



# Stage Whispers

May 2015

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## **AUTUMN PRODUCTION CASTING MEETING**

*We'll Always have Paris* by Jill Hyem

Directed by Fran King

**Wednesday 27th May 2015 at 8.00pm**

**Production 15-17<sup>th</sup> Oct 2015**

WHVH in the Cedar Room

If anyone would like to see a script prior to the casting please contact Fran on

01483-283051 or [francesking123@btinternet.com](mailto:francesking123@btinternet.com)

Parts for 4 ladies and 1 man



The plot sees three English ladies 'of a certain age' meeting up in Paris for a reunion.

Quadruple divorcee Raquel, who's on the look-out for a new toy boy, and the recently widowed Anna never did get on at school, so it's left to retired headmistress Nancy to keep the peace between them.

The trio are wooed by Charlot, their cabaret-singing French handyman, and harried by their fearsome landlady Madame Boussiron,

By the end of the play, 'les femmes anglaises' find that their personalities, outlooks and futures have all changed in ways they could never have predicted when their reunion began.

## **AGM**

### **REMINDER WHIPS AGM**

**THIS THURSDAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY AT 8.00pm**

**West Horsley Village Hall (Main Hall)**

Dear Whips Members

We are fast approaching our AGM on Thursday 21st May 2015 at 8.00pm at the West Horsley Village Hall. In the last edition of Stage Whispers you will have seen the notice of 67th Annual General Meeting and a Nomination Form. We would really like to have some new people on the committee enthused with new ideas. If you feel this is something you would like to do please fill in the nomination form and get it back to me by 17th May 2015.

June Bailey

Hon. Secretary

## **PLAYREADINGS**

**This Wednesday**

The next playreading will be on Wed 20th May at Pat Davis's house, 'Summerhill', Chalk Lane E.H.KT246TJ. Tel 01483 28 1990..where we will read Something's Burning by Eric Chappell 3F & 2m We need playreading hosts for July, Sep, Oct etc 2015 Please contact Jack on [jackgriffith7@gmail.com](mailto:jackgriffith7@gmail.com) who will organise the plays.

## SPRING PRODUCTION...PULLIN' THE WOOL...CRIT



Anyone stressed and baffled by the events surrounding the General Election and who sought a quiet evening with a gentle comedy about buying and selling houses might have gone home thinking that understanding politics is child's play when compared with an evening of Frank Vickery. Some of the play's language as printed (though not used in full by the Whips) would have made your average builder blush, and a proper understanding of the sequence of events on stage might qualify one as a contender for Brain of Britain. The play has strong overtones of the domestic comedies of Alan Ayckbourn but the underlying messages about human relations which that writer built into many of his works and which make some of his plays masterpieces, do not feature in *Pullin' the Wool*.

A dodgy evening, then? Absolutely not. Jack Griffith's production must rank as one of the very best in his long career with the Whips. He had assembled a fine cast who performed with intelligence and vigour and at a consistently brisk pace – a vital requirement for this type of play. Most striking of all perhaps was the ability of the cast to portray eight people from a neighbourhood as very different individuals, through physical and vocal variety (supported by good work in the costume department).

It's always good to see a newcomer returning promptly to the Whips stage and so it was with Sophy (Whittington) Davis, here a somewhat superior little schemer. Her partner -- Stuart Tomkins -- was charmingly engaged in destroying the house that was for sale – but no, I'm not going to try to lay out the plot.

Pat Davis will be long remembered less for her role in the story than for what she did behind the sofa, bless her. Her partner, Kevin Tomkins, was a thug, but a rather cuddly one, and regular audience members will have observed how well he has developed his stage presence over two short years.

Colin Bailey and Jan Hudson were the couple whose house was the centre of the action – a nicely contrasted pair, with Jan maintaining an evening-long sequence of hysterical episodes with considerable skill.

Aided by some of the author's best lines, the remaining partnership of Phil Embury and Anna Price gave us fine performances – Phil with his brilliant characterisation and delicious comic timing, and Anna no less funny (even if her cackle might have been stolen from *Fawlty Towers*).

Brian Aitcheson's set, showing two distinct rooms, was wisely presented in a simple style to maximise freedom of movement (and perhaps to avoid distraction from the complex plot?) while effective lighting changes from Chris Cathles kept the show flowing smoothly.

So no disappointments? Just the brevity of the final curtain which prevented the audience from showing their full approval of the way in which the Whips had tackled a very demanding play.

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## **WEST HORSLEY VILLAGE FETE**

SATURDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015  
2.00pm – 5.00pm

The Whips are having a Tombola and a game Hunt for Silver.

I am collecting items for the Tombola which is general anything from unwanted new gifts to bottles, jars etc. Must please be in date.

If you have anything you can donate could you please get it to me anytime from 27<sup>th</sup> July – 28<sup>th</sup> August to enable me to see how much I have and to raffle ticket them.

Thanking you all very much.

June Bailey  
01483-283372 or [june@east-horsley.freereserve.co.uk](mailto:june@east-horsley.freereserve.co.uk)

## **BILL PERTWEE**

Bill Pertwee our Patron kindly left the Whips a legacy. Please read my letter to his son Jonathan and his very nice reply...June

Dear Jonathan

I am writing on behalf of the Whips to let you know where we spent the money your dad kindly left us. We purchased some desperately needed floodlights which now light up the backcloths right down to the bottom. We thought lighting was very apt as your dad was always saying in Dads Army "Put that light OUT!"

We have also got on order a new stage floor cloth.

We all talk very fondly of Bill remembering some of the funny stories he told us.

I got your address from John and Geraldine Guthrie who asked me to pass on their love to you and said they will write soon.

Once again thanks for the legacy.

Yours sincerely.....June Bailey ...Secretary

Dear June,

Thank you so much for your nice letter. I am glad that the gift left by Dad has helped in some way towards the future of THE WHIPS.

I don't think i am understating things when i say that the years when as a family, we were involved with The Whips, The Young Whips and The Whippets- gave me the happiest of memories. Not that life is bad now, but never as happy. Of course Bill and Marion were alive then and the seventies and eighties spent with the group was the icing on a blissful childhood. I think my first play for the whippets was in 1972/ 1973 with Pinocchio or Alice in Wonderland. Much better fun than trying to do it for a living. But from there i finally ended up in a 'Olivier Award winning west end play for 2 years. Never would have happened i'm sure without so many of the grown up Whips helping me at the beginning. Happy Days. My best to you all past and present. Say hi to Gerry and all. Long may the WHIPS thrive and thanks for the good times that Mum and Dad and myself gained from being involved.

Yours Jonathan.

## COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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## MEERKAT'S NOTES

Meerkats notes – Committee meeting 22/04/15

- THE COACH HOUSE is always under review and at the moment old stuff is being cleared out . Recently mysterious bags of clothes have been left with no explanation. PLEASE inform the wardrobe - Margaret Pearce (01483 283663) if you have anything you think of use for costume
- FUTURE EVENTS – there will be a quiz night on 12<sup>th</sup> September. The Whips are taking part again at the Village fete and will be running a tombola. Presents are needed for this so please be generous and contact the committee if you can donate. Your help on the day would also be appreciated
- BOOKING TICKETS for plays is now very easy on line . Go to [www.horsleyamdram.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.horsleyamdram.ticketsource.co.uk) and book your seats .
- AUTUMN PRODUCTION Casting for this play will be 27<sup>th</sup> May at 8.00 in the Cedar room WHVH
- AGM May 21<sup>st</sup> at 7.30 in WHVH when awards will be made for the productions in the past year
- WEBSITE – our website is fabulous and has just been updated . Check out [www.horsleyamdram.org](http://www.horsleyamdram.org)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

May 20<sup>th</sup> Playreading at Pat Davis's house (note change)  
 May 21<sup>st</sup> AGM at the WHV hall  
 May 27<sup>th</sup> Casting Meeting for the Autumn Production  
 June 17<sup>th</sup> Playreading Soo Tomkin's house  
 Sep 15<sup>th</sup> W.H.Village Fete  
 Oct 15-17<sup>th</sup> Autumn Production

## AND FINALLY

Well Gemma,  
 A fellow texts his neighbour:

Dear Keith : I'm sorry. I've been riddled with guilt and I have to confess.  
 I have been helping myself to your wife when you're not around, probably more than you.

I know it's no excuse, but I don't get it at home. I can't live with the guilt any longer.  
 I hope you'll accept my sincerest apology. It won't happen again.

The neighbour, feeling outraged and betrayed, grabs a gun goes into the bedroom and without a word shoots his wife dead!.....Moments later he gets a second text:

Dear Keith:  
 Damn, I really should use spell check!  
 That should be "wif"..... Sorry!

Donald.....



This has been another 'Rush it out swiftly before the AGM comes up' production!



