

THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Dennis Picott

DEAR FRIENDS. as the New Year begins I am anticipating an exciting season of plays. As I write *A Slight Hangover*, directed by Trish Richings, is well into rehearsal, and the audition for *The 39 Steps* took place on Tuesday 9 January.

Looking back, 2017 ended with a very popular production of *Rumours* which was well received and enjoyed very good audiences. Congratulations are due to Margaret Kennedy and the cast and crew.

On the social side, we ended the year with a murder mystery evening and then a retro disco. A big thank you to the organisers of both events, which were greatly enjoyed. .

I am sure you are all aware that this is my first view from the Chair as Mary Young stepped down at October's AGM after three years. Mary continues to serve on our management committee as Secretary and I offer her many thanks for her continued encouragement and support.

Best wishes for the forthcoming year,

Dennis.



Luvvie Loquacity - The Thoughts Of Thespians

The theater is one of the few places left in the bright and noisy world where we sit in the quiet dark together, to be awake.

Sarah Ruhl, 100 Essays I Don't Have Time to Write

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION – *A SLIGHT HANGOVER* by Ian Olgilvy

In 1932 Noël Coward wrote *Design For Living*, a controversial play about two men and a woman who are romantically linked, at the end of which they embark on a shocking ménage à trois.

Some fifty years later Ian Olgilvy explores the question: what happened next? The two men, playwright Sir Lewis Messenger and artist Orson Woodley are now living on a Caribbean island, where they have spent the intervening years with their great love Giselle. She has now died and they are bereft. Then into their lives come the enigmatic Olga, along with her beautiful daughter Amanda. Suddenly their whole world is turned upside down.

This is a rich and poignant comedy that is by turns hilarious, filled with drama, and moving. Set on the sunny isle of St Marta's in the West Indies and directed by Trish Richings, this offers everything you need to banish those post Xmas blues.

The cast includes two more new-comers to Seaford who will, however, be well known to theatre goers in Sussex, David Morley and Jenny Lloyd-Lyons, as well as Seaford regulars Alan Lade, Roland Boorman, Peter Barnes and Clare Foreshaw. Audience members should be warned that this play contains some strong language in parts.

The production opens on Friday 16 February 2018 and runs through to the following Saturday 24 February, with a matinée only on Saturday 17 February. 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 19 January 2018 at our box office:

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

Please note that Redgolds are not able to take any bookings over the telephone. They have very kindly given their services as a place where tickets can be purchased in person, but they are also a business and we would respectfully request that anyone wishing to make enquiries about tickets should do so using the number below.

Postal applications should now be sent to: Diane Guyatt, 31 Pondsde Court, Sutton Drove, Seaford, BN25 3ET

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 £9.00 each for the tiered seats and £8.00 each for all other seats.

For general enquiries regarding the next production please ring Liz & Len Treglown 01323 492821

SOCIAL COMMITTEE



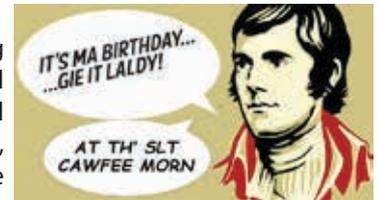
Thank you to everyone who attended and took an active part in our social events of 2017. Deborah and Alan Lade, Cicely Ridley and Diane Guyatt have worked like Trojans alongside me and Ray this last year to put together a varied and, we hope, an entertaining programme. We are grateful to all of you who helped with preparations for any of the various events and also those who stayed on to help clear up afterwards.

Our last event of the year was the Retro Christmas Disco with DJ Colin Smith, and a very big thank you goes out to all who attended. There was a brilliant atmosphere and your dance moves were so hot, not only were there scorch marks on the auditorium floor, but the smoke alarms wanted to join in the fun. Don't forget to check out the photos on our Facebook page. Now some dates for your diary for our upcoming social events. Hope to see you there ...

MONDAY 22 JANUARY

Burn's Night Coffee Morning **Seaford Little Theatre from 10.00am**

Brush off your finest tartan and get your sporrans out of storage, as we will be celebrating Burn's Night on what will neither be the correct day or at night. But apart from that we will be painting our faces blue, piping in the haggis, saying 'hoots mon' a lot, and waxing lyrical about wee timorous beasties. (*So, no stereotypes there then.*) As that well known Scotsman, Mel Gibson, once said: "Ye may teck oor lives but ye canna teck oor coffee morning!" So come along and join the fun. **'Give and take makes good friends'** - Scottish proverb



SATURDAY 10 FEBRUARY

A Valentine's Day Celebration **Seaford Little Theatre from 7.30pm**

'If music be the food of love ...' hmmm, and a few cocktails wouldn't be such a bad idea either. Let's celebrate with an evening of lurrve. There will be music and song, a quiz, cocktails, a light buffet, chocolates, free raffle, chocolates, gifts, and chocolates. Go on treat yourself, you deserve it. (*Did I mention there were chocolates?*) We guarantee you will leave delightfully shaken but not stirred.

SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY

A Slight Hangover Wrap Party

There will be the usual Wrap Party, following the last performance, of our latest production **A Slight Hangover**. 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 FEBRUARY

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

All cast and crew members of **A Slight Hangover** 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.

For further details about any of the Social activities, or if you have any comments/suggestions please contact me, Debbie Cox, on 07596709044 or email at coxdeb8@gmail.com. Thank you for your continuing support.

I look forward to hearing from you soon, Debbie

Luvvie Loquacity - The Thoughts Of Thespians

Cinema is a literature of images. Theatre is a literature of ideas. If you go twenty seconds without dialogue on the stage, you've had it.

Peter Glenville

PLAY READING GROUP

We always look forward to welcoming new members to our play reading sessions on the first Tuesday of the month at 19.30 in the Coffee Lounge. There is a nominal charge of £1 for refreshments.

In December we read **Old Actors Never Die: They Simply Lose the Plot** by Lynne Brittney and in January **In Praise of Love** by Terence Rattigan, which is our summer production.

Unfortunately, due to some slight problems with script availability, we are unable to specify what will be read over the coming months but rest assured the play readings will still go ahead as usual on the following dates: Tuesday 6 February, Tuesday 6 March, Tuesday 3 April and Tuesday 1 May. Script details will be sent out nearer the time.



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*



▶ **Copy deadline for next edition of the newsletter: 30 APRIL 2018** ◀

Have You Heard?



PUBLICITY TEAM



Several of our members have got together to review how we publicise our activities and look at any ways that this can be improved. Seaford Little Theatre is very well supported by the community, particularly in comparison to other groups, but we should never allow ourselves to get too complacent. The Publicity Team had three very productive meetings before last year's AGM and our recommendations were sent to the Committee for approval. We will be looking further into the following ideas itemised below over the course of the coming year.

- A survey to be given to each person who attends the plays over the course of the next 15 months to give us insight into what the audience want at our theatre.
- The Newsletters are printed and hand delivered (where possible) by members of the Publicity Team for the next 15 months. If you prefer to have an emailed copy please let me know.
- A6 flyers and posters are sent to Bed & Breakfast establishments, WI's, Hotels, Care Homes, Residential Homes and Sheltered Accommodation etc.
- The A6 flyers to be printed on reverse with details of the play and areas for parking.
- BNC signs to install more boards at Alfriston Road and East Dean Road entrances to Seaford.
- On-line booking system to be investigated.
- Focus Group is set up for audience participation.

Our team comprises: Debbie Cox, Ray Cox, Sue Shephard, John Hamilton, Kate Watts, Cicely Ridley, Ian Baldwin and Deborah Lade. If you have any further ideas please contact me: E. debilade@btinternet.com T. 01323 492177

WARDROBE

Over the last few months a small group has come together to revamp the wardrobe and we have been busy with an extensive review of all our costumes and accessories. We have recycled many of the lesser used items that were just taking up our limited space to Gladrags Community Costume Resource. The ones that we are keeping will all be rehung and have a size cube or two on them (the same as in shops) then sorted so that we can see at a glance what we need.

We are fortunate to have a talented team who all work very well together - in fact we have been accused of having a bit too much fun and not getting any work done. Personally I think that the guys building the set are just envious that we can both laugh and work at the same time, but then again they have music playing while they are working - we don't. I've tried singing a few times but funnily enough all I get are complaints.

The members of our team are: Cicely Ridley, Kate Watts, Ken Watts, Sue Shephard, Polly Troup and Deborah Lade. We are always on the lookout for reliable people to join our merry band of volunteers to help with the essential back-stage work of running the wardrobe and the Green Room. If you would like to get involved and become part of the team then please get in touch with me and we can have a chat about how you can help: E. debilade@btinternet.com, T. 01323 492177.

We meet every Wednesday evening from 7.00pm and work through until 9.00-ish.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



Membership fees for the forthcoming year were due, as always, on 1 November, so if you have yet to do it, please make use of the form below to get them renewed. Either hand it or send it direct to Penny Cockell. Thank you.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Name(s) _____

I/We wish to renew my/our membership of Seaford Little Theatre for 2018. 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



PROGRAMME FOR THE 2018 SEASON

The programme for 2018 is as follows:

- ▶ 16 - 24 February **A SLIGHT HANGOVER** by Ian Olgilvy, directed by Trish Richings
- ▶ 18 - 26 May **THE 39 STEPS** by John Buchan, adapted by Patrick Barlow, directed by Dennis Piccott
- ▶ 27 July - 4 August **IN PRAISE OF LOVE** by Terence Rattigan, directed by Margaret Kennedy
- ▶ 09 - 17 November **MURDER ON THE NILE** by Agatha Christie, directed by Garry Fowler

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