



### THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



HELLO EVERYONE. After the successful and enjoyable July productions of three one act plays, we “went dark” for August as usual, but what a busy time it has been off stage! I know many of you participated in the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open Days and hope others will have managed to visit the event. Thanks go to Lori Boul for organising, to Ray and Debbie Cox who decorated the theatre and managed the catering and to everyone who came to help. The theatre tours, technical demonstrations, costume and prop displays and mini dramatic episodes on stage were all so well received. Nearly two hundred visitors came through the doors and their feedback was very positive.

Our theatre has a new look with smart new raking and seating now installed. The new doors and window in the Coffee Lounge have been admired. After a grand clearance by the Workshop Team, the spaces above the auditorium and above the dressing rooms have been emptied. A limited number of useful props have been retained in the Green Room storage areas. All the debris from the back of the building has been removed. Thanks to everyone who helped with this work and to Phil Jenner especially. Sylvia Aston has also done great work on EBay, selling old theatre seats and lights to raise funds towards our costs. Ian Baldwin has managed the installation of a new video camera with screens in the Coffee Lounge and Green Room to show the on stage action. Gill Watson has also been busy overseeing the work and the installation of a new fire safety system for the theatre.

Rehearsals are now well underway for the Gala 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Production of *Relative Values* by Noël Coward, directed by Derek Watts. We look forward to bumper audiences. I hope many of you will support us on the last Saturday when we welcome our MP, local dignitaries and people who have contributed to the theatre in many ways over the years.

I look forward to meeting many of you at our AGM on Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> October. There will be time to chat over wine and cheese afterwards and the programme for next season will be available.

Thank you all for your continuing support!

*Mary Young*

### OUR NEXT PRODUCTION - *RELATIVE VALUES* by Noël Coward



THE OCCUPANTS OF MARSHWOOD HOUSE, both above and below stairs, all know their station in life and like it that way. That is until Nigel, the heir apparent, returns home with his new fiancée Miranda Frayle, a celebrated Hollywood film star of lowly origins, who is about to upset the status quo and cause tremors that could be felt in California. This is Coward at his scintillating best with sparkling, witty dialogue poking satirical fun at the class system and all its faults.

Featuring performances from Ann Mabey, Sue Shephard, Lee Powney, Jenny Humphries, Roland Boorman, Peter Barnes, John Hamilton, Mary Young, Alan Lade and Clare Forshaw, this show marks the debut at Seaford of Derek Watts, an experienced director who has been at the helm of many successful productions

both in Sussex and elsewhere.. It opens on Friday 13 November 2015 and runs through to the following Saturday 21 November, with evening performances from 7.45pm and a matinee on Saturday 14 November at 2.30pm.

This play is our Gala production to mark our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, celebrating 70 years of Seaford Little Theatre.

Tickets for members (don't forget your membership card please) and friends of the theatre are available in advance from **Friday 16 October 2015** at our **NEW** 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 now possible to reserve tickets by email for collection and payment on the door. Send your application to:

**[tickets@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk](mailto: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 each, with a special price of £7.00 each for the first night and the matinée.

**For general enquiries regarding this production ring Ray Cox 07984280067**

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

### SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER

#### **Relative Values** Wrap Party

There will be the usual Wrap Party following the last performance, of our latest production **Relative Values**. 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.



Don't forget this is our Anniversary Gala night, so mark the date in your diaries now.

### SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER

#### **Theatre Clean Up** Seaford Little Theatre from 2.30pm

All cast and crew members of **Relative Values**. 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.

## PLAY READING

WHY NOT COME AND JOIN US, to read or to listen, at our monthly Play Readings held on the 1st Tuesday (unless there is a production)? It is good fun and you can read parts you wouldn't be able to play on stage!

In July we read **Flare Path** by Terence Rattigan. Ray Cooney's **Funny Money** which was read in August made us laugh so much that it has been included in next year's programme for the theatre. We have chosen some well known classics to read in October and November. **The Importance of Being Earnest** and **Blithe Spirit** are the plays selected. Ayckbourn's **Season's Greetings** has been suggested for December. Please let me know any titles you would like us to read in the coming year.

So the proposed schedule for the next few months is:

TUESDAY OCTOBER 6 **The Importance of Being Earnest** , by Oscar Wilde

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3 **Blithe Spirit** by Noël Coward

TUESDAY DECEMBER 1 **Season's Greetings** by Alan Ayckbourn

For more information call Mary Young: Tel: 07891 691341

Email: [gmaryyoung@gmail.com](mailto:gmaryyoung@gmail.com)



## POSTER BOARDS



CALLING ALL MEMBERS. We would like to look into the possibility of placing some more of our poster boards around the town to provide extra publicity for our productions, so we would like to have suggestions as to where we could put them.

They would need to be in areas where there is good footfall and be easily seen, but without causing inconvenience to residents or passers-by.

If you have any suggestions please pass them on to a member of the committee and they will look into the viability of the location.



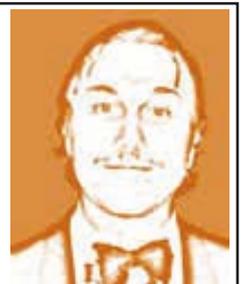
For those of you who know how to write, contributions to this Newsletter are always welcome. Send your pieces to:

Email: [mail@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.seafordlittletheatre.co.uk)

# Thrice To See You



Photos from the set of *The Triple Bill* taken by Adrian Bowd



## OPEN DAY CELEBRATIONS



The busy coffee room filled with visitors

We were graced with the presence of our two remaining founder members, Val Shepherd and Gloria Roberts. These two wonderful ladies, now in their 90's, are still as passionate about Seaford Little Theatre as when they started it in 1945. They were pleased to see the improvements that have been made to the building over the years and particularly appreciated the new comfortable seats while they watched our members perform.

*Open House organiser, Lori Boul, reflects on the two day event*

IT IS OFTEN IMPOSSIBLE to give people the opportunity to see all facets of our beautiful old theatre so we were delighted to be able to do so in September. We are thrilled to welcome the nearly 200 visitors at our open house and would like to say a big thank you to all of you who joined us for this 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration event.



Founders Val Shepherd & Gloria Roberts



Ray Brooks is shown round by Mary Young and Ray Cox

Members took visitors on backstage tours walking them through the history of the theatre and giving them an insight into the work that goes into producing a play. A little touch of the magic of performing was applied when they made their entrance onto the stage to spotlights and applause provided by our lighting and sound technicians.

There was a guest appearance by Ray Brooks (the voice of Mr. Benn) who, together with our visitors, enjoyed our exhibition of photographs and memorabilia from our rich 70-year history and watching a director's workshop presented by our members.



Gill Watson leads one of the guided backstage tours

Some of our younger visitors tried on costumes and took a bow on our stage that was set with some of our more unusual props, which provided wonderful photo opportunities for their parents. And both young and old enjoyed the homemade cakes in our coffee lounge that was bedecked with photographs, programmes and props from past productions.

Seaford Little Theatre has survived for seven decades due the loyalty of our audiences and the tireless work of our members. Our future can only be assured by your continued support so whether you want to act, work backstage/front of house or just see a show you will always get a warm and appreciative welcome.

We would love to see you at our coffee mornings on Mondays (between 10 and 11.30am) and/or our social/workshop evenings on Wednesdays at 7pm. And, we hope you will join us in November when we will culminate our 70th anniversary celebrations with a production of Noël Coward's **Relative Values**.

## AUDITION NOTICE - *TALKING HEADS* by Alan Bennett

Audition Dates: Monday 23 November 2015 - 7.30pm - Seaford Little Theatre  
 & Monday 7 December 2015 - 7.30pm - Seaford Little Theatre  
 Production dates: 12 - 20 February 2016

What do a reformed alcoholic, a bit part actress, a victim of fraud and a repressed homosexual man have in common ? Ask Alan Bennett he put them all together into this production based on the TV series of the same name.

<b>CHARACTERS &amp; PIECES</b>	
<b>BED AMONG THE LENTILS</b>	Susan. Bennett's description is of a thin smoker. I don't think this is important, I am looking for someone who can play irony well. An ex alcoholic Vicar's wife, probably an atheist and certainly an adulteress. May play her with an Irish accent but could be Northern. Playing age Mid forties.
<b>SOLDIERING ON</b>	Features Muriel, who has been well to do and follows her through the phase of her physical and mental breakdown. Requires great sympathetic playing skills. 50 - 70 probably the least known if the pieces.
<b>HER BIG CHANCE</b>	Features Lesley, who it must be said is a bit gullible to put it mildly. Must be glamorous, unsophisticated and the sort who believes you can sleep your way to stardom, no idea where she got that thought from. Playing age late thirties.
<b>A CHIP IN THE SUGAR</b>	Graham. Must be Northern accent, based on Bennett himself. 50 ish. Able to play pathos, repression and humour of a bitchy type. Gay but not so overtly as to be camp. Graham is on stage for at least 20 minutes. A lot of learning! This requires very strong acting skills.

Rehearsals will be one to one with me in my home until the end of January so can be tailor-made to suit us both. The production will have no set, but rely on the script, lighting, sound and props.

### AUDITION PIECES

For audition I need prospective actors to read any two pages of script. Their choice.

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.

Two dates have been given from the auditions to provide as much flexibility as possible, but if you are still unable to attend either of the audition dates please contact me so that we can arrange an alternative.

**Victoria Thompson** Tel: 01323 892384 Email: [directrice@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:directrice@hotmail.co.uk)

*Luvvie Loquacity – The Thoughts Of A Thespians*

**Love art in yourself, and not yourself in art.**

*Konstantin Stanislavski*

**We're actors – we're the opposite of people!**

*Tom Stoppard*

**Movies will make you famous; Television will make you rich; But theatre will make you good.**

*Terrence Mann*

**What is that unforgettable line?**

*Samuel Beckett*

**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*

**Copy deadline for next edition of the newsletter: 25 DECEMBER 2015**

**SEAFORD LITTLE THEATRE**  
**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Seaford Little Theatre will be held at The Little Theatre, Steyne Road, Seaford, on Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 7.30pm.

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting held 24<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2014. (Copy available for inspection at The Little Theatre).
3. Chairman's Report
4. Hon. Treasurer's Report
5. To vote on:  
Any other resolutions to be given to the Hon. Secretary 14days prior to the meeting.
6. Election of Executive Officers of the Management Committee.

Chairman:  
Vice-Chairman:  
Hon. Treasurer:  
Hon. Secretary:  
Premises Manager:  
Friends' Secretary:  
Membership Secretary:  
Social Secretary:  
Public Relations Secretary:

ALL NOMINATIONS TO BE RECEIVED BY THE HON. SECRETARY **BEFORE** THE START OF THE MEETING.

7. Election of Management Committee Members (4): 3 Vacancies.  
(Rule 8. Management. a. (ii) Four other members of the Society elected for 2 years, two of whom shall retire annually in rotation.), Sandra Haynes has a further year to serve. There are three vacancies.

ALL NOMINATIONS TO BE RECEIVED **BEFORE** START OF THE MEETING.

8. To close the A. G. M.
9. Questions and discussion. (Notice to be given to the Hon. Secretary or Hon. Treasurer **prior** to the commencement of the meeting.)

Sylvia Aston (Hon. Secretary), 01323 490444 or aston@asyvia7.orangehome.co.uk or Margaret Kennedy (Hon. Treasurer) 01323 894938

**Wine and Cheese will be provided for members at the close of the meeting.**

OCTOBER 2015

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**



Membership fees for the forthcoming year are due, as always, on 1 November, so please make use of the form below to get them renewed. Either hand it over at the AGM or send it direct to Penny Cockell.



**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

I/We wish to renew my/our membership of Seaford Little Theatre for 2016. I/We enclose our subscription fee.

Membership fee for the coming year is £10.00 per person (students - £5.00 p.a.)

Please return this form with the appropriate amount (cheques payable to Seaford Dramatic Society) to:

Penny Cockell (Membership Secretary) 30 St Crispins, Seaford, BN25 2DY  
Tel: 01323 897517      Email: memsec@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk

## Seaford Little Theatre

### Nomination Form for the Election of Officers and Management Committee Members at the AGM on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2015

Please make sure the Nominee is willing to stand before proposing them.



Nominee for the post of	*	_____
Name		_____
Nominated by		_____
Seconded by		_____



Nominee for the post of	*	_____
Name		_____
Nominated by		_____
Seconded by		_____



Nominee for the post of	*	_____
Name		_____
Nominated by		_____
Seconded by		_____



Nominee for the post of	*	_____
Name		_____
Nominated by		_____
Seconded by		_____



Nominee for the post of	*	_____
Name		_____
Nominated by		_____
Seconded by		_____

\*Posts are: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, Membership Secretary, Friends' Secretary, Premises Manager, Social Secretary, Public Relations Secretary and members can be nominated as Committee Members.

PLEASE RETURN TO THE HON. SECRETARY, SYLVIA ASTON, AT THE THEATRE BEFORE THE AGM  
OPENS AT 7.30pm ON 30<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2015