



STAGEW



SEAFORD LITTLE THEATRE NEWSLETTER

Issue 9 - January 2022

our next production : *PRIVATE LIVES* by Noël Coward

Our opening production for 2022 is Noël Coward's sophisticated and celebrated comedy of manners, *Private Lives*, directed by Mike Truman.

Two honeymooning couples, Elyot and Sibyl Chase and Victor and Amanda Prynne, are occupying adjoining hotel rooms in France. Unfortunately Elyot and Amanda were previously

married to each other, but had parted ways due to their highly volatile relationship. Their unexpected reunion rekindles their earlier passion and they desert their new spouses and run off to Paris in an attempt to recapture that intimate connection.

This cynical and witty commentary on love and marriage stars Jon Terry as Elyot, Sandy Truman as Amanda, David Hallett



as Victor, Lesley Drew as Sibyl and Margaret Kennedy as the French maid Louise, and is full of Coward's trademark humour and barbed dialogue.

The show opens on Friday 4 March 2022 and runs through to the following Saturday 12 March with a matinée only on Saturday 5 March. Evening performances commence at 7.45pm and the matinée will start at 2.30pm.

As ever, the safety of our audience is paramount and we would ask everyone to continue to be sensible and vigilant about their actions in a public space and to be considerate of the concerns and feelings of their fellow attendees.

This is one of Noël Coward's most brilliantly realised plays and features an excellent stellar cast, so book your seats now and get your New Year off to a splendid start.

a happy new year to all our members and friends

Luvvie Loquacity - The Thoughts Of Thespians

Theatre is a verb before it is a noun, an act before it is a place.

Martha Graham

FOR ALL BOOKING INFORMATION SEE PAGE 8



THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Margaret Kennedy

ANOTHER YEAR, and the future still seems as uncertain as the previous six months had been. Our first comeback, however remotely rehearsed and performed, was a big success with the small audiences, going by the messages sent in and passed on.

To build from this came the play within a play, a sort of 'goes wrong' production of *A Christmas Carol*. This cleverly drew in all the crew as well as the five cast members, receiving gales of laughter from the still small but appreciative audiences. Well done Garry and all your hardworking team and a warm welcome to Debbie Cox, a spectacular debut! Mercifully no-one fell ill, so another successful conclusion.

Fingers crossed that all will be well for *Private Lives* in March, tickets for which will be available soon, check the website.

It was good to see so many members at the Cheese and Wine evening, when I took the opportunity to get Penny Cockell, daughter of our founder and late Life President, Valerie Shepherd, to share with us the stories of the Theatre's early days. Sadly circumstances later prevented us going ahead with the New Year's Eve Party.

Whilst we must all continue to be careful we can't put our lives on hold, so here's hoping that the pandemic becomes an endemic by the Annual General Meeting which will be held soon, when I hope to see as many of you as possible then.

Love, Margaret



TEA & TOAST COFFEE MORNINGS



Our Tea & Toast mornings will continue this year taking place on the first Monday of each month (excluding bank holidays) starting from 10.00am, with a nominal charge of £1, but will obviously be dependent on the prevailing situation regarding social gatherings.

The charity this time is TASC, the Ambulance Staff Charity, so please continue to show your excellent support each month. Any new tea and toasters are always welcome as well as all the old faces. Just show up and join in. The prospective upcoming dates are Monday 7 February and Monday 7 March, but we will keep you informed of any changes. Hopefully see you there.



Debbie Cox
Tel: 07596709044
Email: coxdeb8@gmail.com.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES



Social gatherings are still a tad unpredictable at the moment but we have some ideas in the pipeline, if we can get them off the ground. As you may be aware we had to cancel the New Year's Eve party because it was all too uncertain. Anyway, staying positive, plans for 2022 include another Homedrive, a wine tasting and music evening, the return of the popular

Seaford's Got Talent and a quiz, plus Alan has another walk planned once the weather improves a bit, so watch this space → □

Meanwhile here are some prospective dates for the coming weeks.

SATURDAY 12 MARCH

Private Lives Wrap Party



There will be the usual Wrap Party, following the last performance, of our latest production **Private Lives**. 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 13 MARCH

Theatre Clean Up

Seaford Little Theatre from 2.00pm

All cast and crew members of **Private Lives** to please attend to clean and tidy up the Theatre after this production. The costumes, props etc., will need to be returned and to be sorted beforehand and the Theatre to be cleaned through. There may also be a get together afterwards for a meal.

PLAY READING - OFF THE HOOK by Derek Benfield

I have arranged a play reading evening specifically for those who are interested in coming along to read in or listen to **Off The Hook** a farce by Derek Benfield.

This will take place on Monday 21 February 2022, 7.30pm at Seaford Little Theatre

Rather than giving out scripts only for them to go missing or not be returned in time for auditions, I thought it would be a better idea for those who are interested to come along and see what the play is about.

There are roles for five male and five female characters.

I can assure you that all who attend who want to read in will get an opportunity to do so.

I look forward to seeing you on that evening.

Thank you

Sharon Olieff



AUDITION NOTICE

OFF THE HOOK

by Derek Benfield, directed by Sharon Olieff

Audition Date: Monday 28 February 2022- 7.30pm

Seaford Little Theatre

Production dates: 10 - 18 June 2022

The action takes place in the lounge bar of Hook House, a quiet English hotel somewhere in the country and run by Major Catchpole and his wife Norah. Time: the present.

When Harold Spook is sprung from prison in order to tell the gang where in the hotel he stashed the loot, it seems that everything is going to plan. Unfortunately, he's the wrong Harold Spook and this Harold has no idea where the money is hidden. He's also a bit of an idiot and liable to give the game away at any moment. This is another funny and fast-paced romp from the pen of Derek Benfield.

As you can see elsewhere I am planning to hold a play-reading the week before so scripts will not be available until after that date. If you would like to know more about the play or any of the characters please call or email me.

Rehearsal days will be determined once the play has been cast (subject to discussion). A full rehearsal schedule will be available in due course.

If you are interested but unable to attend the audition date, please contact me so that I can arrange an alternative. If you are able to help behind the scenes, I would also be very pleased to hear from you.

CHARACTERS	
NORAH CATCHPOLE	HAROLD SPOOK
EDNA (HER SISTER)	MRS FLETCHER-BREWER
MAJOR CATCHPOLE	CAROL (HER DAUGHTER)
FRED BAXTER	POLLY
CHARLIE MULLINS	MR PARKINSON

Sharon Olieff Tel: 0773 683 8000 or 01323 873511

Email: Sharon.Olieff@barwells.com

PRODUCTIONS FOR THE 2022 SEASON

04 - 12 March	PRIVATE LIVES by Noël Coward	directed by Mike Truman
10 - 18 June	OFF THE HOOK by Derek Benfield	directed by Sharon Olieff
02 - 10 September	THE NIGHTINGALES! by Peter Quilter	directed by Trish Richings
09 - 17 December	SEASON'S GREETINGS by Alan Ayckbourn	directed by Garry Fowler

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



If you haven't paid your membership fees for the coming year yet, then please make use of the form below to get them renewed. Membership now runs for a calendar year, alongside the season's productions, from January to December. Once completed either hand the form in at the theatre or send it direct to the address below.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Name(s)

Address

Phone No(s)

Email(s)

Membership Fee
(tick one)

Adult

Student

I/We wish to renew my/our membership of Seaford Little Theatre for 2022.

The membership fee for 2022 is £10 per person (students - £5)

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

Membership Secretary, 4 Steyne Road, Seaford, BN25 1HA

Email: memsec@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk



Photos from the set of
A Christmas Carol
 taken by Andrew Parkinson
www.rememberingwhen.co.uk

Bah, Handbag!

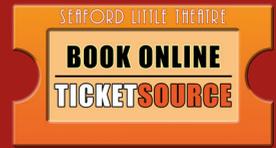


*The Farndale
 Christmas Carol
 with Trish Pape,
 Jenny Humphries,
 Lee Coleman-Powney,
 Angle Wright and Debbie
 Cox*





BOOKING INFORMATION



We also have an on-line booking system via TicketSource. This can be found at:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/seaford-little-theatre

or through our website, address below. Please note a small booking fee applies to all on-line sales. Unfortunately, due to the way in which the system operates, this facility cannot be used when exchanging Friend's Vouchers. These must still be presented at the Box Office as usual.

Postal applications should be sent to:

Diane Guyatt, 31 Pondsye 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 seek is not possible the nearest available seats will be sent.

Could you also provide an alternative date in case the the one you request is sold out.

The ticket prices are £9.00 each for the tiered seats and £8.00 each for all other seats.

Tickets for members (don't forget your membership card please) and Friends of the theatre are available at our box office:

SEAFORD TOURIST OFFICE,

37 Church Street, Seaford, BN25 1HG

Telephone Enquiries & Booking:

(01323) 897426

Email: seaford.tic@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk

Tickets for this production on sale now



Contributions to this Newsletter are always welcome. Send your pieces to:

newsletter@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk



For an on-line version of this newsletter and lots of other information visit the Seaford Little Theatre Website: www.seafordlittletheatre.co.uk

Potential copy deadline for next edition of the newsletter: 22 APRIL 2022