



## THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



HELLO EVERYONE. Dennis Picot took on quite a challenge when he agreed to direct *Equally Divided* by Ronald Harwood, our February production. This multi-layered psychological comedy was a test of skill for all concerned and Dennis was fortunate to have a particularly experienced cast. The result was an amusing and thought-provoking evening. I have heard that many members of the audience discussed the play for some time after curtain down! It is good to stretch ourselves in this way and thanks go to Dennis, his talented cast, the set builders and crew, all of whom contributed to another Little Theatre success.

The theatre itself is in constant need of repairs and alterations, and a rather exciting recent development is the splendid spiral staircase that now leads up to the lighting box. We have been able to make this much needed improvement not only through our own healthy box-office but also with the help of a small grant from the council. Before the installation of this staircase access to the lighting box involved a feat of contortion that must have daunted several would-be light and sound volunteers. So now, if you are thinking of helping in this way, you will at least be able to reach the light and sound deck without turning yourself inside out to get there.

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## OUR NEXT PRODUCTION - *TIME AND TIME AGAIN* by Alan Ayckbourn



FOR OUR NEXT PRODUCTION WE welcome the deft hand of Adrian Bowd into the director's chair with a pivotal play in the career of the prolific and much-loved Alan Ayckbourn. Written in 1971 this was a marked departure from the more farcical style of his earlier works and featured a hero who was entirely unmotivated and had no goals. Someone who was more of a bystander to life, rather than an active participant. It was greeted with widespread critical praise for its character-led comedy and drama.

Following a family funeral, Graham, his wife Anna, and her brother Leonard return home, accompanied by Peter, an employee of Graham's, and his attractive fiancée Joan. Graham is rather taken with the young lady, and does his best to ingratiate himself with her.

But he is furious when Joan, exasperated by her inept and sports-mad fiancé, turns instead to the unambitious Leonard for comfort and solace and a romance develops. Unhappy with the situation, Graham decides to take the moral high ground and try to put things 'right', with unexpected, and inevitably hilarious consequences.

Featuring the strong acting talents of Rob McLaren as the anti-hero, Leonard, Trish Richings and Ian Clegg as Anna and Graham, Lindsey Hollidge as Joan and the debut at Seaford of James Meikle as sporting enthusiast Peter, this promises to be a real treat for our May audiences.

The show opens on Friday 16 May 2014 and runs through to the following Saturday 24 May, with evening performances from 7.45pm and a matinee on Saturday 17 May at 2.30pm.

Tickets for members (don't forget your membership card please) and friends of the theatre are available in advance from **Thursday 17 April 2014** at our box office:

**STITCH, 13 Broad Street, Seaford, BN25 1LS.** NB. The office will be shut Good Friday and Easter Monday.

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 a special price of £7.00 each for the first night, the matinée and the last Saturday. Please note there is no longer a 'two for one' first night offer.

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

The next production to benefit from the above is ***Time and Time Again*** by the ever-popular Alan Ayckbourn, directed by Adrian Bowd. Rehearsals are well under way and the set is almost finished, complete with garden gnome and a pebble-dashed exterior that is a work of art in itself. Our audiences are going to love this one! Production dates are May 16-24.

At last the spring seems to have arrived, so all those of us involved with rehearsals throughout the area will not (we hope) have to freeze in cold rehearsal rooms. Enjoy whatever it is you're doing.

My very best wishes to you all

Sue Shephard

### Response from Mary Young to The Chairman's comments in the last newsletter:

Sue wrote last time about how good it is for the society that our members are reaching out and performing with so many other groups. I agree that this is a good thing, but would wish to add that we cannot continue to produce the high standard of theatre we aim to at Seaford Little Theatre unless there are lots of supporters willing to work behind the scenes in a great many capacities. I know that many stalwarts manage to do both and we are grateful to them. Since my youth in amateur theatre, I have always believed that those of us who have the privilege to act should give back just a little in offering to work behind the scenes now and again. We cannot stage plays without the backstage crew, the continuity, the techies, the wardrobe people, the set builders and front of house staff. I hope other members will agree. We say a big thank you to all those who only wait in the wings!

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

### SATURDAY 24 MAY

#### ***Time And Time Again* Wrap Party**

There will be the usual Wrap Party following the last performance, of our latest production ***Time And Time Again***. 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 25 MAY

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

All cast and crew members of ***Time And Time Again***. 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.

## PLAY READING



WHY NOT COME AND JOIN US, to read or just to listen, at our monthly Play Readings, in the Coffee Lounge of the theatre, held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month (unless there is a production)? It is good fun and you can read parts you wouldn't necessarily be able to play on stage! The attendance fee, which includes Coffee/Tea and biscuits, is only £1 per head.

So far this year we've read ***Fresh Fields*** by Ivor Novello, ***When We Are Married*** by J.B.Priestly and ***Quartet*** by Ronald Harwood (as only 4 people remembered it was on!) Scripts are either borrowed from the library or we do have a small collection of our own returned scripts. We try to read plays that may feature in the future schedule as well as old favourites. I also hope to add some current titles in the next few months and will try to advertise the next month's title in the Coffee Lounge. It has also been suggested that we could do some "Rehearsed Readings" for a Social Evening on occasions.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or to let me know what you think. I hope to see you at a Play Reading soon.

Mary Young

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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

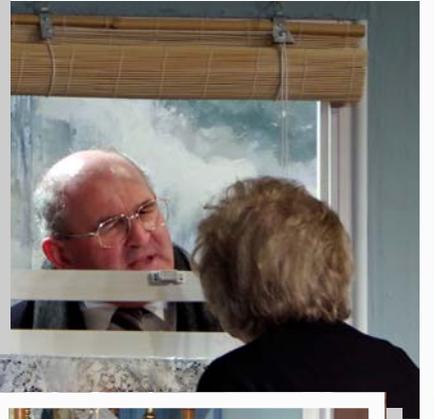
Deadline for next edition: 6 JUNE 2014

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)**

# Where There's A Will



Photos From The Set Of  
*Equally Divided*  
taken by Adrian Bowd



## AUDITION NOTICE - **PORTRAIT OF MURDER** by Robert Bloomfield

Audition: Tuesday 29 April 2014 - 7.30pm

Seaford Little Theatre

Production dates: 25 July - 2 August 2014

Director: Margaret Kennedy

Eliot Barlow and his mistress, Denise, planned to accidentally kill his rich, author wife Paula in a gas explosion, but she was unexpectedly rescued by her agent, James Guthrie. Her burns were bad enough to require plastic surgery using the photograph Tod Logan had used to paint Paula's portrait, and she also suffered amnesia and damage to her vocal chords. Although a softer Paula returns home, Eliot & Denise are soon planning to try again, but meanwhile Paula is finding out about her old self from her secretary, Agnes, and from James and Tod, and in a series of flashbacks we see her through their eyes as she was on the day of the explosion. Events then take a very unexpected turn and finally both Paula and Eliot get their just deserts.

The script is now out of print but we have managed to obtain a set from the library. Copies can be had from Margaret Kennedy 01323 894938 only. They will not be left at the Theatre as they have had a tendency to go missing in the past!

Please let me know if you are interested in auditioning, and if you cannot attend the specified date I can arrange another.

### CHARACTERS

TOD LOGAN	Waspish, arrogant, carefully elegant. He seems marshmallow soft, like a petulant baby.
AGNES WEBSTER	Loyal, hardworking secretary.
ELIOT BARLOW	Personable, self-assured and charming toward Paula, otherwise hard and ruthless.
PAULA BARLOW	Seems younger and less poised than her portrait. Has a slightly defensive air, like a sensitive child in a strange and possibly hostile world.
MRS BARLOW	Complex personality. Selfish, hysterical hypochondriac.
DENISE MURRAY	Younger than Paula. Vivacious, impulsive and unpredictable.
JAMES GUTHRIE	Older than Eliot. Outwardly gruff.

PLEASE NOTE SCRIPTS ARE NO LONGER AVAILABLE FROM THE THEATRE BUT ONLY FROM THE DIRECTOR  
This measure has unfortunately had to be implemented because scripts have gone missing under the old system.

### AUDITION PIECES

#### Eliot

*Page 4 top:* Eliot: "Yes, Paula etc..." to *Page 5 top:* Eliot: "Welcome home, Mrs Barlow"

#### Agnes

*Page 17:* Mrs B: "Oh must be perfect, mustn't we?" to *Page 19:* Agnes: "... listened in on your bedroom extension."

#### Denise

*Page 21:* Denise: "You're very loving etc..." to *Page 23:* Denise's exit.

#### Guthrie

*Page 37:* Mrs B: "Is marriage counselling etc..." to *Page 39:* Paula: "How can I ever be like her again?"

#### Tod

*Page 41 bottom:* Tod: "Paula my sweet." to *Page 45 middle:* Mrs B: "I'll get back at her somehow."

No set piece for Paula/Mrs Barlow as she appears in most pieces

Margaret Kennedy

TELEPHONE: 01323 894938