



STAGEW



SEAFORD LITTLE THEATRE NEWSLETTER

Issue 17 - January 2024

our next production : *DINNER* by Moira Buffini

The first production of 2024 is the Olivier Award nominated, deliciously dark, satirical comedy *Dinner* by Moira Buffini.

Paige and Lars Janssen are hosting a dinner party to celebrate the publication of Lars' latest philosophical best-seller, *Beyond Belief*. The guests include a microbiologist, his sexy celebrity-newsreader wife, and a bohemian artist. A

succession of unusual courses, served by an enigmatic waiter found via an obscure website, and interrupted by the arrival of an unexpected guest, a working-class van driver, lead to some surprising and deadly revelations.

This is the chilling dinner from hell, served with lashings of vitriol, dark humour and



acidic bon-mots. It first premiered at the National Theatre in 2002 and Moira Buffini was praised for her energetic, exciting as well as pithy and philosophical writing.

Please note that this hilarious opening production to the year deals with adult themes and contains very strong language.

Directed by Mike Truman, *Dinner* features Roland Boorman, Sandy Truman, Jenny Lloyd-Lyons, Jasmine Chance-Ramsay and debut performances at Seaford for Will Neame, Steve Lambert, and Peter Cornwell.

The show opens on Friday 1 March 2024 and runs through to the following Saturday 9 March with matinées only on both Saturday 2 and Saturday 9 March. Evening performances commence at 7.45pm and the matinées will start at 2.30pm.

a happy new year to all our members and friends

Luvvie Loquacy - The Thoughts Of Thespians

Acting is creating a sense of life. It is giving an audience an experience so vivid and truthful that they are able to draw their own conclusions about what it all means.

Kurt Daw

FOR ALL BOOKING INFORMATION SEE PAGE 12



THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Margaret Kennedy

DEAR FELLOW members, A belated Happy New Year to you all, but January 1st was significant for some.

Douglas Wragg, last seen in *When We Are Married*, has passed away. Whilst Paula Woolven, last seen as the daughter in *On Golden Pond*, received the British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours List. She is the founder of Havens Food Cooperative, the food waste prevention and redistribution project in Newhaven (see the article in January's Seaford Scene). Finally our dear friend Wendy Picott suffered a stroke, which will take some time to recover from. We hold her in our thoughts, prayers and hearts.

This last piece of news was so hard to bear after the Picott's great success with *All My Sons*. Like me, a lot of the audiences were completely involved in the play, due to the realistic acting of the whole cast, some new to our stage, and in tears at the end. Even the group of young students! Andrea Hargreaves was so impressed, and wrote an amazing review, but knew it was too late to get in the next Seaford Scene. So she asked if she could read it out on our local radio, bringing in many extra audience members to enjoy the play, Alan's set,

and the smooth running of both front and back Stage crews. Hopefully they will be back for the March production of *Dinner*, already in rehearsal.

Now I have to tell you that the report on our roof, that we had done following a series of leaks, ran to six pages and was definitely not good news from a financial point of view. For the almost two years we were in Covid lockdown with consequently no income from plays or membership, we still had expenses to pay. Current funds will go nowhere near covering the final amount. Fundraising is going to be essential, but difficult in these straightened times, so if anyone has any ideas, they will be welcome. We need a secure roof over our heads so we can continue to put on amazing plays. Let's see if we can get it all done by our 80th birthday in November 2025.

Finally I hope to see as many of you as possible at our AGM on Friday March 22nd, which will be followed by a cheese and wine social evening. This will be an opportunity for anyone who hasn't yet paid their subs to do so.

Until then love to you all, Margaret



Luvvie Loquacity - The Thoughts Of Thespians

Empathy is the most powerful weapon.

Augusto Boal



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

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES



Firstly Happy New Year to all our members and Friends..

We are currently putting together some ideas for Social events for this year some of which are shown below, but if anyone has any suggestions or events they would dearly like to see happen, please don't hesitate to get in touch and we will see what we can do. As always thank you for your continued support... without that it would just be me and Ray in an empty room staring at each other and sighing a lot.

SATURDAY 9 MARCH



Dinner Wrap Party

There will be the usual Wrap Party, following the last performance, of our latest production **Dinner**. 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 10 MARCH

Theatre Clean Up Seaford Little Theatre from 1.30pm

All cast and crew members of **Dinner** to please attend and clean and tidy up the Theatre after this production. The set will need to be dismantled and costumes, props etc. sorted and returned and the Theatre cleaned through.

SUNDAY 17 MARCH

St Patrick's Night Celebration Seaford Little Theatre from 7pm

Top o' the mornin' to yer, so it is. Calling all you Leprechauns and wild Banshees out there. Jenny and Chris will be organising a mighty craic to celebrate the snake chasing saint's day. Music, sketches, fun and a raffle to be sure, to be sure. (What do you mean, stereotyping?) You can also purchase a can or toucan of the black stuff, with non-alcoholic Guinness available as well. £10 per person, begorrah.



SATURDAY 30 MARCH



It's Quizzy McQuiz Time

Seaford Little Theatre from 7.30pm

Your Conquistadors, Alan and Andrew, return for another fund-raising evening of brain stimulation and fact dissemination with an Easter quiz. There will be nibbles, a top notch raffle and marvelous spot prizes for anyone with magnificent acne. Please bring your own drinks or purchase on the night. Cost £10 per person.

For further details and to book your places please contact me, Debbie Cox, on 07596709044 or email at: coxdeb8@gmail.com.

I look forward to hearing from you soon, Debbie



Photos from the set of
All My Sons
taken by Andrew Parkinson

Sons Shine



**All My Sons with David Parton,
Josie Hobbs, Tim Telford, Jodie
Taylor, Jasmine Chance Ramsay,
Roger Trace, David Hellett, Nicky
Chapman and Peter Barnes.**





DOUGLAS WRAGG

Sadly we have to report the recent death of Douglas Wragg. He had been unwell for quite some time, but was always eager to keep up with, and support, what was happening in Seaford.

Douglas only made two acting appearances at our Little Theatre, but both were memorable. As the patriarch, Henry Horatio Hobson, in **Hobson's Choice** he commanded the stage whenever he appeared, and as the dipsomaniac photographer, Henry Ormonroyd, in **When We Are Married** he gave a brilliantly observed demonstration of increasing inebriation.

I also had the pleasure of acting alongside him, or seeing him act, with other theatre groups (he was a member of several) and you were always guaranteed a reliable and well-observed performance no matter the size of the part.

Recently the impact of his increasingly failing health was a major annoyance to him, not just because he was unable to audition for roles, but also because he was no longer able to visit, as a member of the audience, the theatres he supported. Especially once he was no longer permitted to drive.

Douglas was another of life's gentle men and he will be greatly missed by all those that knew and acted alongside him.



THEATRE GROUNDS

In addition to all our other problems, many of you will have seen the major damage caused to our boundary fencing by some of the violent storms we have suffered recently. The long wire fence on the east side, despite attempts at remedial repairs, finally gave up the ghost just before the opening of **All My Sons** and collapsed along its full length, while a section of the front wooden fence took a severe battering during the last night of the same play and also hit the deck. Personally I am beginning to suspect the strength of the performances on stage may have played quite a significant part in the destruction. It surely can't be a coincidence.



Anyway this is something else that has been added in to the increasing list of items which need addressing at our theatre. On the plus side we are very fortunate to have the services and expertise of our very own Simon Fox, who is a professional landscape gardener. He had already given up his time and muscle to take over the maintenance of the grounds around the theatre and, since Christmas, spent considerable effort tidying up this more recent destruction. So thanks Simon, much appreciated.

PRODUCTIONS FOR THE 2024 SEASON

01 - 09 March

DINNER

by Moira Buffini

directed by

Mike Truman

An artist, a scientist and a sexpot are coming to dinner. Paige, hostess extraordinaire, is celebrating the publication of her husband's best seller. The arrival of Mike, marooned in the foggy lane after crashing his van, provides an unexpected addition to the evening's entertainment. A silent waiter, sourced from an obscure website, completes the picture. Primordial soup is first on the menu – let the dinner from hell begin. A wonderful comedy chiller, with blood on the carpet before bedtime!
Please be advised that this production contains strong language.

07 - 15 June

A CHORUS OF DISAPPROVAL

by Alan Ayckbourn

directed by

Trish Richings

A diffident widower attempts to escape loneliness by joining the local amateur light operatic society. By accident (by not ever saying NO) he advances from a small part to the lead while also enjoying the attentions of all the female cast members. Written in 1984 this was Alan Ayckbourn's 20th play and one of his most successful earning three major awards, including the London Evening Standard Award, the Olivier Award, and the Drama Award.

06 - 14 September

A DOLL'S HOUSE

by Henrik Ibsen

directed by

David Parton

Henrik Ibsen's 'A Doll's House', premiered in 1879 and the effect it had on a very conservative audience was explosive. Nora is very happily married to Helmer and her life looks rosy now that her husband has been made manager of the local bank. But suddenly her world threatens to collapse around her when threatened with blackmail for an earlier indiscretion and the scales fall from her eyes as she realises women are only very second-class citizens. George Bernard Shaw wrote: 'When Nora slams the front door shut behind her, that sound reverberated throughout the whole world.'

06 - 14 December

SEE HOW THEY RUN

by Phillip King

directed by

Phil Armstrong

It's the 1940's and the residents of Merton-cum-Middlewick are preparing themselves for the possibility of a Nazi invasion. Meanwhile, a meddling spinster becomes convinced that her beloved vicar's former actress wife is having an affair and attempts to expose her. Add an escaped German prisoner of war, a handsome actor, the visiting Bishop of Lax, a rotund locum priest and some meddling neighbours and hilarious confusion and mayhem result.

TEA & TOAST COFFEE MORNINGS



Last year we raised £220.50 (rounded up to £250 by Gill) for the Lifeguards. Thank you to all you generous crumpet munchers and tea in saucer slurpers. To date we've been charging a nominal fee of £1 but it's been suggested this should increase, so we would be grateful if you could spare a little more for the pot please. It has also been put forward by a few members that it would be an idea that the money raised should go to support our own theatre which is in much need of repair and decoration. The next Tea and Toast is on Monday 22 January and will have a nod to Burns' Night. Hope to see you there.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2024



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 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 APPLICATION/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 2024.

The membership fee for 2024 is £10 per person (students - £5)

Please return this form either having paid via the BACS system (see below) or with the appropriate amount attached (cheques payable to Seaford Dramatic Society) to:

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

Email: memsec@seafordlittletheatre.co.uk

Tel: 07856 939436

Our preferred method of payment is by BACS which is simple to set up via your bank. If you choose to pay in this way please use the following details:

Give your name as the payment reference

Make the payment to:

Account Name: The Seaford Dramatic Society

Account number: 42227878

Sort Code: 40 20 06





Seaford Little Theatre
ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY 22ND MARCH 2024

7.30PM

AT THE LITTLE THEATRE

STEYNE ROAD

SEAFORD

WINE AND CHEESE

**ALL MEMBERS,
CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE
WELCOME**

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, 22nd March 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting held 24th March, 2023 (Copy available for inspection at The Little Theatre).
3. Chairman's Report
4. Hon. Treasurer's Report
5. To vote on:
 - a. An increase in membership fees to £15 from 1 January 2025
 - b. An increase in Lettings charges to be outlined by David HallettAny 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:
Membership Secretary:
Friends' Secretary:
Business Manager:
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

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 Prior to the commencement of the meeting.)

Sandy Truman – sandytruman@mail.com

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

Seaford Little Theatre

**Nomination Form for the Election of Officers and Management Committee
Members**

at the AGM on 22nd March 2024

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, Business Manager and members can be nominated as Committee Members.

**PLEASE RETURN TO THE HON. SECRETARY, SANDY TRUMAN AT THE THEATRE
BEFORE THE AGM OPENS AT 7.30.PM. ON 22nd MARCH 2024**

BOOKING INFORMATION



The ticket prices are £11.00 each for the tiered seats and £10.00 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

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.

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:
19 APRIL 2024**