

STAGEWORLD



SEAFORD LITTLE THEATRE NEWSLETTER

Issue 12 - October 2022

our next production : *SEASON'S GREETINGS* by Alan Ayckbourn

Christmas is supposed to be a jolly time that is often fraught with tensions and family conflict, and Alan Ayckbourn's popular Yule tide play *Season's Greetings* expertly reflects this.

Belinda and Neville Bunker have a houseful of relatives and friends who broadly represent a typical cross section of family life, all desperate to enjoy themselves and have a lovely time, and all failing miserably to hilarious effect.

The bolshie and opinionated Uncle Harvey, Rachel - Belinda's disappointed sister with her exotic, author boy friend, Clive, Phyllis - Neville's over-indulging sister and her uninspiring husband, Bernard, and friends - the under-achieving Eddie and his



pregnant, exhausted wife, Pattie, all come together to produce a funny and riotous comedy directed by Garry Fowler assisted by Clare Penfold,.

It features Dug Godfrey, Lee Coleman-Powney, Marilynne Sharpin, Debbie Cox, Alan Lade, Peter Barnes, Kim Sanger White, Angie Wright and Garry Fowler. and is the perfect way to get you into the festive mood.

The show opens on Friday 2 December 2022 and runs through

to the following Saturday 10 December with a matinée only on Saturday 3 December. Evening performances commence at 7.45pm and the matinée will start at 2.30pm. **Please note there is no Wednesday performance.**

Tickets for the show are already on sale at all our usual venues so don't miss out and book your seat now.

THANKS

I just thought I would take a moment to say a massive thank-you to those of our Friends and Members who, over the years, have been kind enough to pass on to us any unwanted paint and tools, wardrobe items and other bits and pieces that might be useful to us.

We are always happy to do what we can to recycle anything that we can use on our productions, within our limited storage facilities. Four plays a year can generate quite a demand and often require a specific period. So thank you, anything we can save from landfill is a bonus.



FOR ALL BOOKING INFORMATION SEE PAGE 12

THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Margaret Kennedy



ANOTHER PLAY in sight, *Season's Greetings*, very apt for the festivities ahead, let's hope there's less problems for Garry and his team as there was for the last one!

Like the rest of the world it came as a hugely unexpected and devastating shock to hear of the death of our dear Queen in the middle of the run of *The Nightingales*. What to do? Cancel out of respect? Or, do as she did two days before she died, the show had to go on! Very many thanks and much appreciation to Trish and her whole team on all sides of the stage. Only a small audience was expected, but they all turned up. Trish went out to tell them we were dedicating the rest of our performances to her Majesty's memory and, instead of a silence, to have applause instead. Strangely, although the play was designated a comedy it was also about loss. The loss of a way of life in the Music Hall Theatre that had gone forever. A bittersweet production that those of us involved will be unlikely ever to forget.

We are now in a new and unknown era, so perhaps it's time to take a long hard look at ourselves and the way we operate! We are desperately in need of more members to take on the tasks that are absolutely essential, and without which a play cannot go on.

The tasks, as well as Acting and Directing, are listed on our application form, check the website to remind yourselves what they are. The administrative, business side also needs help and a lack of communication has crept in. To put this right I am setting up a sub committee to work out a 'who does what and when'. Please do think if there's any aspect of producing a play you haven't tried yet, that you think you could have a go at, and let us know. As I've said before your Society needs YOU - challenge yourself, offer help - you'll find it rewarding.

'til we meet again
Love, Margaret



Luvvie Loquacity - The Thoughts Of Thespians

**All the world is a stage,
But the play is badly cast.**

Oscar Wilde



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

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Recent weeks have been taken up with various productions and other business, so Social activities have had a bit of a sojourn, although our Tea & Toast mornings continue to prove popular. A big thank you to everyone for your assistance with the washing up and saving the crumpets from burning! Thank you also to Gill for generously donating Tiptree jam and marmalade mini pots which have proved a great success. Next year we will donate to a different charity of a member's choice. I will let you know how much we have raised this year in due course.



As we splash into Autumn we can look forward to the Baby Boomers Concert on 23 October, featuring the superb vocals of Ruth Aguilera and special guests, 2 Steps Back. Tickets are still available via Ray 07984 280067.

The Neil Diamond Tribute Act featuring Chris Nieto, is on 27, 28, 29 October but this is now sold out and we look forward to seeing anyone there who has been lucky enough to get a ticket.



Unfortunately we have had to cancel the New Year's Eve party with Chris Nieto but if anyone is interested in a low key, In house , knees up Mother Brown, bring your own food and drink party, I'm up for organising it. Please let me know ASAP.

December's Tea and Toast falls within the next play. So we are moving it to Monday 12 December, in order to have a seasonal get together before Christmas and the New Year.

Other dates for the coming weeks are:

SATURDAY 10 DECEMBER

Season's Greetings Wrap Party



There will be the usual Wrap Party, following the last performance, of our latest production ***Season's Greetings***. 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 11 DECEMBER

Theatre Clean Up ***Seaford Little Theatre from 2.00pm***

All cast and crew members of ***Season's Greetings*** 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.

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



AUDITION NOTICE

AURELIA

by Robert Thomas, directed by Clare Penfold

Audition Date: Wednesday 9 November 2022- 7.30pm

Seaford Little Theatre

Production dates: 3 - 11 March 2023

Beautiful and somewhat mysterious Aurelia returns to England without her husband and gets caught in a web of deceit and crime involving Isabel, her husband's former love; his aunt, Lady Chalmont and her housekeeper, Vera. Murder, robbery and blackmail all start to recoil on her head and, twist and turn though she may to meet each new unexpected complication, the end of the story is one of disaster and irony.

As there is a play-reading the week before, scripts will not be available until after that date, but there is a .pdf copy that can be downloaded on our website. If you would like to know more about the play or any of the characters please call or email me.

CHARACTERS - all ages are relative

AURELIA	
ISOBEL	
LADY CHALMONT	
VERA	<i>(Lady Chalmont's housekeeper)</i>
MERCER	
A VISITOR	

Rehearsal days will usually be Tuesdays and Thursdays with extra nearer the production date if needed. 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.

Clare Penfold Tel: 07713 174437

Email: clare.penfold@icloud.com

PLAY READING - AURELIA by Robert Thomas

There is a play reading evening specifically for those who are interested in coming along to read in or listen to **Aurelia** by Robert Thomas. This will take place on 2 November 2022, 7.30pm at Seaford Little Theatre

For more information about the play and the characters please see this audition page. 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, Clare Penfold.



CHARACTER AUDITION PIECES

LADY CHALMONT, VERA, ISABEL	page 4 from 'Whispering again' to page 9 'other people's point of view'
AURELIA, ISABEL, MERCER	page 31 'All right, let's get down to business' to page 34 'Say goodnight to your friend'
JOHN, AURELIA	page 39 'She's fainted' to page 41 'I know it wasn't all one sided'
AURELIA, VERA	page 45 'There I have offended you' to page 46 'Perhaps it'll soothe our nerves a bit'
AURELIA, JOHN, ISABEL	page 54 'You're early' to page 56 'It was as though I was drugged or hypnotised'

MEMORIES

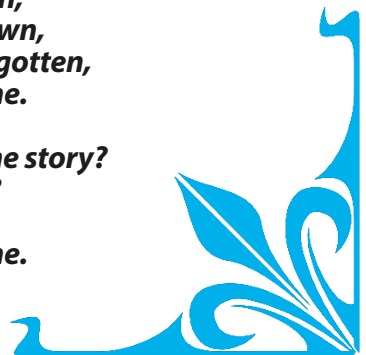
Margaret recently attended the funeral of a dear Theatre friend from 30 years ago. During the service there was a hymn which he had chosen himself because he felt it was a tribute to all the fun that he had had doing amateur dramatics at St Peter's Players in Watford.

Margaret was so taken with it that she asked if it could be included in the newsletter as she thought it might be applicable to all of our members who are gone but definitely not forgotten.

***Fading away like the stars in the morning,
Losing their light in the glorious sun,
Thus would we pass from this earth and it's toiling,
Only remembered for what we have done.***

***Only the truth that in life we have spoken,
Only the seeds that on earth we have sown,
These will pass onward when we are forgotten,
Only remembered for what we have done.***

***Who'll sing the anthem and who'll tell the story?
Will the line hold, Will it scatter and run?
Shall we at last be united in glory?
Only remembered for what we have done.***



AUDITION NOTICE

TWELFTH NIGHT

by William Shakespeare, directed by David Parton

Audition Date: Monday 21 November 2022- 7.30pm

Seaford Little Theatre

Production dates: 9 - 17 June 2023

Viola and her twin brother Sebastian have been shipwrecked; each believes the other to be drowned. Viola disguises herself as a young man and, under the name of Cesario, gets a job as a servant for the Duke, Orsino.

A LOVE TRIANGLE Orsino is in love with Olivia, but she's mourning for her dead brother, so has rejected all his advances so far. He sends Cesario (who is really Viola) with love letters to woo Olivia on his behalf. Unfortunately for the Duke, Olivia is taken in by Cesario's disguise and falls in love with him. Viola has secretly fallen in love with Orsino, and Orsino is confused by his feelings for his new 'male' servant. So, Viola loves Orsino, Orsino loves Olivia and Olivia loves Cesario/Viola.

TRICKING MALVOLIO Olivia's butler, Malvolio, disapproves of all the other members of her household – her drunken uncle Sir Toby Belch, his friend Sir Andrew Aguecheek and her servants, Maria, Feste and Fabia. Fed up with Malvolio constantly spoiling their fun, they decide to play a practical joke on him. Malvolio is secretly in love with Olivia, and the others trick him into believing that these feelings are returned. Maria forges a letter to Malvolio, supposedly from Olivia, suggesting that she loves him and he should wear yellow stockings and smile all the time. Malvolio does as the letter suggests, and Olivia thinks he has gone mad, so has him locked up.

SEBASTIAN RETURNS Viola's brother, Sebastian, who believes his sister is dead, arrives with his friend and protector, Antonio, who rescued him from the shipwreck. Sebastian meets Olivia. She mistakes him for Cesario and asks him to marry her, he agrees.

CONFUSION, COUPLING AND A HAPPY ENDING Lots of confusion follows around the mistaken identity of Sebastian and Cesario, and exactly who is promised to whom. Eventually all is revealed, the brother and sister are reunited and the love triangle is resolved into two couples, Sebastian and Olivia, and Viola and Orsino. Finally, Viola discovers the trick that has been played on Malvolio, and he's released from confinement.

There will be a play-reading the week before (see below) 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.

One other thought. Never played Shakespeare? Not comfortable with versified texts? Verse text is so much easier to learn than ordinary dialogue. Don't fight or fear the rhythm – it is a friend and the two of you will get on just fine.

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 - all ages are relative

ORSINO	Madly in love with Olivia – head in the clouds – wears his heart on his sleeve but not particularly proactive, which is why he sends Viola (as Cesario) to do his wooing for him.
VIOLA	Young and very attractive, but vulnerable and with a strong sense of duty, even to the extent of it being to her own personal disadvantage. In love with Orsino, but – masquerading as a man – cannot reveal it.
SEBASTIAN	Olivia's twin brother. Believes his sister to have died in the shipwreck they both experiences. He is in a land where he is a stranger and needs to choose his friends carefully.
OLIVIER	A Countess – in extended mourning for, first her father then her brother. Keeps rejecting Orsino's advances and, upon meeting Viola for the first time, but thinking her to be a man, falls in love with her/him. Is used to commanding and being obeyed.
MARIA	Olivia's maid – and possibly once her nurse. Middle-aged. Very savvy and possesses a wicked sense of practical joke humour. Does not suffer fools gladly and has no respect for her supposed superior in the Olivia household – Malvolio. A born schemer with a sharp tongue when required. Keeps Belch and Aguecheek in check.
SIR TOBY BELCH	An older relative of Olivia – middle-aged and sporting a drink-nurtured paunch. Always on the make and looking for freebies. Holds lesser mortals in contempt and gets up Olivia's nose and fails to see that he is outstaying his welcome.

CHARACTERS - all ages are relative

SIR ANDREW AGUECHEEK	Cast in a similar mould to that of Belch, but not a contender for Mastermind. His greatest asset – especially in Belch’s eyes – is that he is loaded and of a generous nature. The name suggests that he is of spare build in contrast to his fellow conspirator.
MALVOLIO	Possesses an ego that would make Jeremy Clarkson look like a shrinking violet. He lives in a world of his own, decorated by flights of fancy and displays contempt for anyone he sees as being a lesser mortal – i.e. 99.9% of the world’s population. His ambitions include the hand of his mistress, the Countess. His vanity makes him easy meat for the conspirators, Maria, Belch and Aguecheek.
FABIAN	A member of the Countess’s household who allies himself with Messrs Belch and Aguecheek – for the fun of it.
ANTONIO	A sea-captain who befriends Sebastian and helps the young shipwrecked gentleman, even to his own possible dangerous detriment.
FESTE	Feste is, like the majority of Shakespeare’s clowns, a sort of ‘Everyman’ and commentator. He/she also serves as a kind of catalyst and helps people to see their own failings and weaknesses.

These are the principal roles in terms of size – but NOT importance.

There is a maxim in the theatre that is well worth noting and remembering. There is no such thing as small parts – only small actors. In addition to the scripted cross-dressing I shall also be inviting voluntary cross-dressing to help offset the preponderance of male roles. So – come on ladies – show your mettle! By the same token there will be ample opportunity for actors to display their versatility by taking on more than one role. Numbers are being kept to a practical minimum and the play has been edited down so that an energetic tempo can be maintained. Details of audition pieces will be available nearer the time.

David Parton Tel: 07714 726576

Email: davidparton673@btinternet.com

PLAY READING - *TWELFTH NIGHT* by William Shakespeare

There is a play reading evening specifically for those who are interested in coming along to read in or listen to *Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare. This will take place on 14 November 2022, 7.30pm at Seaford Little Theatre



For more information about the play and the characters please see this audition page. 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, David Parton.

BONUS PHOTO GALLERY - SGT 2022

Despite pleas to destroy them, here are a selection of photos from Seaford's Got Talent:





Photos from the set of
The Nightingales
 taken by Andrew Parkinson
www.rememberingwhen.co.uk

I Say, I Say, I Say





*The Nightingales with Lesley Drew,
Alan Lade, Rebecca Kite, Roland
Boorman and Josie Hobbs*



BOOKING INFORMATION



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

Tickets are available at our box office now:

**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 Pondsyrde 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:
13 JANUARY 2023**