



Stage Whispers

April 2019

Copyright: The Whips

www.horsleyamdram.org



SPRING PRODUCTION

Rehearsals are going well now we have a readjusted cast for this Very amusing comedy with so many entrances & exits it's more like a farce!

TICKETS

All; tickets for Party Piece will be available now via the Tickets Source website www.ticketsource.co.uk/horsleyamdram
Wednesday 1st May will be a preview night at £8 per ticket; Thursday is Supper Night at £17.50, Friday is Bring your Own night at £12 and Saturday 4th May will be a standard performance at £12.

**Do order your tickets and support us
in what should be a very enjoyable play**

THE WHIPS
Reg Charity 289657
www.horsleyamdram.org
An Amateur production by arrangement with Samuel French

A Comedy by Richard Harris

PARTY PIECE

Directed by Jack Griffith

1st-4th May 2019 at 8.00 PM
West Horsley Village Hall

Box Office: Wills & Smerdon, Estate Agents East Horsley. 01483 28 4141
or online at www.horsleyamdram.ticketsource.co.uk

PLAYREADINGS....

The next playreading will on Wed March 13th at Pat Davis's house Summer Hill, Chalk Lane EH KT246TJ to 281990 here we will read Relative Values by Noel Coward
Please can I have volunteers for Wed May 16th & Thurs July 18th please for Hosting & maybe suggestions for plays to read.



Message from WHIPS Chairman

Elsewhere in this issue you will find details of the forthcoming WHIPS AGM on May 30th and a nomination form for Committee membership. This year, two of our long serving Committee members will be stepping down and we are looking to replace them. I would urge you to consider joining our Committee; we meet around six times per year and make sure everything is in place and running smoothly in support of all our events and productions as well as meeting our obligations as a registered charity. We are especially keen to recruit greater expertise on social media. If you are interested and would like more information please feel free to contact me (colinbailey@hotmail.co.uk).

Colin Bailey
WHIPS Chairman

WHIPPETS PRODUCTION CRIT

Annie Jr: Whippets Production March 2019

This year's Whippets production of Annie Jr is amongst the best I have seen on the West Horsley Village Hall stage. Producer Julia McClung, Director Nicola Fawcett, Choreographer Katie McClung and their team and cast are to be congratulated on a slick and enjoyable production that played to full houses almost every show.

Although badged as a "Junior" production this version includes all the popular songs from the full version and tells the story of orphan Annie and her adoption by Mr Warbucks after a fruitless search for her parents involving the FBI and the President.



From the opening scene at Miss Hannigan's orphanage the stage is framed by a set of five dazzling backcloths created by Charlotte Wilson and her team. My favourite being the Grand Hall of Mr Warbuck's home where much of the second Act takes place and of course the magnificent New York skyline lit up at the end of Act 1 which disappeared all too quickly. With the backcloths combined with some well-chosen costumes and props the overall visual effect was spectacular and a credit to the designers. Stage management and scene changing from Neil Fuller and his team were smooth and discreet. Clever use of additional amplification and wireless microphones provided by Peter Magyar allowed us to hear the cast

much better than in previous years and lighting from Chris Cathles brought the stage to life.

The entire show was well rehearsed and the cast showed no hint of hesitation with either lines or songs. Throughout the show our chorus of young orphans and the principal characters, choreographed by Katie McClung, sang and danced with great enthusiasm and style through some challenging routines.

The principal parts were taken by the older cast members and all were well-acted and presented. Highlights for me were Bella, Gracie and Archie's rendition of *Easy Street*, Adrian's super confident solo *You're Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile*, and of course Harriet's beautiful and poignant *Tomorrow* sung with canine Ben who behaved faultlessly throughout. Olivia and Will acted well together and anchored the story line whilst the musical action went on around them.

So overall a really great show, congratulations to Nicola, Julia and all the team. We look forward to seeing the cast again, either in next year's Whippets production or in a forthcoming Whips Youth Theatre show.

Colin Bailey



Whips Youth Theatre

Julia Mc Clung advises that The Whips Youth theatrical group is working towards a show in early June but doesn't want to give too much info away just now.

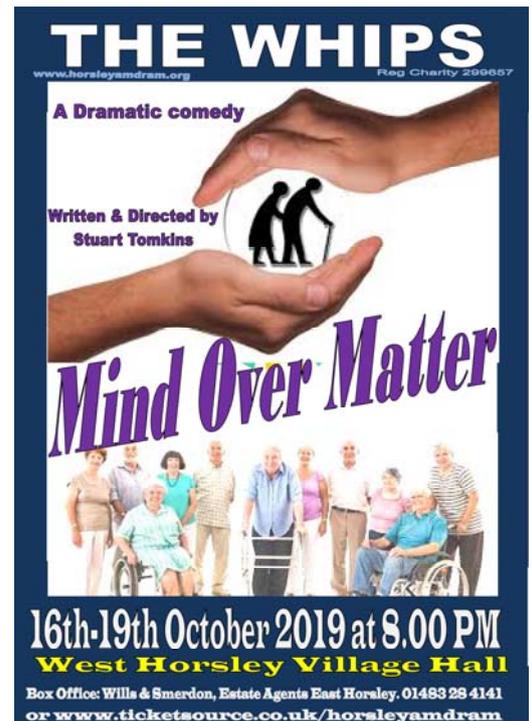
AUTUMN PRODUCTION

Casting Meeting 8PM Thurs 23rd May at the Canterbury Room E.H.

After a successful playreading the other week, Stuart Tomkins new play 'Mind over Matter', a drama set in a care home with a cast of about 3m/5f is the choice for the Autumn Production.

Stuart has volunteered to direct it and if we can cast it at the casting meeting on Thursday 23rd May at the Canterbury rooms EH, it should make for an enjoyable production especially as it's written by one of us!
Mind Over Matter – character notes

- Carl (m) – resident, former electrician.
- Harry (m) – resident, former civil servant.
- Karis (f) – late 20's, care assistant.
- Joanie (f) – resident, former florist.
- Penelope (f) – resident, former teacher.
- Mel (f) – mid-40's, care home manager.
- Simon (m) – resident, former policeman.
- Lily (f) – early 20's, new care assistant.



Carl

- On for Act 1, 2 and 3. Medium to small part.
- Quiet, reserved; keeps himself to himself. Not a great conversationalist but has a very sharp mind. A very practical and quietly intelligent man, e.g. keen chess player, excellent reader of people, etc. People tend to listen to him when he speaks (if he speaks). Not someone you would willingly make idle chit-chat with, unless you didn't know him. Borderline alcoholic. Suspected medical issues with his liver. His health visibly worsens as the play progresses (fine in Act 1, walking stick Act 2, wheelchair Act 3).

Harry

- On for Act 1, 2 and 3. Total: Large part.
- Ebullient, energetic and polite; a pleasant breath of fresh air in the home. He is our primary window into the lives of the residents as he bonds quickly with Lily. Well educated, but not a snob, he always makes time to talk to the other residents and can rightfully consider himself to be everyone's best friend. The reason why Harry is stuck in a retirement home is deliberately obscure; despite him being a civil servant, nobody else really knows that much about him. Harry is never drawn into a prolonged conversation about his past.

Karis

- On for Act 1 and 3 – NO ACT 2. Total: Small part.
- Passive, not cold or naïve. She's only here to do her job. End of discussion. She cares for the residents, but cares about getting paid at the end of the month a little more. She's not completely heartless with her interactions between the residents, and warms to them gradually as the play progresses, but of course by that stage, it is possibly a little too late for bridge-building. Ends the play regretting her past outlook on her job. Karis is almost a vision, a "ghost of Christmas yet to come" for Lily; a warning of how she might end up.

Joanie

- On for Act 1, 2 and 3. Medium to small part.
- Lonely, bored, perhaps even a little embittered at being stuck in a retirement home; the resident nose parker of the home. A family woman, much more so than the others. Likes the sound of her own voice, not necessarily in a horrible way, but because there is never anyone else worth listening to. Arthritis and numerous other ailments are used as reasons for her confinement to a retirement home, but the true cause is the trauma of her husband's death that she has never quite recovered from, which she tries desperately to hide from the others.

Penelope

□ On for Act 1, 2 and 3. Large part.

□ A kind, quiet, slightly withdrawn but ultimately harmless old lady. Fiercely intelligent, another good reader of people. Her and Joanie bicker and argue like cats and dogs, chiefly because they are so different in character, not because of any past indiscretions. Cares a great deal about her half-brother Simon and will not let anyone or anything get between her and his wellbeing. Has ended up in the retirement home mostly because of Simon and her wish to look after him. Again, Penelope's health is a deliberately vague feature of the play. It is not really until the very final scene that we begin to understand and appreciate just how difficult her life has been.

Mel

□ On for Act 1 and 3 – NO ACT 2. Small part.

□ The kingpin of the retirement home; brusque, clinical and very matter-of-fact. Treats the residents as a shepherd would treat their flock; as their primary source of income. Not a cold person, or a bully, or a tyrant; in fact, perhaps the only thing she is truly guilty of is taking her job, and herself, a little too seriously. She has a horrible life outside of the walls of the care home and sometimes takes it out on the residents. She is ultimately the "villain" of the piece; however, it is imperative that she is not deliberately portrayed as one. Everyone should be able to identify a feature of Mel in a boss they have previously worked for / work with currently.

Simon

□ On for Act 1 and 2 – ONLY WALK-ON ACT 3. Small part.

□ Slightly overweight, slightly forgetful, absolutely heart-warming. We need to gravitate towards Simon as moths to a light. Very much in the grip of dementia, after years of successful service in the Police force. Treated with a degree of sympathy by the other residents, an attitude that winds up Penelope and confuses Simon. Does not seem to mourn his loss of independence as the others do, and in his more lucid moments, is truly appreciative of the company around him. He is another whose health deteriorates rapidly as the show progresses (like Carl); but this is much more of a mental deterioration than a physical one. His breakdown at the end of Act 2 is the last defining moment of his life.

Lily

□ On for Act 1 and 2 – NO ACT 3. Large part.

□ The glue of the show; youthful confidence and innocence personified. Gradually encourages everyone out of their respective shells, although this isn't fully realised until after she has gone in Act 3. Forms close bonds with everyone, either through her actions or through her conversations with them, a feature appreciated by all the residents as well as her honesty, her openness, and her willingness to treat them all with dignity. Despite Mel's warning, it is obvious that she cares too much about the residents, so much so that, ultimately, it costs her a job – let's not forget, she inadvertently triggers Simon's meltdown, driven by her desire to get to know him better. Her good deeds and honest actions do not always lead to positive outcomes for everyone.

MEERKAT NOTES

Meerkat Notes for Committee Meeting 13th March 2019

- Thanks to Margaret P and Fran all costumes have now been stored back in the Coach House following on from the Pantomime
- Some tree pruning may needs to be done at the Coach House in the Spring.
- The stage right window has now been removed and replaced by hardboard. This has made the area safer and reduced stray light coming on stage during a production. There is some rendering work still to be done and hopefully during Easter the lighting dimmer packs will be re-sited further up the wall.
- The recent editions of Vantage Point and the West Horsley Parish magazine have entries about the WHIPS and Whippets productions
- Whippets Youth Theatre now have their own public Facebook page further promoting their productions.
- The finances are in a very healthy state with funds standing at approximately £25K.
- There will be a dance workshop after the production with the aim of encouraging new children to join.
- It is hoped that WHIPS Youth theatre will present two 1 act plays on 9th June (subject to confirmation).
- Rehearsals for the Spring Production of "Party Piece" are going well and a replacement actress (Laura Mc Clung) for the role of Roma has joined the cast.
- The WHIPS A.G.M. will be held on Thursday 30th May

CONTACTS

Chairman	Colin Bailey	283372 E-Mail colinbailey@hotmail.co.uk
Secretary	Aileen Aitcheson	283919 E-Mail aileenaitcheson@gmail.com
Treasurer	Fran King	283051.-e-mail francesking123@btinternet.com
Whippets Manager	Julia McClung	281286 e-mail juliamcclung@btinternet.com
Whispers Editor	Jack Griffith	282106 e-mail jackgriffith7@gmail.com
The Whips Website		www.horsleyamdram.org



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1st – 4th May Spring Production
16th May AGM
16th-19th Oct Autumn Production



AND FINALLY

A few minutes before the church services started, the congregation was sitting in their pews and talking.

Suddenly, Satan appeared at the front of the church.

Everyone started screaming and running for the front entrance, trampling each other in a frantic effort to get away from evil incarnate.

Soon the church was empty except for one elderly cowboy who sat calmly in his pew without moving, seemingly oblivious to the fact that God's ultimate enemy was in his presence.

So Satan walked up to the man and said, 'Do you know who I am?'

The old cowboy replied, 'Yep, sure do.'

'Aren't you afraid of me?' Satan asked.

'Nope, sure ain't.' said the cowboy.

'Don't you realize I can kill you with one word?' asked Satan.

'Don't doubt it for a minute,' returned the old man, in an even tone.

'Did you know that I can cause you profound, horrifying AGONY for all eternity?' persisted Satan.

'Yep,' was the calm reply.

'And you are still not afraid?' asked Satan.

'Nope,' said the old cowboy.

More than a little perturbed, Satan asked, 'Why aren't you afraid of me?'

The old cowboy calmly replied, 'Been married to your sister for 49 years. '



This has been a 'get it out swiftly before 'Party Piece' play starts



THE WHIPS

NOTICE OF 71st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 30th May 2019 at 8.00pm in the Main Hall, West Horsley Village Hall, West Horsley

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the 70th Annual General Meeting held on 16th May 2018
- 3 Matters arising
- 4 Chairman's report
- 5 Treasurer's report
- 6 Membership report
- 7 Election of Officers and Committee Members for 2019/20

The 2018/19 Committee is as follows: Colin Bailey (Chairman), Barbara Firth (Vice Chairman), Frances King (Hon Treasurer), Aileen Aitcheson (Hon Secretary), Margaret Brazier, Margaret Pearce, Jan Hudson, Iain Macfarlane, Julia McClung, Brian Aitcheson and Neil Fuller.

There are two Committee Member positions vacant as Barbara Firth and Margaret Pearce will be standing down at the AGM.

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 21st May 2019. 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 2019/20 Whips Committee as above:

Name: Signed

Please return to the Hon Secretary: Aileen Aitcheson, Jalna, Forest Road, East Horsley, KT24 5ES or email aileenaitcheson@gmail.com to arrive by 21 st May 2019.