

## THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



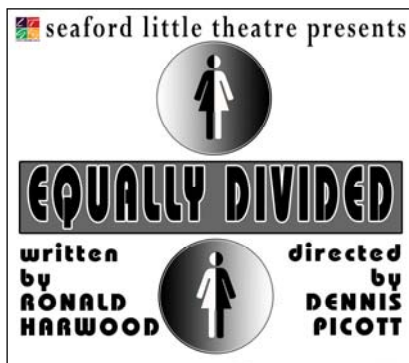
HELLO EVERYONE. As I write this message on the day of the winter solstice the rain is pelting down and the wind is howling, but the Christmas lights in Broad Street are a cheerful reminder that this time of year does have its compensations. And now, of course, the nights will start to draw out. Imperceptibly at first and then quite quickly once we are into January. A new year that promises to be an excellent one for Seaford Little Theatre.

At this time of year, though, many people wish to take stock before moving on and perhaps members of the Little Theatre are no exception. One change in emphasis that we might consider is the growing trend for actors to look outside their own particular group. Many of the SLT actors have, in recent years, been cast in plays produced by various companies throughout the area. We also have benefited from some valuable "guest appearances" and the directing skills of people not always solely linked to our theatre. In the past members were more insular, but it seems that those days are no more. It is a process of cross fertilisation than should help to maintain and raise standards, and one that I think should be embraced. I know that there are various opinions held on this issue and I should welcome any comments you might like to send my way!

Many of you will be interested to know that Jack Mortimer, who has been such a valuable member of the production committee for many years, is stepping down from that task at the end of 2013. He will by no means lose his links to the theatre (he is now a life member) and we hope to see him often. His place on the committee will be taken by Adrian Bowd who has an encyclopaedic knowledge of plays and will do much to ensure that we continue to pick good ones. Adrian is an experienced director and is to direct *Time And Time Again* (his debut at Seaford) next May.

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## OUR NEXT PRODUCTION - ***EQUALLY DIVIDED*** by Ronald Harwood



DENNIS PICOTT MAKES A WELCOME return to Seaford to direct this thought provoking and engaging play by renowned playwright Ronald Harwood (*The Dresser, Quartet*) as our entertaining opening production for the new year.

One cold, dull and dismal February the two Taylor sisters have been brought together, following the death of their mother, in the converted railway carriage on the south coast that was her home. The eldest, Edith (Margaret Kennedy), has been dutiful and self-sacrificing, giving up her own life to devote herself to the care of her mother, while the glamorous Renata (Sylvia Aston) has lived a life full of gratification and excess, enjoying rich husbands and partners and never wanting for anything. Now it is time to read the will and

divide their family inheritance, so that Edith can finally break free and perhaps find the happiness and freedom she so longs for. If only it was that simple.

Also thrown into this tense sibling rivalry are stolid family solicitor, Charles Mowbray (Roland Boorman) and failed actor and local antiques dealer, Fabian Hill (Alan Lade) to offer advice and the odd consoling shoulder to cry on. As Fabian says: 'There is nothing like a will for bringing out the best in people.'

The show opens on Friday 14 February 2014 and runs through to the following Saturday 22 February, with evening performances from 7.45pm and a matinee on Saturday 15 February at 2.30pm.

Tickets for members (don't forget your membership card) and friends of the theatre, as usual, are available in advance from 17 January 2014 at our box office:

**STITCH, 13 Broad Street, Seaford, BN25 1LS.** Please note this is open 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 a special price of £7.00 each for the first night, the matinee and the last Saturday. Please note there is no more 'two for one' first night offer.

**For general enquiries regarding this production ring Diane Guyatt (01323) 490397**

So on to the plays themselves:

Our last production *Death in High Heels* was a great ensemble piece that achieved 100% attendance. It presented particular challenges for our newest director Angie James who had to choreograph a large cast around a terrific set on two levels, with enough entrances and exits to suit a Whitehall farce! Angie overcame some real difficulties with style, and a good time was had by all. We hope she will direct for us again.

The February production, *Equally Divided*, is now well into rehearsal. Dennis Picott has chosen to direct this bitter-sweet play, wonderfully written by Ronald Harwood (the writer behind the film *Quartet*). I'm sure the Seaford audiences will love its insight into human relationships and its mix of humour and sadness.

To pinch a catchphrase from *Strictly Come Dancing*, my advice for 2014 is: "Keep acting" (and directing, set-building, front-of-housing etc)!! The theatre is a world like no other, and I mean that in the nicest possible way. Have a happy year.

With very best wishes to you all

Sue Shephard

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

### SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY

#### *Equally Divided* Wrap Party

There will be the usual Wrap Party following the last performance, of our latest production *Equally Divided*. 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 23 FEBRUARY

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

All cast and crew members of *Equally Divided* 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 READINGS - FIRST TUESDAY IN EACH MONTH (unless stated otherwise)

#### *Coffee Lounge* Seaford Little Theatre from 7.30pm

Further Play Readings have been organised and will take place at 7.30pm in the Coffee Lounge of the Theatre on **Tuesday 4 February**, when we will reading our end of year production *When We Are Married*, and also on **Tuesday 4 March** and **Tuesday 1 April** again both at 7.30. These plays to be determined nearer the time. Attendance fee, to include Coffee/Tea and biscuits, will be £1 per head.

## MEMBERSHIP CARDS



NO DOUBT YOU WILL ALL have renewed your membership (and if not, why not? Get your renewal fee to Penny Cockell immediately!) and been issued with your 2014 membership cards. So please can everyone take note that from now on, when booking tickets in advance of their public availability, all members will be required to show their card and thus demonstrate their entitlement to that privilege.

NB. This is actually not a new rule, just one that has shown a tendency to lapse over the years and perhaps needs a bit of reinforcing.

It also serves to justify our issuing the ickle pretty cards in the first place. Thank you.



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: 28 MARCH 2014

BN25 3EH



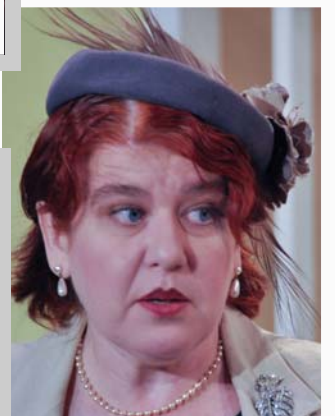
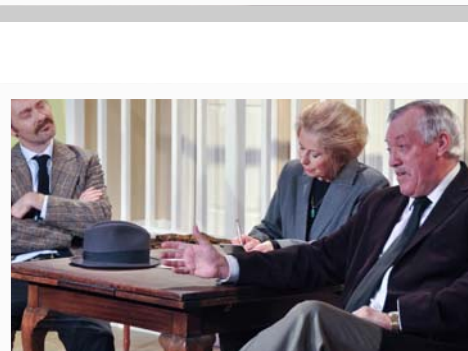
**For a full colour version of this newsletter and lots of other information  
Visit the Seaford Little Theatre Website on [www.seafordlittletheatre.co.uk](http://www.seafordlittletheatre.co.uk)**



# The Heels Are Alive



Photos From The Set Of  
*Death In High Heels*  
taken by Andrew Parkinson



## AUDITION NOTICE - ***TIME AND TIME AGAIN*** by Alan Ayckbourn

Audition: Wednesday 29 January 2014 - 7.30pm

Seaford Little Theatre

Production dates: 16 - 24 May 2014

Director: Adrian Bowd

Following a family funeral, Graham, his wife Anna, and her brother Leonard return home, accompanied by Peter, an employee of Graham's, and his fiancée Joan. Graham is rather taken with Joan, and does his best to ingratiate himself with her. He is furious when Joan, exasperated by her inept and sports-mad fiancé, turns to Leonard for comfort, and a romance develops.

Unhappy with the situation, Graham takes the moral high ground, and tries to put things "right", with unexpected, and hilarious consequences.

A good, well written Ayckbourn play, with good parts for all the cast. It should prove fun to do, and perform.

### CHARACTERS

GRAHAM	40+ An intimidator
ANNA	40+ Graham's wife. Somewhat downtrodden
LEONARD	Late 30's Anna's brother. A poet, a dreamer
PETER	Early 30's Graham's employee. Sports-mad amateur footballer and cricketer
JOAN	20's Peter's fiancée

### SCRIPTS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE THEATRE

Please return them as soon as you have finished reading so that others can also prepare. And don't forget to sign them in and out.

### AUDITION PIECES

Joan, Anna, Graham

*Page 5:* Joan "These are the ones aren't they?" to *Page 7:* Anna "Yes"

Peter & Leonard

*Page 12:* Peter "Anyway, I never have to worry about Joan" to *Page 13:* Leonard "Sorry, Bernard our stone friend, there"

Leonard & Joan

*Page 35:* Leonard "I don't think this afternoon can be described....." to *Page 36:* Leonard "Pond Dancing, it's the latest thing"

Adrian Bowd

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