

THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



HELLO EVERYONE. Although it doesn't seem like it, the summer is over and the theatre is starting a new year of productions. November will see a big cast using every bit of stage space with J. B. Priestley's *When We Are Married*. I'm sure that everyone accepting a part in a play appreciates the commitment they have made... but rounding up so many actors for full cast rehearsals is going to be something of a challenge for Mary Young, our patient director.

I expected our audience to enjoy *Portrait of Murder* and they did! The auditorium was buzzing with exclamation and speculation on the day I was there. Congratulations to Margaret Kennedy for the way she handled the final twist in the story so successfully.

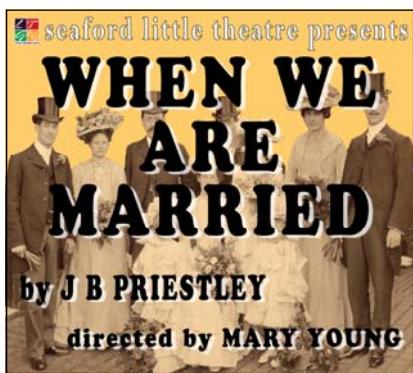
Next year is our 70th anniversary and we shall be marking this big event with a terrific programme that includes *The Wooden Dish* by Edmund Morris, a particular favourite of Val Shepherd our president and founder member who played the lead back in the 1960s. Also coming up will be Charlotte Jones's *Humble Boy* (the February production to be directed by Cathryn Parker), plus an adaptation of a Thomas Hardy short story and a final flourish with Noel Coward's *Relative Values*.

Some of you will be aware that a Seaford Little Theatre chairman has a limited life. The baton is passed on every three years and, since my three years ends this autumn, you will have someone else in the chair after the AGM on Friday October 24 – nomination forms as usual go out with this newsletter. It would be nice to see many of you there on that occasion so that I can say 'goodbye' in person. It has been a privilege and a pleasure (to say nothing of a sharp learning curve!) to occupy this seat for the past few years. The theatre is a great asset to the town and something we all can be proud of.

My very best wishes to you all

Sue Shephard

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION - **WHEN WE ARE MARRIED** by J B Priestley



THE LAST PRODUCTION OF this season is the classic Yorkshire period comedy *When We Are Married* written by J B Priestley and directed by Mary Young.

Three very respectable couples, the Helliwells, the Parkers and the Soppitts, are celebrating their joint silver wedding anniversaries when they receive the startling news that each of their marriages may be a sham and not legal. As their world is turned on its head, chaos of hilarious proportions ensues and each couple is forced to examine and reassess their respective relationships and status in the community. Throw into the mix a variety of well drawn supporting characters and you are guaranteed a superb evening's entertainment.

This play features a large cast of well known faces, as well as newcomers to Seaford, Katherine Whinn, John Gibbins and the director's very own granddaughter Katie Hargreaves.

The show opens on Friday 7 November 2014 and runs through to the following Saturday 15 November, with evening performances from 7.45pm and a matinee on Saturday 8 November at 2.30pm.

Tickets for members (don't forget your membership card please) and friends of the theatre are available in advance from **Friday 10 November 2014** at our box office:

STITCH, 13 Broad Street, Seaford, BN25 1LS.

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 Ray Cox 07984280067

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

SATURDAY 15 NOVEMBER

When We Are Married Wrap Party

There will be the usual Wrap Party following the last performance, of our latest production ***When We Are Married***. 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 16 NOVEMBER

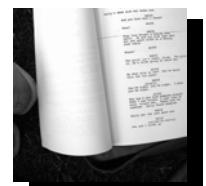
Theatre Clean Up Seaford Little Theatre from 2.30pm

All cast and crew members of ***When We Are Married***, 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

OUR PLAY-READING GROUP meets at 7.30pm on the first Tuesday each month in the coffee room at the theatre. Our programme for the next few months is:

7 October - ***Humble Boy*** by Charlotte Jones (February 2015 production) with copies available afterwards in preparation for the audition on 21 October.



November - No Play Reading due to Production Dress Rehearsal on the first Tuesday.

2 December - ***Our Town*** by Thornton Wilder.

6 January - ***Lark Rise to Candleford*** by Keith Dewhurst or ***The Wooden Dish*** by Edmund Morris if we can get the scripts.

If anyone has any suggestions for plays to read please let us know. We can also include readings of plays we will never be able to stage in Seaford.

For more information call Mary Young: Tel: 07891 691341 Email: gmaryyoung@gmail.com

PROGRAMME FOR THE 2015 SEASON

THE PROGRAMME FOR the new season is as follows:

13 - 21 February

HUMBLE BOY by Charlotte Jones, directed by Cathryn Parker

15 - 23 May

THE WOODEN DISH by Edmund Morris, directed by David Parton

Double Bill

THE COPYHOLD by Thomas Hardy, adapted and directed by Adrian Bowd

24 July - 1 August

THE CLASSIC SKETCH HOUR produced and directed by Adrian Bowd

13 - 21 November

RELATIVE VALUES by Nöel Coward, directed by Derek Watts

GUEST BOOK



AS WELL AS OUR WEBSITE, Seaford Little Theatre has both a Facebook presence and a guest book, also on the web, both of which can be accessed via the online pages (address at the bottom of the page).

These are for everyone to use, so please don't be shy, if there is anything you would like to say either about our productions or any other aspect of the society then feel free to leave us a comment.

And don't think you just have to be complimentary either (unless it is about me) - if there is anything you're not happy about, or suggestions you would like to make then please let us know and we will look into them.



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: 26 DECEMBER 2014



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

Murder Is A Poor Trait

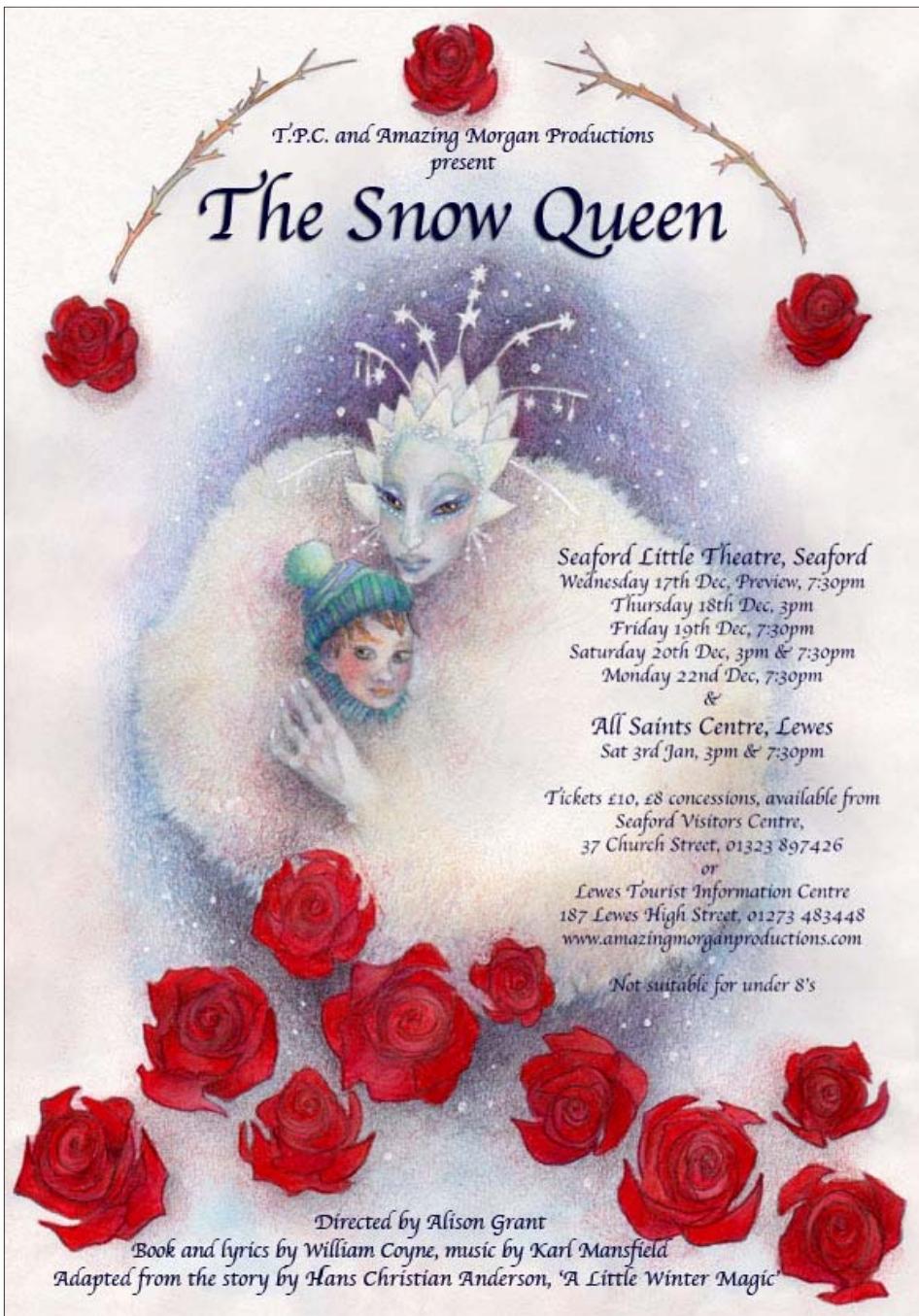


Photos From The Set Of
Portrait Of Murder
taken by Andrew Parkinson



THE SNOW QUEEN presented by The Players Collective

The Players Collective, who staged Scrooge at The Little Theatre at Christmas 2012, are returning this December with ***The Snow Queen*** magically adapted from the story by Hans Christian Anderson and directed by Alison Grant, with book and lyrics by William Coyne and music by Karl Mansfield. First produced in Ashland, Oregon USA, this is the UK premiere!



The path to adulthood is a magical journey. It can weave between good and evil, transforming heartbreak into hope and friendship into love.

Be spirited away by this bewitching fantasy where even the flowers dream and animals tell their stories. Join Gerda on a dangerous and whimsical quest to save her best friend Kay before he is trapped forever in the Snow Queen's Palace.

This is a tale about love, adventure and the pangs of loss that go hand-in-hand with coming of age; told with wit, hilarity and some scary moments which tap into the darkness and mysticism that make this 1845 fairytale so alluring.

It is not recommended for Under 8 year olds due to kooky characters and scary plotting.

BOX OFFICE
For Seaford the Box Office is at:
The Seaford Visitors Centre
37 Church Lane,
01323 897426

Luvvie Loquacity – *The Thoughts Of A Thespian*

New Year resolutions are simply cheques that people draw on a bank where they have no account

Oscar Wilde

A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.

Anon

People worry about what they eat between Christmas and New Year, but they should really worry about what they eat between New Year and Christmas.

Anon

AUDITION NOTICE - **HUMBLE BOY**by Charlotte Jones

Audition: Tuesday 21 October 2014 - 7.30pm

Seaford Little Theatre

Production dates: 13 - 21 February 2015

Director: Cathryn Parker

Rehearsals: Mondays, Thursdays and some Sundays from 23rd November 2014
(Christmas break from 18th December 2014 to 5th January 2015)

In *Humble Boy*, Charlotte Jones's gentle reworking of *Hamlet*, the melancholy Dane is a fat, short, stuttering geek, Ophelia a reformed floozy, Gertrude an out-and-out bitch and Claudius a randy neighbour with a Glenn Miller obsession.

Astrophysicist and socially challenged Felix Humble returns home from his research post in Cambridge for his bee-keeper father's funeral and is immediately at loggerheads with his imperious, self-centred, mother, Flora, who is understandably incensed that Felix failed to attend the funeral to deliver the planned oration for his father.

Back in his childhood home (until the age of seven when he was packed off to prep school for an expensive and apparently academically successful education), Felix is like a fish out of water. Everything is out of joint. His father's bees have stopped buzzing; his mother has lost her sense of smell and his childhood stammer has returned. The only person with whom Felix can have any meaningful conversation is the taciturn, mysterious gardener, Jim, who quietly goes on tending the Humble's lovely garden amidst the increasingly volatile family passions.

Felix discovers that his unfaithful mother is planning to marry her lover of many years, neighbour and close family friend, the brash and pompous, George Pye. Felix once had a brief and passionate affair with George's daughter, Rosie and, unbeknownst to him, fathered a daughter with her.

Trying to keep the peace and smooth things over is Flora's ever-present doting and much put upon friend, Mercy Lott, who bravely fights a losing battle to restore harmony.

The difficult relationships Felix has with his Queen Bee of a mother and his former girlfriend, Rosie are played out in the garden as he grieves and eventually comes to understand a little more about love.

Humble Boy won the Critics' Circle Best New Play Award and the People's Choice Best New Play Award in 2002.

"Rich, original, intelligent, funny and touching. I can't recommend this lovely play too highly."
Daily Telegraph.

This is a very English play, about family relationships, set in a summer garden. *Hamlet* may well be the most audible echo in *Humble Boy*, but Jones is in fact tipping her hat to a host of other English plays and playwrights. Her script has the verbal wit of Tom Stoppard in places and the cozy Englishness of both Alan Bennett and Alan Ayckbourn in others. It references the Michael Frayn of both the farce-heavy *Noises Off* and the science-rich *Copenhagen*. It is a theatrical tour de force, filled with witty repartee, passionate confrontations, and otherworldly encounters.

The play provides fabulous acting roles for 3 men and 3 women. The character descriptions are taken from the descriptions in the play and the playing ages are indicative. Please don't let these descriptions put you off from auditioning – if in doubt give me a ring to discuss before the audition.

CHARACTERS

FELIX HUMBLE	an overweight but not unattractive man of about 35 A theoretical astrophysicist from Cambridge trying to come to terms with his grief. Under emotional stress he has a pronounced stutter.
MERCY LOTT	Late fifties: a petite, sweet, timid, mousey woman. Friend (although seemingly a slave) of Flora. She has a secret crush on George Pye. She is a peacemaker and has become part of the furniture. She has a fabulous pre-luncheon prayer/monologue which will be the main audition piece for this character.
FLORA HUMBLE	a very attractive woman in her late 50's she looks young for her age. Beautiful, passionate and self-centred, can be cruel, lacking in empathy and unforgivably rude, but there is beauty within as well – we just don't see it until the last two pages of the play!
GEORGE PYE	Confident, brash, self made man in his sixties with a love of big band music and Flora. Socially a rung or two below the Humbles. Handy with his fists. Loathes Felix.
ROSIE PYE	George's daughter, Felix's ex-girlfriend, a spirited, self-possessed young woman Felix's age or a little younger. Kind and content, she has a inner peace that she's had to fight to find.
JIM	The gardener of the estate, a thoughtful and quiet man in his 60s. He has a rapport with Felix. Everyone else treats him as if he wasn't there

Audition Pieces

pp. 9 - 12	Jim, Felix	from Jim "I know, I know, I thought twice about coming today" to "Nice talking to you, Felix."
pp. 14 -18	Flora, George	from Flora "You haven't said anything, George" to "This is not a yes"
pp. 25 - 27	Jim, Felix	from Felix "I'm sorry...I was just experimenting" to Jim "I'd probably be after it too!"
pp. 28 - 31	Felix, Mercy (Jim)	from Mercy "So what are your plans" to "But they fly anyway"
pp. 36 - 39	Felix, Flora	from Flora "This is for you" to "I've just paid hundreds of pounds for it!"
pp. 41 - 46	Felix, Rosie	from Felix "James Hum-ble was a b-b-b-biologist" to "...my father is crying..."
pp. 50 - 52	George, Flora	from George "A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H..." to "It's positively lush now."
pp. 78 - 79	Mercy	from Mercy "For what we are about to receive" to "Amen."
pp. 82 - 83	George, (Rosie, Felix)	from Felix "Why did you call your coach firm the Flying Pyes?" to George "Bastards!"
pp. 95 - 99	Jim, Flora, Felix	from Jim "Exit, pursued by a bee" to "She's strong."

Scripts are available from the theatre following the play reading on 7 October. Please read, copy any passages you require and return so that other people can access a script.

I can be contacted on 07900 350726 if you would like to discuss the production before the audition.

Please let me know if you wish to audition but cannot make 21 October.

I look forward to seeing you at the audition.

Cathryn Parker



HUMBLE
BOY

SEAFORD LITTLE THEATRE
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Seaford Little Theatre will be held at The Little Theatre, Steyne Road, Seaford, on Friday, 24th October 2014 at 7.30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting held 22nd October 2013. (Copy available for inspection at The Little Theatre).
3. Chairman's Report
4. Hon. Treasurer's Report
5. To vote on:
Any other resolutions to be given to the Hon. Secretary 14 days prior to the meeting.
6. Election of Executive Officers of the Management Committee.

Chairman:

Vice-Chairman:

Hon. Treasurer:

Hon. Secretary:

Premises Manager:

Friends' Secretary:

Social Secretary:

Public Relations Secretary:

ALL NOMINATIONS TO BE RECEIVED BY THE HON. SECRETARY BEFORE THE START OF THE MEETING.

7. Election of Management Committee Members (4): 2 Vacancies.
(Rule 8. Management. a. (ii) Four other members of the Society elected for 2 years, two of whom shall retire annually in rotation.), Sandra Haynes and John Hamilton are stepping down. There are two vacancies.

ALL NOMINATIONS TO BE RECEIVED BEFORE START OF THE MEETING.

8. To close the A. G. M.
9. Questions and discussion. (Notice to be given to the Hon. Secretary or Hon. Treasurer **Prior** to the commencement of the meeting.)

Mary Young (Hon. Secretary), (01323) 351882 or gmaryyoung@gmail.com) or Margaret Kennedy (Hon. Treasurer) 01323 894938

Wine and Cheese will be provided for members at the close of the meeting.

OCTOBER 2014

MEMBERSHIP FEES



MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR are due, as always, on 1 November, so why not surprise yourself and everyone else by showing how efficient you are - attend the AGM and hand over your subs at the same time. Your Hon. Treasurer or Membership Secretary will be very pleased to receive your fees after the meeting while you are enjoying the wine and cheese and can issue you with a brand, spanking new membership card there and then. You know it makes sense.

Seaford Little Theatre
Nomination Form for the Election of Officers and Management Committee
at the AGM on 24th October 2014

Nominee for the post of *

Name

Nominated by

Seconded by

Nominee for the post of *

Name

Nominated by

Seconded by

Nominee for the post of *

Name

Nominated by

Seconded by

Nominee for the post of *

Name

Nominated by

Seconded by

Please make sure the Nominee is willing to stand before proposing them.

*Posts are: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary, Membership Secretary, Friends' Secretary, Premises Manager, Social Secretary, Public Relations Secretary and members can be nominated as Committee Members.

**PLEASE RETURN TO THE HON. SECRETARY, MARY YOUNG AT THE
THEATRE BEFORE THE AGM OPENS AT 7.30.PM. ON 24th OCTOBER, 2014**