



Stage Whispers

June 2016

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EDITORIAL

So it has come to us at last! Having to cancel the Autumn production due to lack of actors & support people. I suppose it was inevitable with our diminishing membership and lack of new & younger members especially as the proposed play had about 10 characters. Also we have a Panto planned that will stretch our resources with rehearsals starting in September. I only hope this doesn't stop people taking part in the Spring Production which I am planning to direct with possibly a comedy.

The proposed playreading on stage with minimal set and a few rehearsals is a good compromise with minimum amount of effort to make a supper night show (or two) especially at a time that precedes a panto. We shall see from the size and reaction of the audiences. Our supper nights are always pretty popular irrespective of the play, so we shall see!

MESSAGE FROM OUR (NEW) CHAIRMAN

As you may have heard by now I have taken over from Tony Thompson as Whips chairman following the AGM on 18th May. I am pleased to say that Tony will continue on the Committee and my wife June will remain as Secretary with Frances King as Treasurer. Most of the existing committee will continue but more of that later.

I have been with the Whips for around 10 years, not as long as some, but long enough to understand how the Society works and the enjoyment that can be had. I have served as Treasurer in the past and played in a number of roles both on stage and back stage. I believe that the next few years will be critical to the survival of the Whips (so what's new?)

Financially we are very strong and are fortunate to have the Coach House for storing flats, props, costumes and for constructing our sets and painting backcloths. However it is clear that our human resources (people in other words) both on stage and back stage are declining in number.

We are fortunate to have a very strong Whippets and Young Whips sections producing excellent and well supported productions each year (most recently thanks to the excellent efforts of Janice Bennett and her team) but we sometimes struggle to cast our Whips productions and to attract good audiences.

We also have a strong programme of social events, the quiz night, theatre trips and monthly play readings. That said I think the main challenges that we will tackle as a Committee are the following;

- Attracting new members to the society in all disciplines but especially at the younger age group.
- Delivering a full program of productions through 2017 (potentially five shows including a pantomime) with reasonable audience numbers
- Increasing our profile in the local amateur theatre scene through the use of social media (e.g. Facebook, Streetlife etc)

We would ask you to help us with these challenges by

- Coming along to auditions and getting involved in our forthcoming productions both on stage and back stage if you are at all interested in active participation.
- By buying tickets and attending our shows and encouraging friends and family to do the same.
- By recruiting new members and spreading the message that the Whips are here
- Responding to our social media campaigns as they come on-line.

As mentioned, most of last year's committee will continue this year but I would like to thank Janice Bennett who takes a well-deserved rest after several years as Whippets manager and Pat Davis who steps down but will continue to assist with publicity. I would also like to welcome Julia McClung who takes on the role of Whippets manager and is already underway with planning for next year's production of Seussical Jr.

I look forward to meeting with and working with you all.

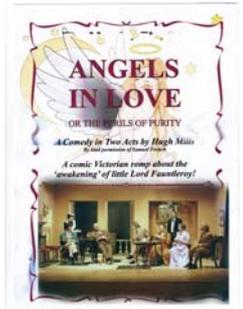
Colin Bailey



AUTUMN PRODUCTION

Having made extensive efforts to assemble a potential cast for the Autumn production of "Angels in Love" the Committee met on 15th June and accepted that at this time we lacked the resources both on-stage and back-stage to put on a quality production and therefore reluctantly decided to cancel.

We did however decide to perform instead a rehearsed reading of perhaps two one act plays. We felt that this would allow us to increase the availability of on stage actors and minimise the load backstage. This is somewhat experimental for the Whips and we have yet to work out the details but the original audition date of 30th June 2016 and the performance dates around the 19th to 23rd October will be kept.



So, if you are at all interested please do support us by coming along to the audition on Thursday 30th June at 8.00pm in the West Horsley Village Hall.

Many Thanks

Colin Bailey (Chairman)

PLAYREADINGS The next playreading will be on **Thursday** July 14th at Barbara Firth's house. Rosemount Woodlands drive EH tel 283262

PANTOMIME

Pantomime January 2017

11th - 14th January (Supper Night 12th plus a matinee on 14th)

19th - 21st January (Charity Night 19th 1st Fetcham Scout Group plus matinee on 21st)

Treasure Island

By Cheryl Barrett

Directed by Stuart & Soo Tomkins

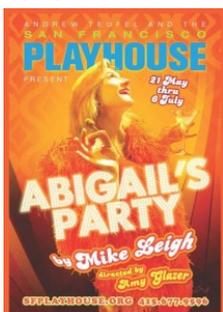


Casting date Wednesday 7th September 2016 at 7.30pm The Canterbury Rooms St. Martin's Church East Horsley

Rehearsals start on Monday 3rd October Canterbury Rooms at 7.30pm

SPRING PRODUCTION

I, Jack Griffith will be directing the Spring Production in April/May time. I am unsure what play to choose but as usual I prefer a comedy. If anybody has any suggestions of a play with a balanced cast of about 6 or 8 then please contact me. I do know that Anna Price would like to do, Abigale's Party by Mike Leigh with 2M & 3F. A 1970's classic that's difficult to do without mimicking Alison Steadman!. I'll try & get it for a playreading.



AGM

The Whips AGM held on Wednesday 18th May 2016 at 8.00pm WHVH saw the election of the committee as follows

Whips Committee for 2015/2016 are:

Colin Bailey	Chairman
Barbara Firth	Vice Chairman
Fran King	Treasurer
June Bailey	Secretary
Julia McClung	Whippets manager
Brian Aitchison	Representative on WHVH for Whips
Margaret Brazier	Child Protection Representative
Jan Hudson	
Margaret Pearce	
Iain Macfarlane	
Tony Thompson	

CUPS

It was decided at committee to give the cup this year 2016 to best actress/actor not supporting as it was felt that both productions were similar parts.

Our president Jeremy Miles gave the cups to the following...

Best Actress: Lesley Young for *We'll Always Have Paris* autumn production October 2015 playing Nancy.

Best Actor: Stuart Tomkins for *Absurd Person Singular* spring production April 2016 playing Sidney.

Joan Fry Award: for a hardworking member of the Whips goes to **Fran King** her list is endless she is treasurer, organises the Jane Ross Blind Club, helps with set building, does Stage manager, always there with a helping hand Oh! And sometimes acts.

Best First Award: Sharon Fredriksson for first time acting with the Whips in *We'll Always Have Paris* autumn production October 2015 playing Madame Boussiron.

Marion Pertwee Award to Best Whippet: Tommy McClung as Peter Pan in Whippets production of *Peter Pan* in March 2016

Walster Cup Award for Best Young Whip: Daniel Fuller as Viktor Frankenstein in *Frankenstein's Last Chance* February 2016



* Risk assessments are now complete and will be reviewed and signed. They will be looked at for each production

* We are setting a Facebook page for the whips. Please become a friend of our Facebook page as soon as it is published. Details to follow

* Blowing our own trumpet!!! The Whips contributed to the recent Queen's birthday celebrations to a great extent. Tony Thompson was on the management committee. Fran King was stage manager. One of our members, Joanne Roland sang and gave a great performance. We part sponsored a marquee and Brian Aitcheson set up the stage. Tony and Fran also set up the art exhibition and two of our members were in the group 'Icicle Tree ' Well done The Whips !!

* The Whippets are to stage the production 'Seussical Jr in March 2017 .. A Free pre audition workshop will be held on Sat 2nd July 9.30 to 12.30 at WHVH.

* The Autumn production of 'Angels in Love ' will not now be staged. See main body of Whispers for full details

* The Whips will again be performing for the Jane Ross Blind Club in Leatherhead on 6th July

Pylle Pageant 22nd May 2016 to celebrate the opening of the Somerset Central Railway Line through Pylle on 3rd February 1862

The Whips were well represented with several Whips' members, past and present, taking part in the extremely impressive Pylle Pageant to celebrate the opening of the Somerset Central Railway Line through Pylle in 1862, brilliantly organised by Stephen and Hilary Tudsbery-Turner. We were pleased with perfect weather following the torrential rain of the previous day. Among the over 150 costumed cast, mainly Pylle villagers who were either willing victims or dragged in my the T-T's (who can resist them?). Hilary T-T was Mrs Gouldney, wife of Rev Adam Gouldney (played by the present vicar of Pylle Church); Stephen T-T was Rev. William Gale, Rector of Pylle (in 1862) with Fran as Mrs Gale; John was General Chesney and I was Mrs Chesney; Tony and Val were Solomon and Phillis Green (Farmer and his wife); Jill Davis was Mrs Wingfield-Digby of Sherborne Castle; Sophie Davis was Mrs Napier of Pennard House.

The ladies in the other photo are just to show the wonderful venue. Also taking part but I didn't get photos of them (no digital cameras or lady photographers in 1862 so these were illicit!) were Nigel and Jeanne Nightingale (Farmer and his wife), Jo Reid as a SCR Loco Super's wife Mrs Andrews and Allen and Sue Floyd as Director of SCR Mr James Clark and Mrs Clark. There were drinks and burgers at the Church before the procession from the Manor to The Old Rectory where a brass band played, Singers sang appropriate songs, children did a maypole dance on the tennis court, and there was much more merriment for visitors. The provision of a large tea tent was also very welcome. It was a memorable and very happy and successful day, and congratulations must go to the Tudsbery-Turners who are hopefully recovering well. It was a superb event, a wonderful weekend, and we felt honoured to have been included.

Geraldine Guthrie



THE WHIPPETS

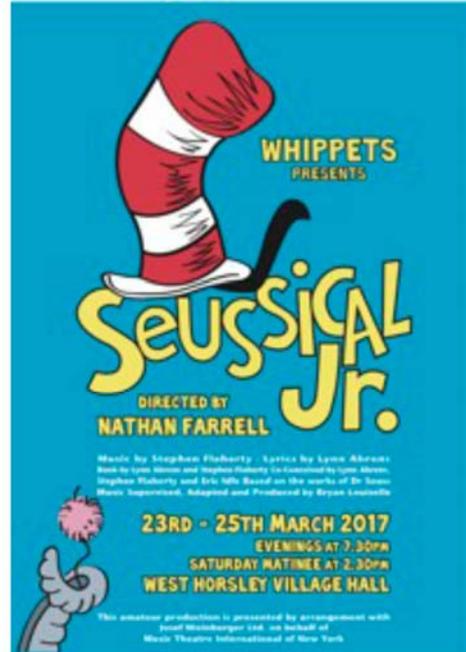
WHIPPETS UPDATE

Our next show is confirmed as Seussical Jr. A “fantastical musical extravaganza” based on the works of Dr Seuss. A mainly sung musical with lots of roles, colourful costumes and great ensemble numbers. The show run-time will be approx 110 mins including a 20 min interval. It plays to backing tracks, ie no band.

Cost of licensing show: £420 (paid) + 15% royalties. Video licence £120 (paid); Additional student books £5 each (we’ll need around 15 extra copies).

Team confirmed:

- Director: Nathan Farrell
- Assistant Director: Nicola Mace (parent)
- Vocal Coach: Nick Winford
- Producers: Julia McClung, Tracey Butcher
- Sound: Peter Magyar
- Stage Manager: Neil Fuller



Workshop

We are holding a free pre-audition workshop on Sat, 2nd July at WHVH. The aim is to introduce the kids to the show, get them to role play based on the characters, let them hear the style/level of vocals they’ll need for some of the main parts. We have 35 children confirmed to attend the workshop; 42 confirmed for September.



Auditions/Casting

We are hoping that the workshop will enable us to audition/cast the show quickly so that rehearsals can get underway.

Auditions - Sat 10th September
Rehearsals - from 17th September

Fees/T-Shirts

Fees £85 per child to include a cast t-shirt and student handbook.

Additional cast & crew t-shirts £7 each.

Costs

Vocal coach - £20 per hour, capped at £500
Director - £350

Website

If possible I would like a members only page on the Whips website for Whippets - where I can post weekly updates, rehearsal schedules, costume lists, coffee rotas and so on. Somewhere for parent to look for information. Is this possible?

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Chairman	Tony Thompson	282314 e-mail Tony.Thompson@withersworldwide.com
Hon.Sec.	June Bailey	283372 e-mail june@east-horsley.freemove.co.uk
Hon.Treasurer	Fran King	283051.-e-mail francesking123@btinternet.com
Whippets& Young Whips Sec.	Janice Bennett	283741 e-mail Janiceharnett@live.co.uk
Whispers Editor	Jack Griffith	282106 e-mail jackgriffith7@gmail.com
The Whips Website		www.horsleyamdram.org



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

30th June Autumn Production casting
 7th Sep Panto Casting @ WHVH
 19th – 22nd October Whips Autumn Production
 12th November Quiz Night
 11-14 & 19-21st Jan 2017 Panto



AND FINALLY

To be sure..... to be sure.....we just love the Irish!!

A painter by the name of Murphy, while not a brilliant scholar, was a gifted portrait artist.

Over a short number of years, his fame grew and soon people from all over Ireland were coming to the town of Doolin in County Clare, to get him to paint their likenesses.

One day, a beautiful young English woman arrived at his house in a stretch limo and asked if he would paint her in the nude.

This being the first time anyone had made such a request he was a bit perturbed, particularly when the woman told him that money was no object; in fact, and she was willing to pay up to £10,000.

Not wanting to get into any marital strife, he asked her to wait while he went into the house to confer with Mary, his wife.

In a few minutes he returned. "T'would be me pleasure to paint yer portrait, missus," he said "The wife says it's okay.

"I'll paint ya in da nude alright, but I have to at least leave me socks on so I have a place to wipe me brushes.".....??????



This has been another 'Rush it out swiftly before I go on the Camino production!



