



Bournemouth
Little Theatre News



Issue #59 2005-2006 Season www.BournemouthLittleTheatre.co.uk Member Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain Friday, 12 August 2005

**We Proudly Present at
Jameson Road**

This Production Celebrates
Keith Rawlings' Membership of
Bournemouth Little Theatre
since September 1955
FIFTY GOLDEN YEARS

A New Comedy from the pen of
Keith Rawlings
Directed by the Author

**my
Lady's
Bluff**

**MONDAY TO SUNDAY
5TH TO 11TH SEPTEMBER 2005
AT 7.45 PM**

For more about the Play and booking details, please turn to page 2

My Lady's Bluff



Pete Griffiths



Vanessa Turner



Andrew Whyatt



Denise King



Ann Cave



Rob James



Noel Davenport

Solicitor Mr Pinker is too familiar with his attractive female clients. His wife is furious over this hands-on approach and demands that an older woman partner is appointed to deal with the young ladies.

But the only applicant for the job is a young lady. She gets the job. Yet Mrs Pinker is satisfied.

Mr Clarke, the clerk, keeps brandy on the firm's file of their worst criminal, and they both know a thing or two.

Remember, the show runs SEVEN days, from Monday to SUNDAY

Advanced ticket bookings

Our mailing address for all ticket bookings is: BLTC Box Office, 54 Wentworth Avenue, Bournemouth, BH5 2EG

Tickets £8.50 (with concessions) Members £3.00

1. WRITE enclosing cheque and S.A.E. to BLTC Box Office (address above)

OR

2. PHONE to book by calling Sue **ONLY** between **7.30 pm and 9.00 pm** on her home phone number **01202 417484**

EITHER Monday 22 August to Friday 26 August **Box Office closed Bank Holiday**

OR Tuesday 30 August to Friday 2 September **Monday 29 August**

Tickets booked and paid for, and a S.A.E. supplied, will be issued two weeks before the show in the order in which the booking forms were received. If you have **any problems** after receiving your tickets, **phone Sue between the dates and times set out in 2 above**. During the run of the show, telephone enquiries should be made direct to the theatre on 01202 513361 **between 7.00 - 7.45 p.m only**. Also during the run of the show, the Box Office is open from 7.00 pm at the theatre for callers in person. **At all other times bookings must be made by post or by telephone as set out above.**

A final plea — if you have booked tickets and know that you, or one of your party, will not be able to attend the performance, please let Box Office know as soon as possible. Thank you.

Fifty Glorious Years

We are very proud to note that Keith Rawlings, the author and director of September's production of *My Lady's Bluff*, will have been an active member of our club for exactly fifty years when the play opens. Keith has written some fascinating memories of early days in the Club, which we recently published, and one of our earliest features in this newsletter in 1997 consisted of a long interview with Keith and Eileen at their home.



Keith at the writing desk

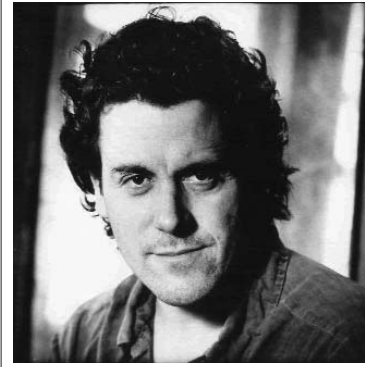
In this present issue, therefore, we thought we would just remind you of some salient features of Keith's relationship with the Club. It is a fact that he first visited the Club in the late 1940s and was so impressed that he resolved to move from Potters Bar to Bournemouth as soon as he could get a job here as a schoolteacher. Subsequently in life he owned a book shop, and became a prominent figure in local politics, as

a result of which he became Mayor of Bournemouth on 29 May 1998. It was in 1958 that he first met Eileen when he saw her on stage at the Palace Court Theatre. Their subsequent marriage and life together has been an example to us all, a true partnership.

All this while Keith and Eileen have been involved in the local theatre, almost totally with our Club. They were also in

the very first play on Brownsea Island in 1964, celebrating the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth. In recent years, Keith has written and directed his own play, *Murder By The Board*, at the Pier Theatre, under the aegis of BLTC. Most recently, at Jameson Road, he directed a memorable production of Daphne du Maurier's drama *Rebecca*, in which Eileen gave a stand-out performance in the role of the villainess Mrs Danvers.

New man at The Globe



Dominic Dromgoole

Now that Mark Rylance, the charismatic first ever artistic director of Shakespeare's Globe has resigned as of the season's end, his replacement has been announced by The Globe's chief Executive, Peter Kyle, who said:

"Dominic has enjoyed considerable success in a career embracing periods at the Bush Theatre, The Old Vic and, for the last seven years, as Artistic Director of Oxford Stage Company."

Rylance will in every sense be a hard act to follow, and we all wish Dominic every success in moving the Globe on in maybe new directions.

Curtain Call Award Show

We are now informed that the ticket price is £25 each, and the Daily Echo has to be notified by Friday 26 August at the latest. Tables of 12 persons are being set up. Call Don Gent on 389725 immediately if you want to be included on the BLTC table. The show is set for Saturday 8 October at the Pavilion Theatre, from 6.30 pm to 1.00 am.

If we have many more than 12 people booked, and we can make up two tables, then we will do so. BUT you have to call Don right now!

AGM

For those who ever seem to be uninformed, this is the second reminder that the Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held at the Club in Jameson Road on Sunday, 18 September 2005 at 7.30 pm. The doors will be open from 7.00 pm. All members who are fully paid-up at the commencement of the meeting and all life members will be entitled to vote at the meeting. The usual free drink at the bar after the meeting will be supplied.

In due course all members will receive an agenda for the meeting with form attached for the nomination of persons wishing to stand for election to the Executive Committee.



Eileen applying make up to Keith on Brownsea Island, 1964



Keith giving his Mayoral address in May 1998 with Eileen looking on



Eileen looking on



The "Harley Hogs" Mayor and Mayoress being dignified

Nostalgia shows in the New Forest

The article below is taken from promotional material: we thought some of you might be interested, but we have not investigated it ourselves.

HIDDEN in the depths of the New Forest, there is a very well-kept secret that is being discovered by more and more people every week.

That secret is The Olde Tyme Players, a unique professional theatre company specialising in nostalgia shows that will take audiences back to those 'good old days' of songs, fun and laughter with sing-along numbers, monologues and sketches galore. Coach parties from all over the south are constantly beating a path to the company's regular weekly afternoon shows, where they enjoy a two-hour authentically costumed entertainment and have tea and cakes served at their tables by the cast during the interval.

The *Olde Tyme Music Hall* show has proved immensely popular in past seasons, and a brand new version, reminiscent of TV's *The Good Old Days*, was recently launched so that audiences old and new can wallow in nostalgia Victorian style as they sing along to the likes of the Lambeth Walk, Down At The Old Bull and Bush and I Belong To Glasgow.

The company's second production, *Kiss Me Goodnight Sgt. Major*, is a comical and musical revue of

World War II that takes its audience on a nostalgic journey through the 1940s with characters such as Robb Wilton, George Formby, Elsie and Doris Waters and Noel Coward, and scenes of land army girls, rationing and the blitz. This is another sing-along show, with *The White Cliffs of Dover*, *Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy* and *We'll Meet Again* just a few of the songs on offer.

And when the calendar creeps on towards the end of the year, the *Christmas Music Hall Show*, which was performed for the first time in 2004 and sold out at every performance, is on the menu once again.

In their short existence the Olde Tyme Players' reputation has grown enormously, and they are in demand country-wide with their fully professional, unique and authentically British entertainments.

The Players also tour regularly, and anyone who is interested in booking the company for an evening or daytime performance, or would like to attend one of their local performances — pre-booking is essential — should call Juliette on 01425 612830 for more information or see their website

www.oldtymeplayers.co.uk

Competition results

We thought we'd be real smart in choosing a competition where you had to find a deliberate mistake in the newsletter: I thought we had proof-read the material but — apparently not! I won't go into all the mistakes in detail, because I don't have space in this edition.

BUT — and this is the important point — there was only ONE mistake that was *deliberate*. And that was on the last page in the list of Executive Committee members. Congratulations to those who spotted **Tony Roman!**

The first correct envelope that I opened was from Club Member **Joy Taylor** so she gets 4 free tickets.



The Queen and Michael Winner in the rain.

Harder to pick a winner in this category. A personal choice by the editor ... er ... *me*. Very subjective. The winning caption is: "Calm down dear — You'll get your turn to audition for *Mary Poppins*." It was sent in by Club Member **Patricia Richardson** and she too gets 4 tickets.

Film Quiz from The Times

1. Who said the following of whom:

- "She's slept with every male star at MGM except Lassie"?
- "His ears make him look like a taxicab with both doors open"?
- "There, but for the grace of god, goes God"?
- "I've been around so long I knew her before she was a virgin"?

2. Can you name:

- The sister ship used for the title role of *Battleship Potemkin*?
- The decapitated horse in *The Godfather*?
- The secret password that gets Tom Cruise into the orgy in *Eyes Wide Shut*?
- The US state that Louise refuses to drive through in *Thelma and Louise*?

3. In which movie about movies does:

- Martin Scorsese play a director based on Joseph Losey?
- Kevin Bacon see his drama turned into a beach bimbo romp?
- Graham Greene have a cameo?
- Donald Sutherland stomp an obnoxious child performer to death?

Answers to Quiz

- 1 (a) Bette Davis on Joan Crawford; (b) Howard Hughes on Clark Gable; (c) Herman Mankiewicz on Orson Welles; (d) Groucho Marx on Doris Day. 2 (a) 12 Apostles; (b) Khatum; (c) Fidelio; (d) Texas. 3 (a) *Gully Bly Suspection*; (b) *The Big Picture*; (c) *Day For Night*; (d) *The Day of the Locust*.

Review

Carolyn White of the Daily Echo reviewed our June production of *Tons of Money*. She said:

This play does not pretend to be great drama, but it is light, frothy, funny and a most enjoyable way to spend a balmy June evening. The Little Theatre itself has a wonderful ambience, and even with their customary full house it felt intimate but not cramped.

The production was polished and businesslike, which demonstrated the wealth of knowledge and experience contained within the company. The director, Tom Swadling, well understood that a farce must move at a cracking pace or it ceases to be funny, and he never allowed the repartee to flag.

When the two George Maitlands finally came face to face the fight that ensued was pure pantomime slapstick, and the audience was in stitches. Judging by the sounds the bodies made hitting the deck, they will certainly have some

Audition

Patricia Richardson

is hosting a reading and an audition for the psychological drama

The Chalk Garden

Written by Enid Bagnold

The Reading will be held at the Club in the Green Room on Friday 23 September 2005 at 7.30 pm

The Audition

will be held at the Club on

Sunday, 25 September, 2005 at 7.00 pm

Production dates are Mon-Sun, 13-19 February 2006

There is a cast of nine characters in this play — 7 female and 2 male.

The female characters range from 16 to 70+.

The 2 male characters — one 40ish, the other 70ish.

There are some challenging roles for each character.

Period 1950s

Laurel, a wild teenager, is being raised by her grandmother. Searching for a companion for Laurel, the mysterious Miss Madrigal — with no references and a lost past — arrives and demonstrates an eerie understanding of the dynamics of the household. Under her tender care both the chalk garden and Laurel begin to bloom, but the arrival of a visitor upsets the fragile and delicate harmony

This charming and wistful play of love, forgiveness and the power of the family is brought to us by the pen of Enid Bagnold — famous also for *National Velvet*.

bruises by the end of the week.

I did find some of the gags rather laboured, but that was in the writing, and certainly not the fault of this excellent cast. I came out of the theatre with a lighter tread and a smile on my face, and that is what it's all about.

Review

LINDA KIRKMAN of the Daily Echo reviewed our July production of *The Clearing*. She said:

With the marching season currently underway in Northern Ireland, this drama is a timely reminder of the historical background to those events. And the 17th century conflict between Royalists & Roundheads, Catholics & Protestants, and their effect on the lives of ordinary people, all interwoven with a strong feminist sub-text, makes for powerful theatre.

Such a play calls for strong performances, and these were in abundance in David Weeks' excellent production. David, taking on the role of Protestant landowner Robert Preston at short notice, displayed with telling effect the agonising dilemma of a man caught between loyalty to his Catholic wife and saving his own skin. And Tanya Alexander really tugged at the heart-strings with her portrayal of the dutiful but strong-willed wife.

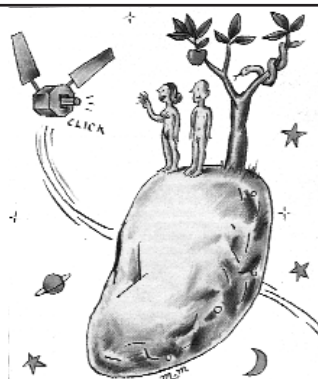
Helping to fill the broader picture of the times, Noel Davenport and Patricia Richardson displayed the utter despair of farmers

Solomon & Susaneh Winter, striving to keep their land against Cromwell's military might. His regime was chillingly personified by Peter Beebe as the Governor, Sir Charles Sturman, in a performance so evil that he was booed at the curtain call. Natalie Williams (Killaine Farrell), Tim Garton (Pierce Kinsellagh), and Clifford Page (Commissioner) added further authenticity to this superb production.

But *Silent Night* in 1653? I think not.

About Steaming, our October show

As you might imagine in a play whose scene is set in the local turkish baths in an English working class area, we are obliged to point out that there will be scenes involving nudity and bad language. It is felt by the Committee that the play is unsuitable for anyone under the age of 16, unless parental guidance has been given.



Comet reveals origins of life

Reminders

Mon-Sun, 5-11 September 2005

Performances of *My Lady's Bluff* at the Club at 7.45 pm

Wed, 14 September 2005

Reading of *The Passing of the Third Floor Back* at the Club at 7.30 pm

Thursday, 15 September 2005

Audition for *The Passing of the Third Floor Back* at the Club at 7.30 pm

Sunday, 18 September 2005

Annual General Meeting of BLTC at the Club at 7.30 pm

Fri, 23 September 2005

Reading of *The Chalk Garden* in The Green Room at 7.30 pm

Sunday 25 September 2005

Audition for *The Chalk Garden* at the Club at 7.00 pm

Sat, 8 October 2005

Curtain Call Award Show at the Pavilion Theatre

Mon-Sun, 24-30 October 2005

Performances of *Steaming* at the Club at 7.45 pm

Sunday 6 November 2005

Audition for *The Miracle Worker* at the Club at 7.30 pm

Mon-Sun, 12-18 December 2005

Performances of *The Passing of the Third Floor Back* at the Club at 7.45 pm

Mon-Sun, 13-19 February 2006

Performances of *The Chalk Garden* at the Club at 7.45 pm

Mon-Sun, 3-9 April 2006

Performances of *The Miracle Worker* at the Club at 7.45 pm

Mon-Sun, 5-11 June 2006

Performances of *A Woman of No Importance* at the Club at 7.45 pm

Want to direct?

The Studio Workshop, under Dan Brian's continued guidance, is expanding to include the encouragement and training of directors. If you want to direct (or have directed) amateur plays, and would like to hone your skills, then Dan's Workshop is definitely where you should come during the new season.

The Studio is open at the Club at 7.30 pm every Wednesday except for the week before any production taking place at the Club, when the Studio will be at The Chine Hotel. There will not be a Studio during the week of any show. If you wish to extend your acting or directing skills in a friendly tutorial atmosphere, *THIS* is the place to be!

Committee and other posts

Chairman	Don Gent 389725
Dep Chairman	Robin Cave 742298
Secretary	Hugh Norris 761400
Treasurer	Noel Davenport 766690
Studio	Dan Brian 07710 969091
Publicity/LTG	Derek Hyder 424640
Wardrobe	Hilary Jefferys 876925
Technical	David Mockford 01929 553407
Props	Ginnie Waters 718290
Membership/News	Tony Roman 603709
Box Office	Sue Hyder 424640
Bar etc stocks	Ann Cave 742298
Duty Rosters	Karen Russell 295668
Scenery	John Headford 393032