

# STAGEWORLD



## SEAFORD LITTLE THEATRE NEWSLETTER

Issue 16 - October 2023

### our next production : **ALL MY SONS** by Arthur Miller

It is four years since the end of the second world war and Joe Keller and his family have a relatively comfortable life in their home in middle America, despite the controversy that surrounded them during the conflict.

Joe and his partner, Steve Deever, ran a machine shop at that time, manufacturing airplane machinery that was vital to the war effort. Deever was sent to prison after the firm turned out defective parts causing the deaths of several men, while Keller escaped censure and went on to make a lot of money. At the same time Keller's pilot son, Larry, was reported missing in action and has never been seen again.

These two factors still cast a deep shadow over the Keller family, threatening their future happiness. Joe's wife, Kate, cannot come to terms with the loss of her eldest son, while their other son, Chris, is in love with Deever's daughter, Ann, but is struggling to reconcile his feelings with everything that happened during the war.



Add into this mix the return of Deever's son, George, bitter that his father is in prison while Joe has been allowed to walk free, and the scene is set for a powerful drama that is spine tingling in its intensity.

This classic play from the pen of Arthur Miller was based on a true story and received much acclaim on its Broadway debut, despite its open criticism of the ideals of The American Dream. More importantly it established Miller as a playwright of note.

Directed by Dennis Picott, assisted by Sue Williams, **All My Sons** features David Parton, Josie Hobbs, Tim Telford, Peter Barnes, David Hallett, Roger Trace, Jasmine Chance Ramsay, and debut performances at Seaford for Jodie Taylor and Nicky Patching.

The show opens on Friday 1 December 2023 and runs through to the following Saturday 9 December with matinées only on both Saturday 2 and Saturday 9 December. Evening performances commence at 7.45pm and the matinées will start at 2.30pm.

Luvvie Loquacity - The Thoughts Of Thespians

Act well your part; there all the honour lies.

Alexander Pope

FOR ALL BOOKING INFORMATION SEE PAGE 8



# THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

*Margaret Kennedy*

DEAR FELLOW members, what a feel good play *Enchanted April* turned out to be. Congratulations to Trish Richings and her team of cast and crew, and specially for stepping in as Costanza when I had to pull out. So I know from first hand experience what a great and caring team they were. As was the often unsung Front of House team. We're still in need of more FOH Managers, couples or friends, to be the first face of the Society that our audiences see. Back in the day my husband covered this position for every performance, every play, for 9 years! Shame that dedicated sort of Member no longer exists, that continuity really helps to make everything run smoothly for everyone. Even to manage one play of 8 performances, then we could set up a rota. More than 4 couples or friends, it wouldn't even be every year. Think about it folks?!

As you've already heard we have lost two valuable members recently. David Williams had only been with us a short while since marrying Sue, but he sure left his mark. Coming out of our Covid lockdown, he organised, directed and acted in *Mixed Doubles*, then helped the other David with *Twelfth Night*.

The second loss was John Hamilton, whom I have directed in many plays. He was brilliant in comedy, but equally so in straight plays. His last full length

play was *On Golden Pond* but I was so lucky to finally act with him in *Mixed Doubles*. I know I speak for all who knew them, that we send all our love to Sue and Marianne.

Now to more mundane matters, but equally important. We have been having problems with rubbish, both inside and outside the building. Happily we have resolved the outside collection. But this is something you should all know, that we now have to put our rubbish out for Thursday collection at the gate. The rubbish must be in the purple sacks ONLY and only 2 per week. These are purchased from the Council, so should only go out when full. As for the inside of the Theatre you should all know that being a Charity we are obliged to make it available for community use. These lets are also another source of Income. We are so lucky to own our Theatre, but with that privilege also comes responsibility. Like our own homes there are bills to pay, so that income is very necessary. It is up to all of us who use the Theatre during the week to ensure that the kitchen area is always left pristine, cups washed, dried and put away, surfaces wiped down, bins, especially in the toilet area emptied into the purple bags. We have had two complaints from regular lets!!!! Let's not get any more?

Love to you all, Margaret





**Debbie Cox**  
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 Email: [coxdeb8@gmail.com](mailto:coxdeb8@gmail.com).

# SOCIAL ACTIVITIES



Thank you to all those members who supported the Diablos last month.

Also thank you to Phil Armstrong who did a fantastic job on the lighting and Gail who helped on FOH. As well as the task of tidying up and cleaning at the end. Leaving it spotless ready for the next people to use.

Another big thank you goes to Jenny Humphries for her compering skills at Seaford's Got Talent back in August and to everyone who took the risk and dangled their talent (or lack of it) for everyone to see. And once again to everyone who helped to tidy up afterwards.

## SATURDAY 9 DECEMBER



### *All My Sons Wrap Party*

There will be the usual Wrap Party, following the last performance, of our latest production *All My Sons*. 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 DECEMBER

### *Theatre Clean Up*      *Seaford Little Theatre from 1.30pm*

All cast and crew members of *All My Sons* 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.

I haven't anything particularly planned in the pipeline yet for the next few months, but if you have any suggestions let me know. For example if you want a January party when everything goes quiet after Xmas and the New Year. Or revisit any other event that you have enjoyed.

Thank you for your continued support.

For further details please contact me, Debbie Cox, on 07596709044 or email at: [coxdeb8@gmail.com](mailto:coxdeb8@gmail.com). Thank you for your continuing support.

*I look forward to hearing from you soon, Debbie*



## TEA & TOAST COFFEE MORNINGS



Tea and toast is still going well. It's a great way of catching up with each other and, if you haven't already attended, it's an informal way to get to know regular members. They take place on the first Monday of each month (excluding bank holidays) starting from 10.00am, with a nominal charge of £1. Eat and drink as much as you like. If it is during the run of a play, the date will be rescheduled. The next Tea and Toast should be on 6 November.

This year we are collecting for the Lifeguards, so please continue to show your excellent support each month.



Photos from the set of  
**Enchanted April**  
 taken by Andrew Parkinson  
[www.rememberingwhen.co.uk](http://www.rememberingwhen.co.uk)

# April Fools

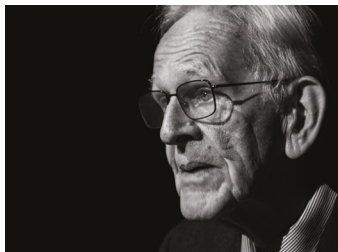


*Enchanted April with Lesley Drew, Mandy Crynkovic, Tricia Pape, Jasmine Chance Ramsay, Alan Lade, Roland Boorman, Roger Trace and Trish Richings.*





## DAVID WILLIAMS



David Williams only joined Seaford Little Theatre in recent years, having fallen under the spell of Sue during a production at Lewes. They married in January 2020 in a marvelous life-affirming ceremony that was a privilege to witness, and set up home together in Seaford.

David quickly threw himself into the life of SLT taking on the membership secretary role as well as joining the production committee and, after the restrictions of Covid, was an

instrumental part of the team getting our doors back open again with ***Mixed Doubles*** in which he both acted and directed.

More recently he returned to one of his great passions, Shakespeare, when he assisted David Parton with dialogue coaching and characterisation for ***Twelfth Night*** a production that gave him great joy.

David was a lovely gentle man, with a keen intelligence, dry sense of humour and sharp mind full of curiosity on a wide range of subjects. He brought so much devotion and happiness into Sue's life, and it is an enormous tragedy that their time together was cut so cruelly short. Our love and sympathy goes out to the whole family for their sad loss.

## JOHN HAMILTON

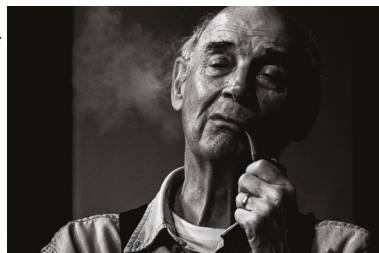
John Hamilton only came to performing at the Little Theatre in his later years but quickly established himself as a natural on stage and became one of our most respected actors.

He made his debut in the sinister ***Kiss of Death*** in the part of Bernard the criminal psychologist, and was soon a regular member of our repertoire of actors.

On stage John was generous, reliable and captivating and always inhabited any character he portrayed completely. He was a master of both comedy and drama and made many memorable appearances including ***Make Way for Lucia, Men of the World, The Wooden Dish, In Praise of Love*** and, what many considered his finest performance, Norman Thayer in ***On Golden Pond***, leaving Henry Fonda floundering in the shadows.

Off the stage John was a wonderful friend who was a joy to talk to, with a keen intelligence, delightful humour and a wealth of knowledge.

We send all our love and condolences to Marianne and his family at this sad time.



## WALK THE CHALK



it was a great success and proved very entertaining and informative for all the many visitors.

Well done to everyone who either participated in or supported the Walk The Chalk project in September.

Despite the poor weather at the start

## PRODUCTIONS FOR THE 2024 SEASON

01 - 09 March <b>DINNER</b> 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! <b>Please be advised that this production contains strong language.</b>
07 - 15 June <b>A CHORUS OF DISAPPROVAL</b> 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 <b>A DOLL'S HOUSE</b> 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 <b>SEE HOW THEY RUN</b> 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.

## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2025

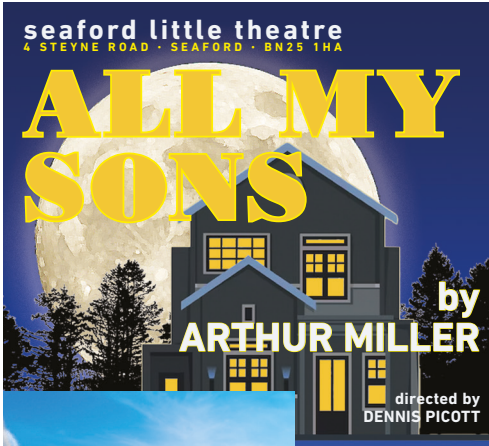
The Production Committee meets several times a year, to discuss which plays would make an attractive, varied programme for the following year, aiming to make this decision by August at the latest.

We are always on the lookout for both directors and playscripts. If you would like to direct, please get in touch with Clare Penfold, [clare.penfold@icloud.com](mailto:clare.penfold@icloud.com)

Some directors like us to suggest plays for them. If there are plays you'd like to see on our stage, contact Lesley Drew, [ljedrew2@gmail.com](mailto:ljedrew2@gmail.com)

We're already discussing the 2025 programme, and are wondering whether an evening of One Act Plays would appeal to those who would like to dip their toes in the wonderful world of directing. Again, let us know your thoughts.

# BOOKING INFORMATION



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

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/seaford-little-theatre](http://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 £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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.seafordlittletheatre.co.uk)

**Potential copy deadline for next edition of the newsletter:**  
**12 JANUARY 2024**