

B O U R N E M O U T H LITTLE THEATRE NEWS

Issued to its members by Bournemouth Little Theatre Club Ltd

August 1997

NEW SEASON, NEW AUDITORIUM, NEW ATTITUDE

First the great news, which is the best way to open our 1997/98 season. With this newsletter you will receive a letter from our new chairman, David Weeks. With it is what this paper would call a "mission statement" if that term had not become so over-used. A quiet, sparsely attended Annual General Meeting of the Club, held on 2 July, gave very little clue to the almost revolutionary change that was about to take place in the club's affairs. Very few among us realised that the enormous generosity of Eileen and Keith Rawlings would fund the raking of the auditorium, which has actually occurred since our last play went on in mid June. The audience on the back row is now about 6 feet above the front row, every row is about 8 inches higher than the row in front, and we have six (count'em folks!) six more seats on which to put (paying, we hope) B-U-M s. And if the person in the row in front is wearing a top hat, you'll still be able to see the show. Another benefit is that the viewer will see the stage as it should be seen, that is, from above, and looking like a proper stage, instead of just a forest of actors' legs, just above eye level as hitherto. The whole thing has

READ THE INFO!

With the newsletter you have a separate sheet, setting out the diary for the entire season. Please put the details in your diary, nail it to the wall or stick it to the fridge with a magnet. Yes, this paper is going to come out at regular intervals, and we are going to give you little reminders of forthcoming events, but we do not think members need to be badgered with instructions each time we go to press. The Members Information package also enclosed with this paper contains details of prices, and guidelines on ticket booking and purchasing which will not change during the season, so keep all the information handy, it's meant to help. It also indicates a new, dynamic attitude by the Club, reflecting changes in the general perception of the use of leisure time by all of us.

AN OLD FRIEND

Many of you will remember Eric Stockdale, who appeared in a number of our shows in the early 1990s. It is with regret that we hear of his recent death, while out walking on holiday abroad. He and his wife, Margaret, both contributed in many ways to our entertainments, and he will be much missed.

"CUCKOO" READING

Jack Snell's new production of "*One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*" gets underway with two readings of the play, for the whole cast, on Monday 18 and Monday 25 August, at 7.30 p.m. at the Theatre. Jack says, "Anyone can come along and listen, and that goes for rehearsals, too." He holds that members and cast both benefit by working and watching together. And, oh yes, I almost forgot: the bar will be open.

TALKING OF WHICH :

From September onwards, whenever any show is rehearsed on a Thursday, the bar will be open, and it will stay open after the rehearsal and members and guests will be welcome to watch, drink, and exchange views. Come and join in: you will be able to find out the latest gossip, which is always fun. If you can think of other ways to expand the social use of our space, write to the Editor! The address is set out below. Unsigned letters are burned.

been designed and constructed by the same David Weeks, our new chairman. He has been there five days a week, from 9 to 5, slogging away, sawing, banging, and no doubt cursing. He has had the invaluable assistance of Tim Hall-Smith, who has come back to us all the way from Liverpool to spend several weeks on this project. The two of them have been in that sweaty environment, like Batman and Robin, working their thingys off. I am not often given to praise, but to Eileen, Keith, David and Tim I say - God Bless You! It is more than woodwork that has been renovated. You have given us a new theatre and a new way to go, and new energy to expand.

Launch Party

Saturday 6 September

To celebrate our new auditorium, we invite you all, members and non-members, to come to the Theatre, starting 7.30 pm for drinks and nibbly things. The bar is open, the first drink is free, and Rachael offers in addition, apart from her charming presence, free fruit punch, so long as it lasts. Come and see our new theatre: meet *real actors*, and find out more about the friendliest, most dynamic group in East Dorset.

PLEASE TURN OVER
(as the Actress said ...)

Over the page, you will find:

- Keith Rawlings Speaks!
- Casts and crews
- "Curtain Call" Awards
- Membership issues
- New members item
- Opinions

THE SISTERS ROSENSWEIG ---- THE *WHO*?

DIRECTOR KEITH RAWLINGS EXPLAINS

At a recent rehearsal of our September offering, a smiling Keith Rawlings, sitting on the front row of the new auditorium to which he and his wife Eileen have contributed so much, answers the unspoken question. "You've never heard of it?" Then he tells me that this 1991 American comedy had a very successful run only three years ago at the Old Vic with a powerful cast, including Maureen Lipman, Lynda Bellingham and Janet Suzman as the eponymous three. "And Lipman was at her funniest best," he adds. And even though the writer is American Wendy Wasserstein, and the show played successfully on Broadway, amazingly the scene is set in London's fashionable Holland Park, in the home of Sara, one of the sisters. The other two, plus Sara's daughter meet to celebrate Sara's birthday. She lives a man-free life with her very intelligent daughter and a high-powered job running an international bank, until Merv, a New York furrier and would-be suitor also shows up, as do other assorted male friends. The play is "a warm and witty comedy" according to the Jewish Chronicle. The Observer hailed it as "A clever mix of emotional comedy and old-fashioned Broadway wise-cracking." There begins "a captivating look at three uncommon women and their quest for love and fulfilment." Keith says we are all set for a show where, "You can sit back, relax, smile and laugh often, and enjoy a delightful evening out." The cast includes Francesca Button, David Hinton, Derek Hyder, Tony Orman, Eileen Rawlings, Barbara Warde, Angela Whyatt and Andrew Whyatt. Technical support is supplied by Ian Davies Don Gent, Alastair Griffith, John Headford, Elsa Jacobs and James Westgate.

OPINION

This is the space where the editor's opinion may from time to time appear. I hope I may be able to stir up some friendly arguments, or be able to say what I think about developments inside the club, as well as events outside it which may affect us from time to time. This month, the paper is printed on two sides of A4 paper, in my front room. The new information package contains most of what a newsletter would have wanted to tell members this month. Later, it may be possible to expand the newsletter to four pages. This will depend on how well the present issue is received, and on the information supplied to me by all of *you*.

I have already praised, overpage, the magnificent efforts in the development of our theatre. In subsequent issues, I am sure I will be telling you about further structural improvements. But what is even more important is the feeling, the good vibes I get that our club, which has been stuck in a comfortable rut during the 11 years I have been around, has been encouraged to embrace change. We want young players, without losing our "old-timers" among whom I include myself. We want exciting drama, and more of it. We want increased output, so that more plays of quality will be available to our devoted playgoers. We want more members, and a keen attitude. Mind you, if I hear one more person, inside or outside the club go on about the millennium, as an excuse for introducing kooky ideas, I shall scream! I have been encouraged to experiment with a new kind of newsletter only because I have seen other members already investing huge amounts of time, money and effort. I want to do my bit, and I hope you do too.

MEMBERSHIP

Part 1

Because of all the changes taking place, membership forms are going out later than last year. But we do need them completed, and returned to us with your subscription, before the end of August. *Please rush them back to us.* It's not just the money, though Heaven knows it's needed. We also need to know about you. Names don't change too often, but addresses do and so do phone numbers. We need to be able to contact you and to know what you want to do to help the club. Please send them in as soon as you can.

Part 2

New members are most welcome. If you see yourself as part of a thriving, friendly, forward looking theatre club, not necessarily as an actor, but in *some* capacity, then we want you! Old and experienced, or a teenager looking to learn, you'll enjoy yourself with us. JOIN US!

"CURTAIN CALL" AWARDS

Remember, if you want to nominate anyone from the club in any category, then you only have a short time left. Forms are often in the Friday or Saturday edition of the Daily Echo, or you can get a copy from the club. Don't delay, or your favourite actor, actress, or techie may miss out.

"CUCKOO" CAST

Much more next edition about "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest", but the cast includes Sally Barrett, Rachael De Courcy Beamish, Gareth Buxton, Steve Cox, Noel Davenport, Joanna Dunbar, Tim Garton, Pat Gray, David Hinton, Claire Hiscock, Michael O'Grady, Chris Perham, Mike Satchell, Scott Sullivan, Philip Vye and David Weeks. Paul Caton and Ian Davies will be among the technical support group.

TWENTY QUESTIONS

No newspaper is complete these days without a quiz. So here is ours: below are 20 questions. Underneath each are the answers David Weeks gave. Why don't you write out your answers to the same questions, no more than 8 words per answer, and send them to me, Tony Orman, addressed to the club. I will publish what I think is the best one in the next issue. So - ready?

1. What is your idea of perfect happiness?
To be Theatre Director on the USS Enterprise
2. What is your greatest fear?
Getting posted to Voyager instead
3. Which famous person do you admire?
Stephen Hawking
4. Who is your favourite film star?
Richard Burton
5. Who is your favourite actor or actress?
Antony Sher
6. What is your greatest extravagance?
Petrol and cigarettes
7. What objects do you always carry on you?
The metal in my teeth
8. Where would you most like to live?
Italy, France or Greece
9. What is your most unappealing habit?
Smoking
10. What is your favourite smell?
A violent thunderstorm
11. What is your favourite word?
Guinness
12. What is your favourite play or film?
The one I'm directing at the time
13. What is your favourite journey?
Cuzco to Machu Pichu
14. What do you dislike most?
Pettness
15. What is your greatest regret?
Not sharing a happy family life
16. When and where were you happiest?
1990 in France
17. What single thing which would improve your quality of life?
A workshop in the country
18. How do you relax?
Building sets and working with wood
19. What is your favourite quality in others?
Honesty
20. What is your favourite animal?
The eagle

Go on, so now you try.