

THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



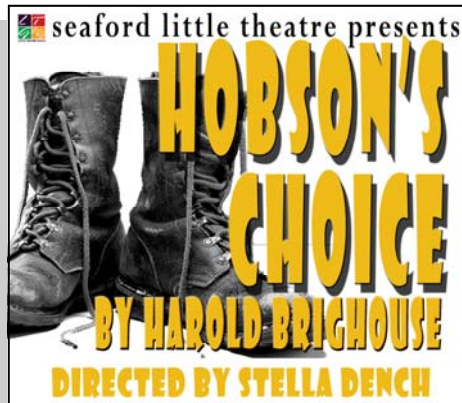
Hello everyone. The first thing to say “from the Chair” is that our last production (Alan Bennett’s *Habeas Corpus*) was a sell-out. Yes, we were 100% full throughout the eight day run. If this continues we shall have to expand the theatre or run for longer! Many thanks to Gini Comyns and her cast and crew for such a wonderful result. This is really something for the Little Theatre to be proud of, and word-of-mouth will have raised our profile in the town - and beyond.

However, any production is only ever with us for a short time and it isn’t long before the title is removed from above the door, the scenery is dismantled and the next play is cast and in rehearsal. This May will see the staging of *Hobson’s Choice* directed by Stella Dench, a perennial favourite from “up north” that I am sure will delight our audiences.

While all the artistic business has been in full flow, the management committee has been thrashing out a few necessary updates to our rule book. This task has proved quite difficult as we struggled to formulate a working set of rules that is fair, clear and not too verbose. The interim rule changes will be presented for discussion to an extraordinary general meeting to be held in the theatre at 7.30p.m. on Friday 27 April. I hope that many of you will be able to attend.

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OUR NEXT PRODUCTION - *HOBSON’S CHOICE* by Harold Brighouse



STELLA DENCH DIRECTS THIS ageless comedy, a classic piece of British Theatre, by Harold Brighouse, which is being staged at Seaford for the first time.

Henry Horatio Hobson is a widower and boot shop proprietor in Salford. He has three unmarried daughters who all work for him, unpaid, alongside his talented but under-appreciated staff. Hobson himself enjoys a leisurely life drinking with his pals and is quite happy with this arrangement until his shrewd elder daughter, Maggie, spots an opportunity, in the shape of Hobson’s diffident but talented cobbler, Willie Mossop, to change the status quo and secure her financial future.

Henry Hobson is played by Douglas Wragg, making his Seaford debut, as is Peter Barnes in the role of Fred Beenstock, and they appear alongside the acting talents of Roland Boorman, Ann Mabey, Jenny Humphries, Lindsey Holledge, Chris Church, Mary Young, Dennis Picott, John Hamilton, Wendy Picott and Stephen Newberry.

The show opens on Friday 11 May 2012 and runs through to the following Saturday 19 May, with evening performances from 7.45pm and a matinee on Saturday 12 May at 2.30pm.

Tickets for members and patrons, as usual, are available in advance from 13 April 2012 at our box office:

Sussex Eyecare Ltd, 9 Broad Street, Seaford, BN25 1LS. Please note this is open until 2pm on Saturday.

Postal applications are also available and 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.

The ticket prices are £8 each, with two for the price of one on the First Night, and £7 each for the Saturday matinee.

For general enquiries regarding this production ring Margaret Kennedy (01323) 894938

And finally...our President, Valerie Shepherd, has most generously offered to pay for a smart new sign outside the theatre. This will look striking and attractive and will draw the attention of passers by. It should be in place before the end of the year, and we are very grateful to Valerie.

With my best wishes, *Sue Shephard*

A STELLA IS FOR LIFE NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS



FOLLOWING HER MANY, MANY, MANY, MANY, MANY years of loyal service to the Society, Stella Dench has been made a life member of Seaford Little Theatre.

It is not yet clear if this entitles her to graze her sheep on the rugby pitches at the Salts Recreation Ground, or carry a sabre whilst queuing in the ten items or less checkout at Morrisons, but we are looking into it.

Luvvie Loquacity – The Thoughts Of A Thespians

Seriousness is the only refuge of the shallow.

Oscar Wilde

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

PLAY READINGS - FIRST TUESDAY IN EACH MONTH (unless stated otherwise)

Coffee Lounge Seaford Little Theatre from 7.30pm

Further Play Readings have been organised and they will take place in the Coffee Lounge at the Theatre at 7.30 on Tuesday 1 May 2012 to read **Wild Goose Chase** by Derek Benfield, Tuesday 5 June to read **Dial M For Murder** by Frederick Knott and Tuesday 3 July. The play for the last date has yet to be decided but will probably be a reading of a play which will be part of our season next year. When known, notices will be put up in the Coffee Lounge and Foyer and the next Newsletter. Attendance fee, to include Coffee/Tea and biscuits, will be £1 per head.

SATURDAY 19 MAY

Hobson's Choice Wrap Party

There will be the usual Wrap Party following the last performance, of our latest play **Hobson's Choice**. 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 20 MAY

Theatre Clean Up Seaford Little Theatre from 2.30pm

All cast and crew members of **Hobson's Choice** 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 at a local hostelry.

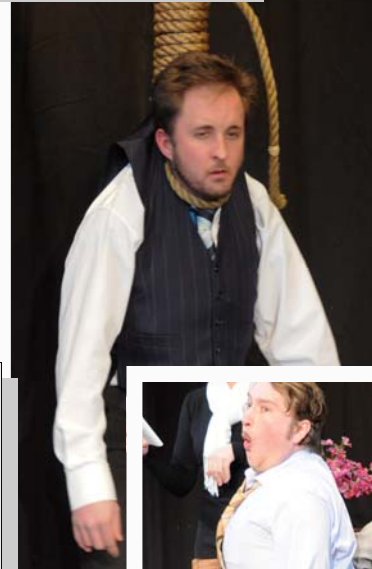
FRIDAY 7 and SATURDAY 8 SEPTEMBER SEAFORD LIVE! 2012

We would like to participate in **Seaford Live!** again this year. The running dates for the whole event are the **7 - 16 September**. Will any members wishing to take part please attend at the Theatre on **Friday 25 May** at 7.30. The theme this year will be **Seaside** and Graham Tubbs will be directing. Please bring along anything you have that can be used relating to this theme. Monologues, duologues, sketches (similar format to last year). Our performance dates will be **Friday 7 and Saturday 8 September** so as not to impinge on rehearsal time for **Straight And Narrow**. If any members know of others who may wish to take part, please let them know of the date of the meeting and production dates. Thank you.

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

Body Of Evidence

Photos From The Set Of *Habeas Corpus*
taken by Andrew Parkinson





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



Deadline for next edition: 1 JUNE

STILL GOING ELECTRONIC



A further reminder that future newsletters, where possible, will be sent out via email. Many of you will have already received this edition in that fashion, but if you didn't and have an email address that it can be sent to, then please pass it on to the editor for next time. You can reach me at:

mail@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk

Aside from the obvious, the other advantage of an electronic newsletter is that you can have it in full colour and a better resolution.

COMING UP ...

Our next production is a double bill consisting of *Fumed Oak* by Noel Coward and *The Browning Version* by Terence Rattigan
Audition Notices below:

AUDITION NOTICE - **FUMED OAK** an unpleasant comedy by Noel Coward

Audition: Wednesday 25 April - 7.30pm

Seaford Little Theatre

Production dates: 20 - 28 July 2012

Director: Mary Young

Henry Gow was tricked into marrying his awful wife, Doris, and for years now he has loathed her and their adenoidal child, Elsie, and his utterly repulsive mother-in-law, Mrs Rockett. In scene 1 he appears to accept the grim state of things, but in scene 2, the downtrodden worm has turned and Doris gets her comeuppance.

It is very short but provides scope to develop four lovely (or unlovely!) character parts.

CAST

Henry Gow	playing age 40+
Doris (His Wife)	playing age 40ish
Elsie (His Daughter)	playing age 14/15
Mrs Rockett (His Mother-in-law)	playing age 60+

Audition pieces: Doris, Elsie & Mrs Rockett - pages 8 -12

Henry:

pages 20-21 & 25-26 (with Doris, Mrs R & Elsie)

Scripts are available from me or at the theatre. Make sure you sign them in and out. As there are not many copies for either play it would be appreciated if those wishing to audition would photocopy the relevant pages and return the script for the benefit of others - thank you.

Anyone who cannot make the audition date and is interested in a part then please contact me and I will arrange an alternative date for you.

MARY YOUNG

EMAIL: young-g4@sky.com

TELEPHONE: 01323 894304

AUDITION NOTICE - ***THE BROWNING VERSION*** by Terence Rattigan

Audition: Wednesday 25 April - 7.30pm
Seaford Little Theatre
Production dates: 20 - 28 July 2012

Director: Margaret Kennedy

Ill health is forcing Andrew Crocker-Harris to retire from school-teaching. His wife despises him for being a failure and has been finding consolation with a master, Frank Hunter. As Andrew prepares to leave she openly taunts him. Frank, witnessing this, is disgusted and bitterly ashamed. As the full story of the marriage is revealed, he warms to Andrew. Millie knows she has lost Frank, but even more bitter is the realization that he is now Andrew's fast friend.

CAST

John Taplow	<i>schoolboy, 16</i>
Frank Hunter	<i>popular teacher late 30s to late 40s</i>
Millie Crocker-Harris	<i>smartly dressed, early 50s</i>
Andrew Crocker-Harris	<i>early retirement, speaks in a very gentle voice</i>
Dr Frobisher	<i>Headmaster, 50s</i>
Mr Gilbert	<i>replacement teacher, middle 20s</i>
Mrs Gilbert	<i>new wife of above, early 20s</i>

Audition pieces:

Millie and Frank - from P11 top Millie: "That reminds me etc" to P14 middle Frank: "I`m coming to Bradford"

Andrew and Taplow - from P18 bottom Andrew: "Line 1399 begin" to P21 top Andrew: "No. Go back to get that etc"

Dr Frobisher (with Andrew) - from P22 Dr F: "Have the Gilbert`s etc" to P 27 bottom Andrew: "Yes"

Mr & Mrs Gilbert (with Andrew and Millie) - from middle P32 Andrew: "Don`t you want to see etc" to top P37 Gilbert: "Well, goodbye, Sir."

Scripts are available from me or at the theatre. Make sure you sign them in and out. As there are not many copies for either play it would be appreciated if those wishing to audition would photocopy the relevant pages and return the script for the benefit of others - thank you.

Anyone who cannot make the audition date and is interested in a part then please contact me and I will arrange an alternative date for you.

MARGARET KENNEDY

EMAIL: margaretkennedy@talktalk.net

TELEPHONE: 01323 894938

ONE ACT PLAY WRITING COMPETITION

The Scottish Community Drama Association has launched it's bi-annual One Act Play Writing Competition – Play on Words 2012-13.

This is a worldwide competition, open to all, and plays in other languages and dialects are welcome. The closing date is 30 June 2012.

Plays must exceed 20mins in length, but be no more than 50mins long. Entries must not have been previously publically performed or published. The 3 winning plays will receive a cash prize and the plays will be performed (either as a rehearsed reading or a full performance) at the Play on Words Gala Evening in November 2013.

If anyone wants to know more or is interested in taking part, then email me at mail@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk and I will forward them more details and an entry form

Seaford Little Theatre
Notice of Extraordinary General Meeting to be held on
Friday, 27th April at 7.30.pm. at the theatre

Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence
2. To consider changes to the Rules of the Society proposed by the Management Committee. See (a) to (f) below. *
3. Any Other Business

The committee reviewed proposed changes to the rules of the society following from the AGM last October. It was agreed that changes were necessary, with some of the opinion that the whole document should be rewritten by a sub-committee using a model constitution. This would take some months and it was agreed to suggest amendments to the current document for presentation to the membership in April, in the interim. It was agreed that the following changes should be put to the membership at the Extraordinary General Meeting in April:

* a) Rule 8 to read:

“8a) The management of the society as a whole shall be vested in a Management Committee. This committee shall be elected annually, with two exceptions:

- i. The Chairman may hold office for no more than three successive years.
- ii. The President may be elected for a longer period.

8b) The constitution of the Management Committee shall be as follows:

The Honorary Executive Officers referred to in Rule 7 ex officio with voting powers.

Four other members of the Society elected for 2 years, two of whom shall retire annually in rotation, but be eligible for re-election.

8c) Nomination forms for officers and committee members shall be sent to members with the agenda for the AGM. These must be signed by the nominator, seconder and nominee, and returned to the Hon. Secretary prior to the start of the AGM.

8d) – the present 8b

8e) – the present 8c amended to “The Committee shall have the power to co-opt, but co-opted members shall not be Trustees.”

- b) It was agreed to suggest merging Rule 19 into Rule 5 as it covers the same information on non payment of subscriptions.
- c) It was also suggested that the following wording be added to Rule 10: “Committee Meetings shall be chaired by the Chairman, or the Vice-Chairman in the absence of the Chairman.”
- d) To clear the confusion caused by members’ eligibility to vote at the AGM, it was agreed to add a clause to Rule 17 to read: c) Members paying their subscription before the AGM in October are eligible to vote at that AGM . All subscriptions for the following year become due as from 31st October, but can be paid after the AGM. Members paying after the AGM or after 31st October are paying the subscription for the following twelve months and voting at the AGM of that year.
- e) It was agreed to allow Proxy Votes at the AGM. This would be put in as the replacement Rule 19 to read: A member can appoint a proxy to vote on his/ her behalf at an AGM. A proxy must be a fully paid up member of the society and accept responsibility to act as proxy on behalf of another member. Proxy voting forms will be sent to any member unable to attend the AGM, upon request to the Hon. Secretary.
- f) It was agreed to change Rule 26b) to read: Casting Committee: This committee shall consist of the Director, a member of the Management Committee and one other member with considerable stage experience, none of whom are eligible to be cast.

Some copies of the Rule Book will be available at the meeting or can be obtained from Mary.

Coffee will be available after the meeting. For further information or to give apologies contact Mary Young, Hon. Secretary, ring 894304, text 07891691341 or e-mail young-g4@sky.com