



Stage Whispers

May 2019

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EDITORIAL

Another successful play finished, not without a few problems. Having to find a (fine) replacement for Roma a third the way through rehearsal then Hannah (Jennifer) trapped in Norway during the dress rehearsal (with Fran stepping in as usual) and during the public dress rehearsal, a downpour creating puddles all over our sound and lighting equipment due to the hall roof refurbishment. All went well in the end though although we could have done with better audiences especially the Wednesday (1st night) and Saturday but very well received and appreciated especially by the original Mrs Hinson of 20 years ago (Sue Floyd) who enjoyed it enormously. Well done 'The Team'



AUTUMN PRODUCTION

**Casting Meeting 8PM Thurs 6th June
at the Canterbury Room EH**

After a successful playreading the other month, 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 6th June at the Canterbury Rooms EH, it should make for an enjoyable production especially as it's written by one of us!

"Mind Over Matter", a comedy-drama set in a modern day retirement home over the course of three acts. Harry, Penelope, Simon, Joanie and Carl are all residents of the Pepel Retirement Home, happy to live out the rest of their lives in peace and tranquillity. Unfortunately for them, the owner of the home, Mel, has very different ideas. Aided by her assistant Karis, they make the daily routines of all residents' a strictly regimented struggle, until the arrival of a new member of staff, Lily, threatens to overthrow the status quo. Through unselfish acts of genuine kindness and compassion, Lily begins to transform their lives - but, for some, it proves to be too little, too late.

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.

THE WHIPS
www.horsleyamdram.org Reg Charity 299657

A Dramatic comedy

Written & Directed by Stuart Tomkins

Mind Over Matter

16th-19th October 2019 at 8.00 PM
West Horsley Village Hall
Box Office: Wills & Smerdon, Estate Agents East Horsley, 01483 28 4141
or www.ticketsource.co.uk/horsleyamdram

AGM

NOTICE OF 71st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

PLAYREADINGS....

The next playreading will on Thurs 13th June at Soo Tomkins house,67, Orchard Close, Fetcham KT229JB at 8pm promptly tel 01372 373623

Please can I have volunteers for Thurs July 18th, Wed 18th Thurs Oct 24th, Thurs Nov 21st for Hosting & maybe suggestions for plays to read.



Party Piece Crit

Comedies by Richard Harris tend to start slowly while characters are introduced. Directors and actors can feel tempted to force the pace to get to the laughs. Jack Griffith as director and his cast resisted this temptation. Stuart Tomkins and Laura McClung established themselves thoroughly as the bright young couple gentrifying their house, with Stuart Tomkins as Michael being seriously domineering towards poor Laura McClung as his wife. We already sensed the problems looming over their housewarming party before we met their neighbour, Mrs Hinson, the other side of the fence (cleverly inferred by the first couple of feet up stage). Members of the audience probably had such strong memories of Sue Floyd as Mrs Hinson when the Whips first performed Party Piece twenty years ago, that it was asking a lot for Jan Hudson to establish herself in the part; however she did so immediately and was vividly etched on our minds before Phil Embury as her son set foot on the stage. The interaction between these two was a delight and, even if occasional help was required from the prompt, Jan maintained a lovely bitchiness throughout, while Phil moved convincingly from loving son to harassed pawn between his mother and Jennifer his new wife. Hannah Jordan as Jennifer injected not only pace but a sense of venom with her arrival. This was Hannah's first serious role for the Whips and her timing and facial expression give hope for some major roles to come



In Act One the two gardens were largely separate acting spaces and the cast either side of the fence had little interaction (though cues had to be picked up swiftly as the action passed from one side to the other). In Act two the Smethhursts' housewarming party gets under way and the complaints fly across the fence, together with Mrs Hinson's zimmer frame. The two guests who do appear at the party are Toby, nicely portrayed in a languid manner by Colin Bailey, and Sandra, a wickedly sexy and voluptuous Anna Price. The predictable failure of the barbeque followed repeated attempts by Roma to break up the frozen sausages by dropping them (including throwing them out of the first floor window) and Michael's use of butane gas which produces large amounts of smoke and a burning wig that is thrown across the fence to land in Mrs Hinson's pond. Stuart and Laura were frighteningly convincing in these scenes and Laura is to be congratulated on joining the cast after rehearsals had started and producing such a good performance

The frenetic pace was maintained with shouting matches either side of the fence between Michael and Roma on one side and Mrs Hinson and her son and daughter-in-law on the other. The verbal fireworks were matched by physical chaos with guttering crashing from the roof of Michael's shed. One felt there could have been a wonderful climax here but whether through the writing, the directing or the acting it rather melted away

As always, the Whips gave us a fine set designed by Peter Davis, good lighting and sound effects by Chris Cathles, and myriad props, including some really dreadful custard, from Soo Tomkins. All in all, Jack and the team can feel well satisfied with another winning production



Whips Youth Theatre

Whips Youth

Following on from the success of last year's show, Whips Youth will present its second 'Evening of Music and Drama' at the Village Hall on Sunday 9th June. Guests are invited to bring their own food and drink at 7pm with the entertainment commencing at 8pm.

Tickets are pretty well sold out for this event however any remaining tickets can be booked at www.ticketsource.co.uk/horsleyamdram.





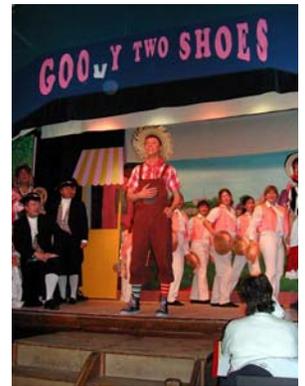
Meerkats Notes from WHIPS Committee meeting on 16th April 2019

- Brian reported that Nimrod Fire had done their inspection of extinguishers and replaced one in the Coach House.
- Confirmed that next phase of the lighting dimmer re-location will take place on Easter Saturday. Dimmers will be moved above head height and provided with a cable tray.
- Fran reported that finances are in good shape with a healthy contribution from Whippets Annie Jr.
- Julia ran a successful Whippets dance workshop to recruit new children and announce that next year's show will be Disney's Little Mermaid Jr.
- WHIPS Youth Theatre are working on a music/drama show for 9th June.
- Mind Over Matter by Stuart Tomkins confirmed as the Autumn 2019 production. Casting on 6th June.
- Confirmed that WHIPS pledge of £250 towards the New Performing Arts Library charity has been requested and will be paid.

Message from Geraldine

I don't know who to ask, but I have a CD of the complete set of photos from Goody Two Shoes, why I know not because as far as I know, or can ascertain from the programme, no Guthrie was involved in that production. There are two photos of me with some Whips taken in our garden for some reason, obviously a good one as wine glasses were included! Anyway it seems such a shame just to bin it when someone might like to have it. The two names that spring to mind are Nic Pearce as Jan was Principal Boy, or Margaret as Norman was a baddy, but she probably already has it whereas Nic might not and would like to.

Can you advise, I am happy to bin it if unwanted but as I said it seems a shame if someone would like it. Jill directed it, but I expect she has all the photos. Can you ask around, perhaps in Whispers, and I will hold on to it for the time being in case.



CONTACTS

Chairman	Colin Bailey	283372 E-Mail colinbailey@hotmail.co.uk
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The Whips Website		www.horsleyamdram.org



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thurs 30th May AGM
Thurs 6th June Autumn production Audition
Thurs 13th June..Playreading
Wed 18th Sept Playreading
16th-19th Oct Autumn Production
Thurs 24th Oct..Playreading
Thurs 21st Nov Playreading





CRUISE

DEAR DIARY - DAY 1 - All packed for the cruise ship -- all my nicest dresses, swimsuits, shorts. Really, really exciting. Our local Ladies Bowls Club 'The Late Bloomers' decided on this "all-girls" trip. It will be my first one and I can't wait!

DIARY - DAY 2 - Entire day at sea, so beautiful. Saw whales and dolphins. Met the Captain today -- seems like a very nice man

DEAR DIARY - DAY 3 - At the pool today. Did some shuffleboard, hit golf balls off the deck. The Captain invited me to join him at his table for dinner. Felt honoured and had a wonderful time. He is very attractive and attentive.

DEAR DIARY - DAY 4 - Won £800 in the ship's Casino. The Captain asked me to have dinner with him in his own cabin. Had a scrumptious meal complete with caviar and champagne. He asked me to stay the night, but I declined. Told him I could not be unfaithful to my husband.

DEAR DIARY - DAY 5 - Pool again today. Got really sunburned, and I went inside for a drink at the piano-bar and to cool down; stayed there for rest of day. The Captain saw me, bought me several large drinks. Really is quite charming. Again asked me to visit his cabin for the night. Again, I declined. He told me, if I did not let him have his way with me, he would sink the ship.

I was shocked.



DEAR DIARY - DAY 6

Today, I saved 2,600 lives!

Twice.

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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 21st May 2019.

