

FULL HOUSE



NEWSLETTER OF THE HURSTPIERPOINT PLAYERS

NOV/DEC 2018

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This is an excerpt from the Chairman's full report. The full report will be found on our website shortly - www.hurstplayers.org.uk

The Refurbishment

Enabling Works

I have now given approval for the main electrical power cable to be relocated to a safe position, where it will no longer obstruct the cellar access. The suggested solution is safer than the alternative we were looking at last month and is priced at around 2% of those costs! I have also arranged for some working lights to be installed in the cellar, together with the necessary emergency lighting. As you will see from this photograph, the cellar has been opened out by removing the non-supporting compartment walls and levelling the floor. The new steel beam replaces the previous timber one that rested on three of the stub walls. The new paving will provide a clean and dry path for the installation and maintenance of the new air handling units. I had to remove the central fan heater from the front of the stage and enlarge the hole so that the 5.4 metre beam could be passed into the void under the stage. I shall re-fit the heater in time for First Night as it might well be needed by then!

Our thanks to Messrs D & M Chivers Water Solutions for carrying out the work efficiently, neatly and safely, and for leaving the Backstage area clean and tidy each day - Highly recommended!

Health & Safety

A reminder to everyone that we are all responsible for reporting hazards, especially trip hazards that may be formed by loose cables lying on the floor. If you see one, tidy it! Don't wait for someone to catch their foot in it.

Beauty and The Beast

The advance booking for members opened on Monday 22 October, during which we sold 69 tickets in the first week, and then to the public on Monday 29 October when we sold a further 200 in the second week. Early days yet, but this is a higher opening rate than we usually experience.

The Box Office will be open each Saturday between 10am and 1pm until 8 December.

Gift Shop

A slightly tongue-in-cheek way of saying that we need actively to explore ways to increase our income over and above shows and hirings. When the Box Office improvements have been completed I propose a small selection of suitable items that could be sold to support our fundraising efforts.

To test the water I have put on sale some Non-Stop Shakespeare souvenir T-shirts, now available online by going to our website and clicking on the 'Tickets' link.

CASTING CALL FOR

ROPE

by Patrick Hamilton (one-time resident of Hassocks).

Production Dates: 2nd April - 6th April 2019.

Reading/Auditions Wed January 2nd AND Wed January 9th. 8 pm at the Players Theatre.

This play, written in 1929, is fundamentally a murder mystery, encompassing elements of class and psychological distinctions. Noel Coward it is not!

Two Oxford undergraduates plot and carry out the murder of a third student. The audience know very early on what has happened but the mystery lies in the behaviour and reaction of the murderers and their party guests – one of whom smells the proverbial rat!

Cast – 6 men, 2 women. *The ages are merely a guide, don't be deterred if you don't quite match.*

- ♦ Brandon - 20s
- ♦ Granillo - 20s
- ♦ Sabot - 20-40
- ♦ Kenneth - late teens, early twenties
- ♦ Leila - similar age to Kenneth
- ♦ Sir Johnston Kentsley - 50+
- ♦ Mrs Debenham - 50+
- ♦ Rupert - 29+

We are always keen to hear from people who prefer the backstage side of things – do come along if you would like to know more about how you can get involved.

Any queries – please call Jo Kearns 01273 834200. See you in January!

2019 PRODUCTIONS

The Committee felt it might be helpful to give everyone a "heads up" as to next year's planned productions and the dates, where known. This enables you to consider whether you would like to take part in any of them...on stage or behind the scenes!

Jo Kearns will direct "Rope" with performance dates of 2-6 April.

The summer production (early July) will be "The Killing of Sister George" which Annette Squire will direct.

For the Hurst Festival (September) we plan "The Glass Menagerie", directed by Colin Hopper.

Full details of these productions, audition dates, etc. will be published by the relevant Director in ample time. Finally anyone who might want to direct a Pantomime next Winter, or a play in 2020 please let me know.

Chrys Tarr

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THEATRE REFURBISHMENT

Hurstpierpoint Players is delighted to announce that the long-awaited refurbishment of the Players Theatre auditorium is now well underway. After 40 years of live performances of all kinds the 'old lady' was beginning to show her age but she is about to receive a well deserved makeover!

Phase One of the works has been happening quietly in the background for several months, including getting reports from professional consultants, opening up the cellar and completing important electrical improvements.

Phase Two of the work which includes the new floor, new seats, new environmentally-friendly heating system and total redecoration, will be completed in 2019 in time for the Festival and Phases Three and Four, which deal with some structural changes, new toilet facilities and other improvements will follow in due course.

The fundraising continues, though, and your valuable support is now more important than ever! Life in this country seems more difficult each day, so isn't it a blessing that this community has its own gem of a theatre within easy reach where we can watch a play, listen to live music and laugh our worries away.

Please help us to KEEP LIVE THEATRE ALIVE.

You can donate now by going to www.hurstplayers.org.uk and following the link to 'Tickets & Donations'.

Thank you, and please watch for further announcements

Bar Loyalty Card

As from the next production of Beauty and the Beast a new Loyalty Card will be introduced to reward members who spend in our bar. The scheme will only be open to fully paid up members and will over time reward members with a 12.5% discount on their drinks.

For every £4 spent at the Hurstpierpoint Players Bar members will earn a stamp. After collecting 10 stamps you will be entitled to receive a £5 bar credit.

The new Loyalty Cards will be available from the bar.

I hope this will encourage you to use the bar and will be seen as yet another reason for membership of the Players.

Michael Squire

CHRISTMAS PARTY Saturday 15th December

A little closer to the Big Day and so there is even more likelihood of our being in super-festive spirits! There will be the usual mix of games, entertainment and

of course carols.

Make a note of the date now!

HURST VILLAGE EVENT

This will take place on Saturday 8th December, running from 3.00 till 7.00, during which hours the High Street will be closed for all sorts of festivities. We have decided to have a table outside the theatre offering mince pies to passing adults and sweets to the children. You know what is coming! Please could you bring some mince pies (ideally home-made) to the theatre for us to distribute. It would be helpful if you could let one of the committee know that you intend to do this so that we know how many we have. The theatre will also be open for passers-by to step into the auditorium to have a look.

It will not have escaped your notice that this the night of an evening performance of our panto so we will close down at about 6.00 pm. Please could we have some volunteers to man the pie table for about an hour during the afternoon? Please contact Annette to let her know which hour you would like to do.

Many, many thanks for your help.

Dates For Your Diary



**November 30th
December 1st, 2nd, 7th,
8th & 9th**

BEAUTY & THE BEAST
at Players Theatre
Matinées & Evenings



December 6th
National Theatre Live
**ANTHONY AND
CLEOPATRA**
7pm at Players Theatre



**Wed January 2nd
AND Wed January 9th**
Reading/Auditions
ROPE
8pm at the Players Theatre



December 15th
CHRISTMAS PARTY
7.30pm at Players Theatre



15th January
National Theatre Live
**THE TRAGEDY OF KING
RICHARD THE SECOND**
7pm at Players Theatre



31st January
National Theatre Live
I'M NOT RUNNING
7pm at Players Theatre

Tickets

Beauty & The Beast www.hurstplayers.org.uk

National Theatre Live www.hurstfilms.com