

BOURNEMOUTH
LITTLE
THEATRE

NEWSLETTER
2018-2019 Season
August 2018
Issue 139

Member: Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain
www.bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk

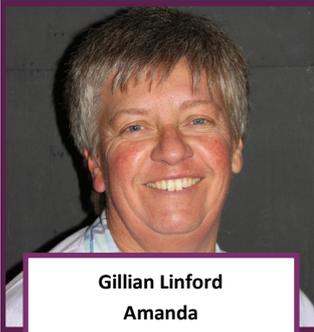


AGM
Sunday
30 September
2018
7.30pm

OVER
MY
DEAD
BODY

A Comedy
by Derek Benfield

Directed by Don Gent



Monday 3rd—Saturday 8th September 2018

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CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Dear Patrons

I hope that you are enjoying this wonderful summer weather and managing to stay cool!

On behalf of the Committee, I should like to take this opportunity to extend heartfelt thanks to all those who have supported us throughout the last season. We are very aware of the number of theatre companies in the area and your continued patronage is, therefore, greatly appreciated and valued.



Although the theatre is officially 'dark' for the months of July and August, rehearsals are well under way for the September production, *Over My Dead Body*, and the October production, *Heroes*, has been cast. Also in the newsletter are full details, including audition date, of the December production, *The Exorcism*.

Tickets are on sale for all productions and I would remind you that, as a member of Bournemouth Little Theatre, you would be entitled to purchase tickets at the reduced cost of £5. Single membership is £25 per year or joint/family is £40 per year. A membership form is enclosed or can be downloaded from the website. If you are already a member, may I remind you that subscriptions are now due for the 2018/19 season?

Theatrical productions are not the prerogative of actors alone and sincere thanks are due to our dedicated backstage crews and directors and those stalwart volunteers who man the coffee bar and Green Room bar during the week of the show without whom productions would not be possible. We are currently in need of additional 'backstagers' and on pages 8 and 9 you will find full details of what each role entails and Committee Member, Don Gent, will be pleased to discuss these with you further.

As we enter our ninety ninth season, we very much look forward to welcoming you to our theatre helping us to Keep Live Theatre Alive!

Kind regards,

Rachael

Deadline for next newsletter 16th September 2018

ADVANCE TICKET BOOKINGS

Our mailing address for all ticket bookings is:

BLT Box Office, 54 Wentworth Avenue, Bournemouth, BH5 2EG

Tickets £10.00 (with concessions) Members £5.00

- ◆ **BOOK ONLINE** at www.bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk (*booking fees apply*)
- ◆ **WRITE** enclosing cheque (payable to BLTC) and SAE to BLTC Box Office (*address above*)
- ◆ **PHONE** to book by calling Sue on her home number **01202 417484** **

**** ONLY between 8.00pm and 9.00pm during the week
Tuesday 28th to Friday 31st August 2018 ****

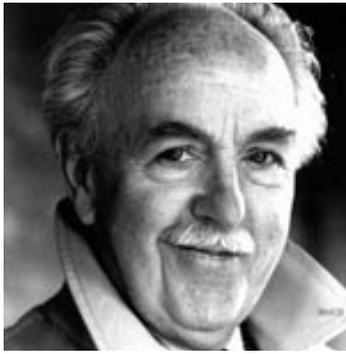
Tickets will be issued on receipt of a completed booking form, cheque and SAE. Where an SAE is not enclosed, tickets will be retained to be collected at the theatre on the night of the performance.

During the run of the show, enquiries should be made direct to the theatre on **01202 513361** either by leaving a message on the ansaphone or, between 6.00pm and 6.45pm, when the Box Office is open for telephone calls or callers in person.

It is also possible to book tickets for some of the visiting companies. Please check the website for full details.

A FINAL PLEA: If you have booked tickets and know that you, or one of your party, will not be able to attend, please let the Box Office know as soon as possible.

Thank you



Over My Dead Body

Following his wife's death, Gerald hopes to spend the rest of his days alone with his memories. However, his wife's "forward planning" results in a series of unexpected arrivals of family and friends who make a determined effort to change his plans.

With the help of his daughter and son-in-law, Gerald strives to maintain his independence and keep unexpected visitors at bay. But the recalling of memories revives events from the past that are both funny and sad.

Derek Benfield (11 March 1926 – 10 March 2009) British playwright and actor born in Bradford, West Riding of Yorkshire and educated at Bingley Grammar School. He was the author of the stage farce *Running Riot* and played Patricia Routledge's husband in *Hetty Wainthropp Investigates* (1996–98). Benfield made his acting debut in Yorkshire in 1948.

Arguably Benfield's best known character portrayal was as transport company foreman Bill Riley in the UK television series *The Brothers* in the early 1970s. Before this, he starred as Frank Skinner in the 1970 cult sci-fi series broadcast on UK ITV, *Timeslip*. Some of his other television roles included Walter Greenhalgh in *Coronation Street* (1961–69), Albert the Clerk in *Rumpole of the Bailey* (1978–80), *Breakaway* (1980) and *First of the Summer Wine* (1988).

His film credits include small roles in *Crossplot* (1969), *I Don't Want to Be Born* (1975) and *Lifeforce* (1985). His plays included the farces *Post Horn Gallop* and *Wild Goose Chase*, both about the fictional exploits of the eccentric Lord and Lady Elrood and visitors to their castle.

He also appeared with Colin Baker as John Hallam in the Doctor Who audio play *Catch-1782* produced by Big Finish Productions.

As a playwright, Benfield wrote more than thirty stage plays. They were popular in regional venues and with amateur dramatic companies. *Beyond a Joke* (1979), starring Arthur Lowe, had its premiere at the Shanklin Theatre on the Isle of Wight and *Bedside Manners*, starring John Inman, had a tour in 1988. Benfield was still having productions, many being performed abroad, staged in the new millennium.

Benfield once said, "My family are delighted with my success as a playwright as it helps to prop up my tottering career as an actor."

Director: Don Gent

The first play Don directed was *A Murder Has Been Arranged* by Emyln Williams at Ince's Hall, the Gibraltar Garrison Theatre, in April 1956.

During the last sixty years he has directed and performed in such diverse countries as Singapore, Kenya, Germany and Nepal. In England he has been an amateur actor/director at, among others, the Robin Hood Theatre, Averham and the Chesil Little Theatre, Winchester. In his professional life he was the theatre administrator at Nottingham Playhouse, Plymouth Theatre Royal and Poole Arts Centre (before the name change).



For Bournemouth Little Theatre Club he has directed two thrillers, *Nightmare the Fright of your Life* by Roger S Moss and Anthony Schaffer's *Deathtrap* also the bewitching comedy *Bell, Book and Candle* by John Van Druten and *Semi-detached* by David Turner. Most recently Don directed *The Bed before Yesterday* by Ben Travers and *The Maintenance Man* by Richard Harris.

As an actor Don has been delighted to play the irascible old bigot Harvey in *Season's Greetings* and the mild mannered Aylott in *A Month of Sundays*, Reggie in *Quartet*, Duke Solinus in *The Comedy of Errors*, Brigadier Albert Rayne in *Breath of Spring*, Colonel Melkett in *Black Comedy* and most recently the thug in *Laugh? I Nearly Went To Miami!*

The Exorcism by Don Taylor Directed by Don Cherrett

Rachel and Edmund have just bought and renovated a seventeenth century country cottage and invite Dan and Margaret to come and spend Christmas there with them. Margaret gives them a present, a primitive carving of a woman in child-birth, a fertility symbol. Later, Rachel has a sinister feeling of *déjà vu* and the electricity suddenly fails. A series of macabre events follow which mount to a bizarre and terrifying climax.

There are just the four characters in the play – couples **DAN & MARGARET** and **EDMUND & RACHEL**.

All of these parts are major, with all four being on stage for most of the play. The script states that all four are in 'their late thirties' but as long as the actors all look right together then anyone looking between early 30s and late 50s could be acceptable in any of the roles.

Rehearsals will start in the week October 29th and there will be three rehearsals a week – at the moment these are not set dates but can be flexible to suit the cast and director. **ALL FOUR** actors **MUST** be available for every rehearsal due to the nature of each character having very little time off stage.

AUDITION NOTICES

We Will Remember

Remembrance Sunday
11th November 2018, 7:45pm

Join us for an evening to honour and celebrate that, 100 years ago, the suffragette movement led to women gaining the right to vote and World War I ended.

This will be an evening of history excerpts, monologues, poetry and song.

Can you play a keyboard? Can you sing? Would you like to do a monologue? If so, would you be willing to do so for this event?

If you would like to share your talents and be a part of this special celebration, please email me, Rachael at chairman@bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk.

Auditions will be held on Sunday 2nd September at 7.30pm.

FRIDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2018

7.30pm

Read through
BLT Green Room

SUNDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2018

7.30pm

Auditions
BLT Stage

Performances:

10-15 DECEMBER 2018

7.45pm

Anyone interested in taking part or helping with the production please come to the reading/audition.

If you wish to audition and cannot make either of the above dates please call

Don Cherrett on 07428 652427

Auditions are open to all but, if you are cast, you must become a member of Bournemouth Little Theatre.

SUNDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2018

7.30pm

Auditions
BLT Stage

Performance:

11 NOVEMBER 2018

7.45pm

Anyone interested in taking part or helping with the production please come to the audition.

If you are interested but unable to attend the audition on this date, please contact Rachael by email to:

chairman

@bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk

REVIEW: *American Buffalo*

Bournemouth Little Theatre's production of *American Buffalo* captures all of the intensity and emotion of the dialogue of David Mamet's script. With a cast of three who spend the whole of both of the play's 40 minute halves within the confines of only one room, a rather grotty looking junk shop, the play sets its actor quite a challenge which Barry Gunner, Gavin Rand and Bobi Ichev all do a wonderful job in meeting.

Although symbolically the play is meant to be yet another pop at the American dream, as if this wasn't a subject matter that hadn't already been thoroughly flogged to death on the stage, the brilliance of this particular production is that the quality of the acting manages to centre the dramatic focus of the play onto the relative frailty of the three characters in question as they try to plan a robbery. The quick talking yet hot headed Teach who can't control his emotions. Don a sleazy older individual who is remarkably Fagin like in his demeanour. As well as the much younger, lackadaisical Bobby who seems to be well meaning yet incapable of nearly any task that he might be set. All three are completely pathetic yet relatable and charming in their own particular manner.

It should be said that the play does include a fair amount of swearing. However this doesn't taint the play in the way which the needless inclusion of expletives for either shock value or out of a lack of comic imagination does so many other modern productions. Instead it very much comes across as simply being authentically part of the everyday vernacular of these working class characters who find it difficult to express themselves in any other manner. Remarkably it becomes an asset to the play rather than a hindrance.

Therefore this play comes highly recommended for anyone looking for a serious watch rather than a feel good production, although there is a comic level to the play and some rather amusing utilisation of stage scenery.

Ben Rogers (Scene One)



BLT 2018/19 SEASON

3-8 September 2018

Over My Dead Body

A comedy by Derek Benfield

Directed by Don Gent

11-16 February 2019

Nocturnal

By Juan Mayorga

Translated by David Johnston

Directed by Hayley Tucker

22-27 October 2018

Heroes

Translated and adapted by Tom Stoppard
from Gerald Sibleyras' *Le Vent des Peupliers*

Directed by Tony Hessey

8-13 April 2019

Suddenly Last Summer

By Tennessee Williams

Directed by Brian Woolton

10-15 December 2018

The Exorcism

By Don Taylor

Directed by Don Cherrett

3-8 June 2019

Doubt, A Parable

By John Patrick Shanley

Directed by Rachael de Courcy Beamish

Unrehearsed Play Readings

Throughout the autumn and winter, I host monthly play readings, when all members are welcome to join me in the bar and read, or just listen if you prefer, as we tackle a wide variety of plays.

I try to make sure everyone gets a chance to read, if they want to, so we change readers for a character as we go along. Many of our experienced members enjoy performing without having to remember lines, while those who have been 'at it' for a shorter time can hone their skills, practice their accents and generally have fun. I try to choose a good mix of plays some old, some new, some serious or thought provoking, some funny.

Look out for an email a week or two before the play reading date for full details and I am happy to take requests (via our secretary Kerry Newton, contact details on the back page of this newsletter) if anyone has suggestions. This year's readings will take place on the dates shown alongside starting at 7.30pm (prompt) and finishing by 10pm.

Gill Linford

Unrehearsed Play Readings

The Green Room
Bournemouth Little Theatre
7.30pm

Hosted by Gillian Linford

◇ **Friday 28th September 2018**

◇ **Friday 2nd November 2018**

◇ **Friday 30th November 2018**

◇ **Friday 25th January 2019**

◇ **Friday 22nd February 2019**

◇ **Friday 22nd March 2019**

Membership Subscriptions

May we take this opportunity to urge all readers to support the Club by becoming members or encouraging existing members to renew their membership?

A membership form is enclosed and further copies may be downloaded from our website www.bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk.

As a Registered Charity we rely entirely on the support of our members and, as we approach our Centenary, we are planning a variety of events to commemorate this special milestone.

As a member, you are entitled to discounted ticket prices and the opportunity to play a full part in the Club's activities.

Keeping Live Theatre Alive!

GIVING SUPPORT

As well as attending productions, events and activities, there are many other ways to support Bournemouth Little Theatre. You could make a donation, leave a legacy, name a seat, sponsor a production or part of the building, give goods and services, hire our facilities or take an advertisement in our programme.

We are currently raising funds for the refurbishment of the theatre to relaunch BLTC at our Centenary celebrations in 2019. Any donations will be gratefully received by cheque to BLTC or by BACS to Bournemouth Little Theatre Ltd, Sort Code: 30-91-08, Account Number: 00958587. Thank you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

3-8 September 2018

Over My Dead Body

A comedy by Derek Benfield

Directed by Don Gent

21 & 23 September 2018

The Exorcism

Read through and Auditions

30 September 2018

AGM

Auditorium, BLTC, 7.30pm

22-27 October 2018

Heroes

Translated and adapted by Tom Stoppard from Gerald

Sibleyras' *Le Vent des Peupliers*

Directed by Tony Hessey

30 October—1 November 2018

Impact Theatre: *Iron*

by Rona Munro

Directed by Patricia Richardson

2 November 2018

Unrehearsed Play Reading

Host Gillian Linford

11 November 2018

We Will Remember....

30 November 2018

Unrehearsed Play Reading

Host Gillian Linford

10-15 December 2018

The Exorcism

By Don Taylor

Directed by Don Cherrett

20-22 December 2018

Arena Theatre: *She Kills Monsters*

by Qui Nguyen

25 January 2019

Unrehearsed Play Reading

Host Gillian Linford

Get Involved Get Involved Get Involved



YOUR THEATRE



NEEDS YOU!

Looking for a hobby? Have a little time to spare?

We currently have the following vacancies and, if you would like to become part of the team at Bournemouth Little Theatre in one these roles, we would love to hear from you.

No experience is necessary as training/guidance is offered—you just need to be willing!

For further information on any of the vacancies listed please contact Don Gent on 01202 389725 or at dongent@aol.com.

VOLUNTEER VACANCIES

- Advertising and Sponsorship Coordinator
- Costume Supervisor
- Housekeeping Supervisor
- Set Construction Supervisor
- Stage Director Coordinator
- Sound Supervisor
- Treasurer
- Website Designer/Administrator

VOLUNTEER ROLES

Backstage Jobs

In addition to talented actors a society like Bournemouth Little Theatre relies on a range of equally talented backstage people without whom our productions wouldn't happen. The following gives an idea of what is involved in each of the vacancies. Please read through and consider whether you would like to try your hand at any of these roles.

Stage Set construction

Each set is designed to meet the needs of the play and the Director's vision of their production on our tiny stage and can range from a room complete with doors, windows etc. through to a comparatively empty stage. Before construction can start the director and designer will discuss what is required and a simple plan prepared showing how the set will fit on the stage. This provides the start point for construction. Anybody with the most basic skills can get involved and, depending on what is required, we will build the set over several sessions spread over a few weeks. Construction can be during the day or evenings or weekends—whatever suits your availability. Sets also require decorating and anybody keen on DIY is welcome. Those of you with more artistic skills will be welcome if the play requires something special such as a garden beyond the window. During the actual run of the play there is no involvement but, on the Sunday morning following the last night, you will have the sad task of helping to dismantle all of your hard work in readiness for the next production!!

VOLUNTEER ROLES cont

Props

This embraces all the furniture, pictures, ornaments you see on the stage and will also include any personal props used by the actors on stage such as money, crockery etc. The role would suit anybody who has an eye for home décor and an aptitude for scavenging to find the right prop to suit the play. We have a large stock of our own props in our stores which can usually cover a lot of the needs. Sometimes all that is required is to assemble the props during the rehearsal period but may also involve working backstage during the later rehearsals and the week of the show to assist during scene changes. The Director should be able to advise the extent of your commitment at the first meeting of the backstage crew.

Lighting

The lighting of each play is tailored to the needs of the script and there are two distinct elements, the first is design and rigging and the second, operation of lighting during the performances. The design and rigging part is translating the play's needs for specific lights and colours hanging over the stage. We are fortunate in having a reasonably good selection of lights which should cover most eventualities and normally about three sessions of 2-3 hours will set the lights up for the play, this can be during the day or evenings to suit your availability. During the final week of rehearsal light levels for each scene of the play (to create the day, night or any other effects that the play may call for) will be set. Attendance at each technical rehearsal during this last week will be required. Some basic electrical knowledge is obviously helpful but is not essential. Rigging is done from a ladder so anybody wanting to get involved with this aspect should be comfortable with this.

The second element of the lighting is the operation of the lighting during the performances; this is not particularly complicated as we use a lighting desk that records each effect to be recalled with the push of a button. Obviously the role requires the commitment to the week of the performances plus some of the preceding week when the timing of the effects is worked and coordinated with the actors to meet the Director's needs. Sometimes the operator and the designer can be the same person but this is not essential.

Sound

Sound also has two elements the first being to agree with the Director the sound required for a show this can be music or sound effects e.g. chiming clock. These are then assembled onto a CD or sometimes a lap top to be used during the performances. As with the lighting the final week of rehearsals is when the sound levels and timing can be worked in with the actors to the Director's needs. The second sound role is to operate the sound during performances and again attendance at some of the final rehearsals is required to get the coordination with the stage action right. As with the lighting one person can do both sound roles.

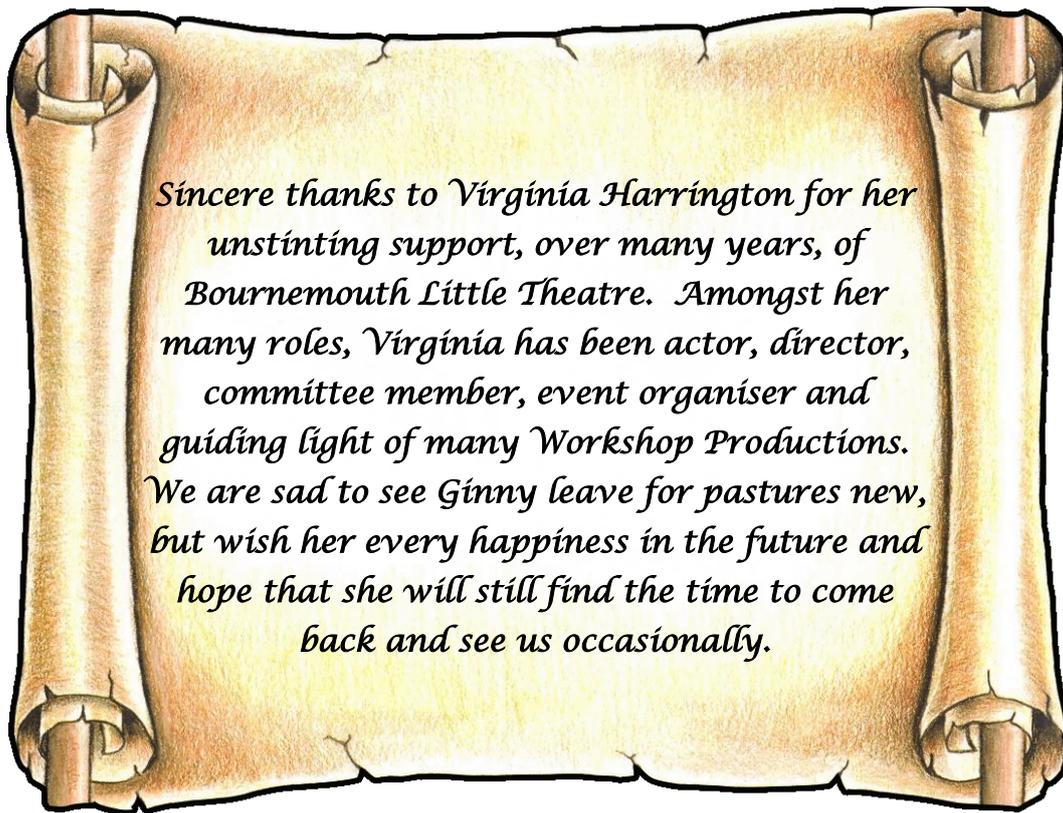
Stage Management

The Stage Manager (SM) coordinates all the behind scenes activities to ensure each performance runs as planned. The SM also liaises with the sound and lighting operators in the control box and the Front of House Manager to ensure all runs smoothly. The main time commitment is the last week of rehearsals and performance week.

Could this be YOU?

The above may all sound a little difficult but don't be concerned if you feel you don't know anything about these jobs we can train you and let you learn by doing it, the important thing is being prepared to try! Considerable satisfaction is to be gained from being part of a team involved in all aspects of a production which will bring pleasure to our audiences. Best of all there are no lines to be learnt! **Come along and have a go!**

NOTICEBOARD



Very many thanks also to Mo Hamill and Ed Mortimer for donating the materials and their time to reupholster the seating in the Green Room, it is absolutely wonderful. They did not stop there.....! Mo approached **Travis Perkins Builders Merchants** who very kindly donated paint for redecorating the Green Room to complement the new upholstery.

Bournemouth Little Theatre Club
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www.bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk

Email: bournemouthlittletheatre@gmail.com

Facebook:
<http://facebook.com/BLittleTheatre>

Twitter:
<http://twitter.com/BLittleTheatre>

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Charity Ref: 1019571

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Your Council Members:

Rachael de Courcy Beamish (chairman@bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk)..... 07557 957648
(Chairman/Chairman of Play Selection Committee/Facebook Administrator)

Don Gent (*Marketing/Programmes/Bar Rota Organiser*) 01202 389725
Kerry Newton (secretary@bournemouthlittletheatre.co.uk) 07790 722214
(Hon Secretary/Designated Premises Supervisor/Membership Secretary/Newsletter Editor)

Lotte Fletcher-Jonk (*Play Selection Committee*) 07905 728333
Mo Hamill (*Properties Co-Ordinator*) 07585 504500
Noel Davenport (*Hon Treasurer*) 01202 766690

Not on the Council:

Adrian Matthews (*Website Organiser*)
Alastair Griffiths (*Lighting Design*) 07400 014135
Chris Huggill (*Bar Stocks Manager*) 07443 626484
Gill Martin (*Costume Supervisor*) 07882 018748
June Garland (*Coffee Shop Rota Organiser*) 01202 700516/07867 801348
Sue Hyder (*Box Office/Programmes*) 07968 845744

Bournemouth
Little
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