



THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Mary Young

HELLO EVERYONE. Time seems to fly by these days, I find it hard to believe that our third production of the year is already well into rehearsals! *Steel Magnolias* has the added complication of being set in a hairdressers/beauty parlour with some cast members learning the skills involved as part of the action. This is a lovely funny and very poignant piece that will, I hope, attract big audiences. It is the first time we have combined with another company to present a show and hope that it works well for members of both groups and our audiences!

Thanks to Margaret and everyone involved with *Nightmare*, which was well received in spite of going through some difficult times from casting through to the last night. I did wonder if the title had some effect on things when one or two cast members had accidents and things were difficult. Overall though we enjoyed it. Especially well done to Sally, our newest member who ran the London Marathon a couple of weeks before we opened.

Sue Shepherd and Tricia Pape went to Birmingham to represent our Little Theatre at the 70th anniversary conference of the Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain. They met other thespians from around the country, took part in workshops, watched a production, attended the AGM and Anniversary Dinner and enjoyed all that was on offer. We learn so much from sharing what we do with other theatres and from hearing about how their theatres are run. I am pleased that Sue has agreed to take over as our LTG rep for the coming year.

As you will have seen our coffee lounge and foyer has undergone a total renovation over the past weeks and our grateful thanks must be extended to Phil Jenner and his team of helpers who have given up their free time to bring it all to fruition.

Lastly, let me send all our good wishes and congratulations to Lindsey Holledge and Paul Jones on their forthcoming marriage. Lindsey has graced our stage so well many times and we hope this big performance goes brilliantly! Hopefully we will see her back on stage in Seaford before too long.

As always, I look forward to seeing you at Seaford Little Theatre soon; there are always ways to get involved, Monday Coffee Mornings, Wednesday Workshop, Play Readings and Social Events. Our wonderful website has the full picture!

Best wishes, Mary.



OUR NEXT PRODUCTION – *STEEL MAGNOLIAS* by Robert Harling

Truvy's in-home beauty parlour in Chinquapin, Louisiana, is where the women of the town regularly gather to gossip and put the world to rights, especially when there is a special occasion to celebrate, a friend to offer comfort, or a conflict to resolve.

As their hair is cut and shaped and their nails pampered and manicured, they know that they have a safe haven where they can speak their minds and find a sympathetic ear and a cup of coffee.

These are women who have seen most of what life has to offer and know how to deal with it. They are as delicate as magnolia blossoms, but as tough as forged steel.

In a joint production with Meeching Amateur Dramatics, a first for Seaford Little Theatre, Garry Fowler directs this hugely successful comedy/drama that was a massive hit on Broadway and in the West End, as well as a popular film. Full of pithy and sharply observed humour, this is a poignant drama that will have you rocking with laughter even as it plucks at the strings of your heart.

The all female cast features Little Theatre favourites Marilynne Sharpin as Truvy, Sylvia Aston as Clairee, Jenny Humphries as M'Lynn, Wendy Picott as Ouiser, and the Seaford debuts of Shar Turnbull as Annelle and Emma Ruggins as Shelby.



The production opens on Friday 22 July 2016 and runs through to the following Saturday 30 July, with a matinée on Saturday 23 July. Evening performances commence at 7.45pm and the matinée will start at 2.30pm.

Tickets for members (don't forget your membership card please) and friends of the theatre are available in advance from Friday 24 June 2016 at our box office:

**REDGOLD OPTICIANS,
32 Broad Street, Seaford, BN25 1ND.**

Postal applications should be sent to: David Backhouse, 62 Stafford Road, Seaford, BN25 1UA

They must be accompanied by a cheque made out to 'Seaford Dramatic Society' and a self-addressed, stamped envelope. If the position you request is not possible the nearest available seats will be sent.

It is also possible to reserve tickets by email for collection and payment on the door. Send your application to:

tickets@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk

Again if the position you request is not possible the nearest available seats will be reserved.

The ticket prices are £8.00 each, with a special price of £7.00 each for the matinée.

For general enquiries regarding this production ring Ray Cox 07984280067

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Thank you to those of you who joined us for **An Evening With Dean Ager**. Dean was superb and a good time was had by all. It was lovely to meet some new faces and we hope to see you again in the near future. Special thanks to Cicely for helping to prepare the food and decorate the tables, serve at the bar in the evening, and afterwards wash and tidy up. Cicely worked extremely hard and we couldn't have done it without her. Thanks Cicely.



Now on to the upcoming social events ...

SATURDAY 16 JULY

Summer BBQ Seaford Little Theatre 5.00pm

Weather permitting we are reviving the Little Theatre Summer BBQ which was always a popular event in the past. All food will be provided but please bring your own drink. Let us know any special dietary requirements (Vegetarian, Vegan etc.) in advance. Obviously we are hoping for fine weather, but if it is terrible we will re-schedule for another day.

SATURDAY 30 JULY

Steel Magnolias Wrap Party

There will be the usual Wrap Party, following the last performance, of our latest production **Steel Magnolias**. Please, as usual, bring some food and whatever you want to drink to help celebrate, with the cast and crew of the production, after what I am sure will be another success.



SUNDAY 31 JULY

Theatre Clean Up Seaford Little Theatre from 2.30pm

All cast and crew members of **Steel Magnolias** to please attend to clean and tidy up the Theatre after this production. The costumes, props etc., will need to be returned and need to be sorted beforehand and the Theatre to be cleaned through. There will also be a get together afterwards for a meal.

SATURDAY 13 AUGUST

Quiz & Buffet Seaford Little Theatre 7.30pm

Following on from the last very successful quiz night, we have responded to the pleas of the people and organised another one. A buffet will be provided but, as usual, please bring along any drink you might want. The fee for the night is £8.



SATURDAY 8 OCTOBER

Games Night Seaford Little Theatre 7.30pm

We always value your suggestions and a few of you have mentioned having a games night, so here it is. Bring along your favourite game (board or otherwise - Twister anyone?) or just turn up and join in the fun. Tea and coffee will be on sale but please bring your own beverage if you prefer. Cost is £6 to include fish & chip supper.

For details about this and any other Social event please contact me, Debbie Cox, on 07596709044 or email at coxdeb8@gmail.com. As always we totally value your support and welcome your ideas or suggestions for any future events.

I look forward to hearing from you soon, Debbie Cox



I COULDA BEEN A CONTENDER

In case you needed convincing of the enjoyment to be had at one of our social events, we provide evidence (left) in the shape of Paul, who, with his wife Kerry, keeps the theatre spick and span. Paul, the original good time that was had by all, attended the recent **Night With Dean Ager** and, as you can see, was not shy in expressing his unabashed joy at the entertainment on offer by launching into an impromptu performance of YMCA. His excitement was so extreme that his head immediately began to overheat and glow with an intensity that would have been sufficient to power a one bedroom chalet bungalow in Chalvington Fields. The picture shows Paul throwing shapes worthy of Diversity, and failing to notice that the giant egg, cress and chorizo baguette he had been eating had slipped from his grasp. When last seen Paul was wearing lycra, getting a fake tan and filling out an entry form for the next season of Britain's Got Talent.



For those of you who know how to write, contributions to this Newsletter are always welcome. Send your pieces to:

Email: mail@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk

Snail Mail: 25 Sherwood Road,

Seaford

BN25 3EH



For a full colour version of this newsletter and lots of other information visit the Seaford Little Theatre Website on www.seafordlittletheatre.co.uk

PLAY READING GROUP

Our Play Reading Group meets at 7.30pm on the first Tuesday each month in the Coffee Lounge at the theatre (unless there is a production). It is a great social evening and an opportunity to have a go at performing without the pressure of an audience, or to read parts you wouldn't normally be able to play on stage! You can even just come along and listen. There is a nominal charge of £1 for refreshments.

We read Agatha Christie's *The Hollow* last month and are reading *Children's Day* by Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall in June. I hope to read *Cranford* by Martyn Coleman in July and *Ladies Day* by Amanda Whittington in September. There will be no August meeting due to the Shakespeare Summer School at the theatre. Please note we cannot always guarantee to have the play advertised for reading due to difficulties obtaining play sets.

Our programme for the coming months is:

- ▶ 05 JULY ***Cranford*** by Martyn Coleman
- ▶ 06 SEPT ***Ladies Day*** by Amanda Whittington

Everyone is welcome and so are your suggestions for future readings.

For more information call Mary Young: Tel: 07891 691341 Email: gmaryyoung@gmail.com

I look forward to seeing you there.



Luvvie Loquacity - The Thoughts Of Thespians

I have yet to discover a final and definitive cure for stage fright but the elimination of conceit and self-indulgence and a certain amount of disciplined homework and humility can help considerably to assuage the dreadful fears. The actor's first allegiance should be not to himself but to the author and if, on his initial readings of the play, he considers it good enough to appear in, his first duty is to learn it accurately, to study it with a post-card over the cues for two or three hours a day, if necessary for weeks, so that he can utilise rehearsals as they should be utilised, to experiment with feeling, movement and implication, without embarrassing his colleagues and director by fluffing and insulting the author by paraphrasing.

Noël Coward

CLOTHES HORSES

Seaford Little Theatre has a wonderful selection of costumes and accessories, acquired during its existence, but over the years the space available to house it all has become extremely cramped and difficult to use.

In an effort to streamline things and make it a more useable space, Wardrobe Mistress Helena Bell (aided and abetted by Sue Shephard and Debi Lade) have begun the onerous task of sorting through all the costumes and getting things in order. As a result they have been spending many recent Wednesday evenings beavering away in the green room, amidst much perspiration and a lot of hilarity.

The costumes are being sorted into three sections; items to keep, ones for the charity shop and the remainder to Gladragrs Community Costume Resource in Brighton. As you can see below it has also been an opportunity to revert to childhood and the dressing up box.



Helena Bell, Sue Shephard and Debi Lade showing that while clothes may maketh the man, the jury's still out regarding the women.

▶ **Copy deadline for next edition of the newsletter: 16 SEPTEMBER 2016** ◀



Photos from the set of
Nightmare
taken
by Andrew Parkinson

Nightmare Scenario



Audition Date: Monday 11 July 2016 - 7.30pm - Seaford Little Theatre
 Additional date (if required): Monday 8 August - 7.30pm
 Production dates: 4 - 12 November 2016

Henry Perkins, an office worker from Fulham, has mistakenly picked up a briefcase containing an enormous amount of money. A heaven sent gift! But unforeseen events intervene as an anonymous criminal, desperate to regain the cash, will stop at nothing to get it back. This play was made into a hugely popular film and is bound to keep our audience entertained.

CHARACTERS	
JEAN PERKINS	a pretty but ordinary woman 40s - 50s
HENRY PERKINS	an insignificant man 50s
BILL	a middle-aged London taxi driver
DAVENPORT	a sparse middle aged man with a knowing glint in his eye
SLATER	a solicitous and kindly soul – until provoked
BETTY JOHNSON	a cheerful woman 40s – 50s
VIC JOHNSON	a brash man with feet of clay, 50+
PASSER-BY	a large man 50+

Scripts are available from the theatre (Coffee lounge). Please read, copy any passages you require and return so that other people can access a script. Alternatively you can obtain a Pdf version of the script by contacting me on my email below.

AUDITION PIECES	
JEAN	Pages 3 – 8, 18 – 22, 66 – 68
HENRY	Pages 3 – 8, 20 – 22, 54 – 58, 98 – 99
BILL	Pages 10 – 12, 15 – 16, 73 – 79
DAVENPORT	Pages 9 – 14, 44 – 46, 54- 56
SLATER	Pages 25- 29, 54- 56
BETTY	Pages 18 – 22, 66 – 68
VIC	Pages 19- 22, 44- 46, 54- 56
PASSER-BY	Pages 94- 96

If you are interested but unable to attend the audition date, please contact me so that we can arrange an alternative. If you are able to help behind the scenes, I would also be very pleased to hear from you.

Mary Young Tel: 01323 351882/07891691341 Email: young-g4@sky.com

Luvvie Loquacity - The Thoughts Of Thespians

People see so many movies that when they finally see one not so bad as the others, they think it's great. An Academy Award means that you don't stink quite as much as your cousin.

Charles Bukowski

There are those who dance the notes, and those who dance the music.

Eva Ibbotson