the fact is the music is on a tape/cd
- You've ever appeared on stage with people you're related to.
- You've ever heard the head of the set construction crew say "Just paint it black -- no one will ever see it."
- You've appeared in a show featuring a flushing toilet sound effect in a theatre where the backstage toilet can't be used because "the audience will hear it".
- The set designer has ever told you not to walk on the left half of the stage because the floor's still wet -- five minutes before curtain.
- You've ever been told that the reason your director has no eyebrows is because he/she handled special effects for the last show.
- You've ever said "Don't worry -- use Gaffa tape and if that doesn't work we'll just superglue it."