

Stage Whispers

May 2016

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AUTUMN PRODUCTION

Autumn Production 2016

19th - 22nd October (Charity Night 19th (Charity TBC) Supper Night 20th)

WHIPS Angels in Love Summary and Cast requirements

Summary

As the dust settles on our highly successful Spring production our thoughts turn to this Autumn's production scheduled for 19th -22nd October 2016 at the West Horsley Village Hall. The production will be led by a guest Director Wally Ross-Gower who has worked several times with the WHIPS before (*Last Tango in Whitby*, *Habeus Corpus*, *Murder in Play*).

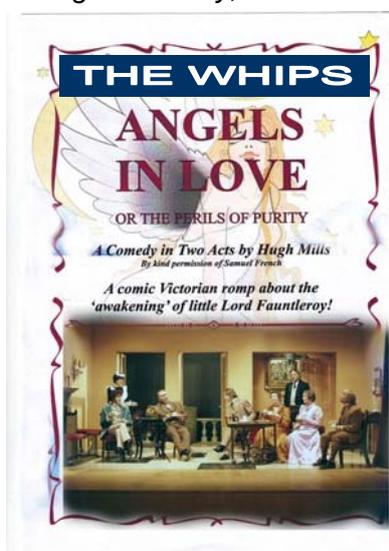
Auditions will take place on **Thursday 30th June at 8.00pm** in the West Horsley Village Hall.

Set in an English country house in 1888 this costume drama tells the story of young Cedric, Lord Fauntleroy, recently married to Lettice, who has led a sheltered life thanks to his doting mother Dearest. Dearest is keen to prolong the blood line and given Cedric's lack of knowledge and exposure to the fairer sex (including the birds and bees) she enlists the help of her friend Violet a French Comtesse to provide "training". Meanwhile Sir Pomery-Jones expresses his unrequited love for Dearest and proposes marriage whilst his brother Eustace falls for Violet. Cedric's grandfather the Earl of Dorincourt proposes to remedy the confused situation by taking the family with him to India and the play ends as you might imagine with both expected and unexpected twists.

We read the play, which was written and first performed in 1954, at one of our recent play-readings and found it amusing and entertaining in a traditional style.

If you would like to audition for a part please contact Producer June Bailey

june@east-horsley.freeseerve.co.uk who can provide a script and answer questions.



Casting requirements and page count

| | Act Scene | Total Pages | 1 | | 2 | |
|---|---------------|----------------|----|----|---|----|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Burton (maid) | F any age | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | |
| Dearest, mother to Lord Fauntleroy | F 40+ | 55 | 15 | 22 | 6 | 12 |
| Cedric, Lord Fauntleroy | Young M, 20's | 22 | 10 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Lettice, Lady Fauntleroy | Young F, 20's | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Violet, Comtesse De Chaumont | F 30+ | 36 | 9 | 11 | 3 | 13 |
| Furse (Butler) | M (aged) | 13 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 6 |
| Molyneaux, Earl of Dorincourt grandfather to Lord Fauntleroy | M (aged) | 15 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 5 |
| Sir Pomeroy-Jones | M, 50+ | 37 | 0 | 13 | 4 | 20 |
| Eustace Pomery Jones | M, 45+ | 24 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 14 |

PLAYREADINGS The next playreading will be on **Thursday** May 12th at Clare Punshon's house 'Forest Lodge, Forest Rd E.H KT245ES tel EH 282746.

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

AGM

AGM Wednesday 18th May 2016 at 8.00pm WHVH (Main Hall) see the last pages for nominations etc
Please do attend!

MEERKAT'S NOTES

* The Queen's 90th birthday party is to be celebrated on 12th June at Kingston House. Joanne Rowlands who is a member of Whips will be singing. There will be songs from Icicle Tree (also with whip's members) and possibly there will be some songs from Peter Pan performed by the Whippets.

Fran King is the stage manager.

* The Coach House has been cleaned and tidied after striking the set of Absurd Person Singular. Margaret Pearce has again requested people not to leave bags of costume in the wardrobe without informing her.

* The red curtains in the Hall require hemming and Brian Aitcheson has volunteered for this job

* The Whips would like to open Facebook and Twitter accounts. Is there anybody out there who would like to volunteer to set up and manage these. ?

* £200 has been donated to Cherry Trees from the last production

* The Autumn production will be 'Angels in Love' by Hugh Mills. Casting will be held in the village hall on 30th June at 8.00pm. It will be directed by Wally Ross Gower

* The Spring production 2017 requires a director

* The Whippets production of Peter Pan and the Young Whips supper evenings with 2 short plays were both brilliant productions. They both exhibited very enthusiastic casts. We are very lucky to have such confident talented youngsters in our group. Lots of hard work goes into these and many thanks are due to all who participated.



Absurd Person Singular April 20-23rd 2016 Crit



Written in 1972, Ayckbourn's *Absurd Person Singular* explores the relationships and tensions within and between the marriages of three couples over a period of three successive years. The action takes place on Christmas Eve with each of the three acts set in a different kitchen. The WHIPS previously performed this play back in 1977 and it is possible that only Director Jack Griffith and the kitchen table survive from the original production.

The play does not have a strong story line and because of this, the characterisation and acting performance of the six individuals is paramount to the success of the production. I am pleased to say that all on stage carried this off magnificently with each player well cast in the part and well matched to their partners.

Stuart Tomkins delivered what I believe to be his best WHIPS performance so far as Sidney the up and coming owner of a convenience store moving up and into property development. Stuart showed confidence and authority as he bounded around the stage attending to the details of his drinks party (Act 1) or the musical forfeits (Act 3), stopping only to chastise his house proud and somewhat subservient wife Jane played by Sophy Davis.

Sophy also produced her strongest performance to date acting as a perfect foil to Stuart's overwhelming enthusiasm showing great sensitivity in portraying Jane's insecurity with the party and meeting others, at the same time revelling in the cleaning and other mundane tasks. Her hilarious solo rendition of Jane's Act 1 escapade to fetch bitter lemon in the pouring rain was one of the highlights of the evening.

In contrast to the "new money" couple of Sidney and Jane, "old money" couple bank manager Ronald and wife Marion were played by Stuart Smith and Jan Hudson. Stuart's laid back delivery perfectly represented the absent minded and distracted Ronald who in contrast to the dominant Sidney was happy to take any option for an easy life when presented with his forceful second wife played by Jan. His shaking, twitching form slumped in a chair underneath a pile of multi-coloured washing at the end of Act 2 will long be remembered.

Jan's portrayal of Marion as a snobbish, self-centred, bossy wife was masterful, sweeping around stage in full control in Act 1 then descending to a drunken wreck in Act 3 as she realised that no one would be asking for her photograph or admiring her looks.

Somewhere between these two couples lay the dysfunctional marriage of Geoffrey, played by Phil Embury, and Eva, played by Anna Price. Geoffrey a notorious womaniser and somewhat average architect is shown coping with the pressures of a depressive wife and an aggressive dog.

Phil's well-honed acting skills were put to good effect with his sardonic delivery of some of Ayckbourn's best lines (... "what I lack in morals I make up in ethics." ...) and his perfect comic timing. His ranting monologue at the beginning of Act 2 combined pathos and humour interacting with Anna's suicide attempts and off-stage George the dog.

Anna, playing the part with an Irish accent which she maintained throughout, was excellent, developing her character from stressed out drug taking zombie, through silent and suicidal patient to recovering and forceful wife looking to control her delinquent husband.

Brian Aitcheson's ingenious and realistic set rightly drew audience applause and allowed the three kitchens to be rotated with the minimum of fuss.

Backstage the props and stage management team (Frances King, Barbara Firth and Margaret Pearce) coped well with both set changes but particularly that of the second interval where time spent with a restive audience had to be minimised.

With a relatively straight forward lighting plot Chris Cathles focussed on some well-chosen sound effects (Woof! Woof!) and June Tallon put together a fine selection of 70's outfits.

Director Jack Griffith has assembled a fine cast and has created a superb production with great pace and as I understand it from Aileen, not a single prompt required throughout the run. He must be delighted and all involved can be rightly proud.

Of course, only one question remains; will it be even better third time round?

Colin Bailey
26th April 2016



LEN CAMPBELL

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It is with great sadness that I have to report that Len Campbell, husband of Pam and ex editor of Stage Whispers, died suddenly the night of 26th April of Bronchial Pneumonia. The funeral is at 1PM Wed 11th May at St Martin's Church E.H...(No sombre clothing) Len was a great guy with a scouse wit who was pretty active, playing regular tennis and gym sessions. He was a terrific walking companion and will be missed by many but especially Pam & her family Stephanie, Michael & the grandchildren.



COMMITTEE CONTACTS

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Chairman | Tony Thompson | 282314 e-mail Tony.Thompson@withersworldwide.com |
| Hon.Sec. | June Bailey | 283372 e-mail june@east-horsley.freeserve.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

18th May AGM
12th May Playreading at Clare Punshon's house...note new date
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

Tom finally decided to tie the knot with his long-time girlfriend.

One evening after the honeymoon, he was playing around with his MG car in his garage, his new wife was standing there at the bench watching him. After a long period of silence she finally spoke, "Darling, I've just been thinking, now that we are married maybe it's time you stopped spending all your time out here in the workshop. You probably should just consider selling all your tools along with your Golf Clubs and that stupid vintage Harley-Davidson.

Tom got a horrified look on his face.

She said, "Darling, what's wrong?"

He replied, "There for a minute you were starting to sound like my ex-wife."

"Ex-wife!" she screamed, "YOU NEVER TOLD ME YOU WERE MARRIED BEFORE!"

Tom replied:

"I wasn't!"



This has been another 'Rush It out swiftly before The AGM production!



THE WHIPS

NOTICE OF 68th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 18th May 2016 at 8.00pm at the West Horsley Village Hall, West Horsley.

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the 67th Annual General Meeting held on 21st May 2015
- 3 Matters arising
- 4 Chairman's report
- 5 Treasurer's report
- 6 Membership report

7 Election of Officers and Committee Members for 2016/17

The 2016/17 Committee is as follows: Barbara Firth (Vice Chairman), Frances King (Hon Treasurer), June Bailey (Hon Secretary), Margaret Brazier, Margaret Pearce, Jan Hudson, Iain Macfarlane, Brian Aitcheson and Tony Thompson.

The position of Chairman is vacant.

In accordance with the Rules all the above named now stand down and offer themselves for re-election.

Nominations are now invited and should be made in writing, on the form attached, and submitted to the Hon Secretary by 11th May 2016. Nominations received after this date will not be considered. Nominations from the floor of the meeting can only be accepted if insufficient written nominations are received by the due date.

- 8 Presentation of Awards
- 9 Any other business

NOMINATION FORM

I wish to nominate..... (Block Capitals please)

For the position of:

- a) Chairman)
- b) Vice Chairman)
- c) Hon Secretary) (Please tick as appropriate)
- d) Hon Treasurer)
- e) Committee Member)

Name: Signed

I wish to second the above nomination:

Name: Signed

I agree to the above nomination for election to the 2016/17 Whips Committee as above:

Name: Signed

Please return to the Hon Secretary: June Bailey, Foxcombe, Nightingale Road, East Horsley, KT24 5EW to arrive by **11th May 2016**.

Minutes of the 67th Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 21st May 2015 started at 8.00pm at the West Horsley Village Hall, The Street, West Horsley.

Barbara Firth, Vice Chairman, opened the meeting with the Secretary June Bailey, Treasurer Frances King and President Jeremy Miles and 26 members present.

1. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Jill, Peter & Sophy Davis, Tony Thompson, Stuart Tomkins and Russell Sunderland.
2. **The Minutes of the 66th Annual General Meeting** held on Thursday 22nd May 2014 were approved by everyone present and signed by the Vice Chairman.
3. **Matters Arising:** None
4. **Chairman's Report:** This was read by Barbara Firth Vice Chairman (Full Chairmans report on file) Our chairman Tony Thompson was in hospital having a hip operation, our best wishes were sent to him for a speedy recovery.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** This was read by Frances King (Full Report on file) From the floor asked could we put the money where we would receive a better return e.g. premium bonds etc. this would be discussed at committee. Fran did say however that she had had such a difficult time transferring the money from Barclays to Lloyds that she didn't really want to go down that track again. Thanks were given to Fran for all her hard work.
6. **Membership Report:** Fran reported that several members still have to be chased for their subscriptions. Currently membership stands at 98 we lost some membership but gained 2 family and 2 individual members these were Neil Fuller (Family), Anthony & Gavin Bligh (Family), Sophy Davis and Alene Norkett Individual.
7. **Election of Officers:**

The committee were all prepared to stand again. The committee for 2015 were elected as follows:

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Chairman | Tony Thompson |
| Vice Chairman | Barbara Firth |
| Hon. Treasurer | Frances King |
| Hon. Secretary | June Bailey |

Committee Members:

Janice Bennett (Whippets & Young Whips Manager)
Margaret Pearce
Margaret Brazier
Jan Hudson
Pat Davis
Iain Macfarlane
Brian Aitcheson (Whips representative on the WHVH Management

Committee)

This was carried unanimously from the floor.

8. **Presentation of Awards:** (By Jeremy Miles President)

Best Supporting Actress:

Was awarded to Pat Davis for “*Pullin’ the Wool*” Spring production May 2015.

Best Supporting Actor:

Was awarded to Kevin Tomkins for “*Pullin’ the Wool*” Spring production May 2015.

The Joan Fry Award:

Was awarded to Aileen Aitcheson as hardworking all round member past chairman for 4 years, prompting, catering, helping with Young Whips and Whippets always there when needed.

The Best First Cup:

Was awarded to Soo & Stuart Tomkins for first joint directorship of the pantomime “*Dick Whittington*” January 2015.

The Arthur Moss Pantomime Award:

Was awarded to Sophy Davis as Dick Whittington in the pantomime ‘*Dick Whittington*’ January 2015.

We also gave a highly commended certificate to Mike Hamilton a Young Whip for his performance as Chips – First Mate in the pantomime ‘*Dick Whittington*’.

Marion Pertwee Award to Best Whippet:

Was awarded to Greta Butcher as Fagin in Whippets production of ‘*Oliver*’ in March 2015.

Everyone agreed that *Oliver* was a great production and congratulated Janice and her team. Jeremy said that he was unable to see the production this year due to ill health, Janice said she would let him have a DVD copy to see.

Walster Cup Award for Best Young Whip:

Was awarded to Heather Pugh for her two roles as Mary Bennett in ‘*Pride & Prejudice and other Important Qualities*’ and Becky in ‘*The Dog Sitters*’ in February 2015.

9. **Any Other Business:**

Colin Bailey asked about a new patron as The Duchess of Roxburgh had now died. June said that Tony had written to her great nephew Bamber Gasgoine to ask if he would be our patron. Tony had a reply saying at this present time due to sorting out Horsley Place he was unable to accept.

Jeremy Miles said that Chris Ingram might be a possibility.

Aileen Aitcheson said that regarding supper night details on the on line booking system had to be clearer. Fran will make sure of this in future.

Margaret Brazier said that with 10 tables the view of the stage from the front tables was obscured and it felt very cramped. **Brian Aitcheson** felt this only applied to these tables with a view of people standing in the wings waiting to come on.

Colin Bailey asked if there were any initiatives to recruit new members.

Janice Bennett suggested a disco for Whippets/Young Whips to include parents, friends and Whips which would help with getting to know each other in a social capacity and possibly help with attracting new and younger

members into the Whips. Janice was hoping to do this sometime in June before the schools break up for the summer and before people go off on holiday.

Other items; we had received an email from Stephen & Hilary Tudsbury-Turner to see if anyone would be interested in taking part in the Pylle Pageant next year 2016. Fran King has a part along with Sue & Alan Floyd. Fran explained about the pageant and said that she would be prepared to liaise with Stephen & Hilary and if anyone was interested in taking part to get in touch with her.

Fran King has very kindly agreed to organise the Jane Ross Blind Club this year on Wednesday, 2nd September 2015 as Russell Sunderland is unable to do it.

Having just finished A.O.B. the Whippets and Young Whips joined us at 9.00pm, the recipients of the awards received their cups, after which we all partook of the customary wine and nibbles.