

Canterbury Players Newsletter

April 2010

www.davyhulme.net/canterburyplayers

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Play Reading Evening

A joint fund-raising event with the Church was held on Saturday 27th February 2010. With a full house, two enjoyable one-act plays, a funny monologue expertly delivered by Madge, and a very tasty supper, it all added up to a great success. After deducting expenses, we raised £302 which was split equally between the Church and Canterbury Players. Everyone is already talking about the next one.

Pools Paradise

A great show! So much fun to prepare and perform, very much enjoyed by all audiences, and a four star review from Julia Taylor in the online version of the Messenger. New member Damian McHugh made his short notice debut appearance playing the Rev. Arthur Humphrey after Chris Corry suffered a shoulder injury while dancing. (unsuitable dancing shoes we believe!)

Unfortunately, and we don't know why, but audience numbers were well down resulting in a loss on this otherwise successful production. Well, that's just how it goes sometimes! We need audiences of around 65 a night to avoid running at a loss so, for the next production, please put up posters, tell your friends and colleagues how good we are and get as many as you can to come along and see us.

Annual General Meeting

< July >		< 2010 >					
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
26	28	29	30	1	2	3	4
27	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
28	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
29	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
30	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
31	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Just a reminder that this season's AGM will take place at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 7th July 2009 in room 2 at Brook Road.

We will send, by email or post as necessary, minutes of the last AGM, agenda and membership renewal form, approximately two weeks before the date.

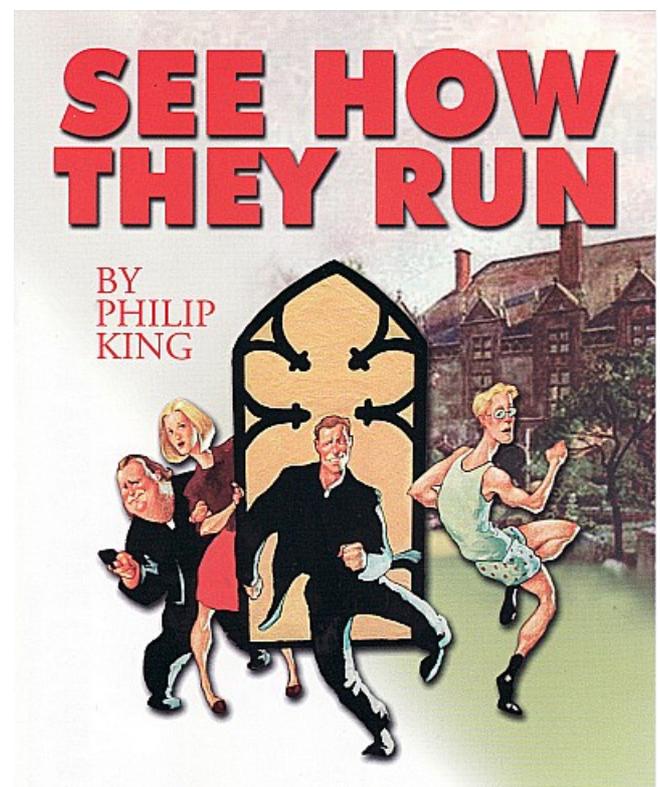
Unless we have any objections, we intend to adopt our usual practice of voting in the committee en

masse. If anyone would like to stand for a position, they should do so with two sponsors.

In order to take advantage of the new benefits for members, as detailed in the last newsletter, you must pay your subscription on or before the AGM. At the meeting we will also hold the annual members' draw - with increased cash prizes.

Our Next Production

3rd to 6th November 2010



We're back again in the idyllic village of Merton-cum-Middlewick, this time a few years earlier. It becomes a centre of chaos and confusion when the nosy resident spinster, Miss Skillon, becomes convinced that her beloved vicar's wife is having a scandalous affair. Desperate to expose the salacious relations, a tangled web of deception and deceit is spun as a visiting bishop, locum priest, and escaped prisoner of war all get caught in the race to reveal or conceal their outrageous indiscretions. This classic laugh-a-minute farce will leave you in hysterics as mistaken identities, swinging doors, and lunacy strike again at Brook Road. This isn't a sequel or a "prequel" to "Pools Paradise", but we will meet again many of the same characters in November.

We haven't yet fixed a date for auditions but if you're interested in a part, please mention it to a committee member as soon as possible.

Also, please step forward if you would like to assist with any other aspects of the production; there are numerous other jobs which have to be done leading up to and during play week. Why not get involved?

As you know, Gordon wishes to take a back seat in the set construction department and although he won't be giving up altogether, we do need someone to help out with this vital task.

Messenger Review

Messenger

Canterbury Players excel in Pools Paradise

9:31am Friday 26th March 2010

By Julia Taylor

True to form, for their spring production at the Davyhulme (Wesley) Methodist Church, the Canterbury Players have come up with a farce, Pools Paradise.

It is written by a master of the genre, Philip King and directed by Matt Fox.

It concerns the Rev. Lionel Toop, a kindly though straight-laced vicar in the sleepy village of Merton-cum-Middlewick who has to keep a tight rein on the cost of running a rambling old vicarage and raising funds to have the church bells repaired.

His wife, Penelope, a former actress, is sick of belt tightening, and longs for more cash to spend on clothes and make-up.

With the help of their scatty maid, Ida played with energy and enthusiasm by Jennifer Coupe, and her boyfriend, Willie Briggs (Thomas Mungovan) Penelope plays the football pools without telling her husband. When she wins, or thinks she has won, she excitedly awaits official confirmation.

But how is she to break the news that her sin of gambling has been rewarded? This is where the action really begins and tests the actors' skills. They cope with it well.

All hell is let loose as coupons are mistakenly switched and switched back, the vicar loses his trousers and everyone including Miss Skillon, a poker-faced anti-gambling spinster and a clutch of other clergy run in and out of doors.

Players stalwart Jonathan Coupe is well cast as the vicar and Hannah Ballard is a star in her own right as Penelope. I especially like Heather Holstein's over the top portrayal of frustrated spinster, Miss Skillon.

I can't say it often enough that the secret of farce is timing and all the players get this right.

With an intricate set, designed by Terry Walker and Gordon Wells and sound and lighting by Bill Palmer this can be classed as another success for the Canterbury Players.

Star rating: * * * *

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Diary Dates

21st to 24th April 2010
Dunham Thespians
"A Sting In The Tale"
by Brian Clemens and Dennis Spooner

22nd May 2010
Canterbury Players
Another "Smiths" evening

7th July 2010
Canterbury Players
Annual General Meeting in room 2

3rd to 6th November 2010
Canterbury Players
"See How They Run"
by Philip King

13th to 16th April 2011
Canterbury Players
"Outside Edge"
by Richard Harris

Where Does It All Go?



We enjoy what we do, and for all those concerned with each production, it's hard work, very time-consuming, sometimes stressful, and always good fun. But, we couldn't possibly do it without the financial support of our loyal audiences, which have recently averaged about 260 over the 4 nights. With tickets at £6, and £25 gratefully received from each of our 8 programme advertisers, that amounts to approximately £1,760.00, so we thought you (and they) might like to know what we do with it.

Here's the breakdown of the essential expenditure for a typical production:-

rent	1,260.00
scripts	80.00
stage materials, props, costumes	150.00
royalties to playwright	280.00
insurance (£324.50 per year)	162.00
interval provisions	30.00
paper and printing	60.00
	=====
total	£2,022.00
	=====

(Members receive a detailed report of accounts at every AGM.)

As you can see, there's a quite a shortfall, but the deficit is made good from members' yearly subscriptions of £10, donations for tea and coffee, our usual raffle and other fund-raising activities which we hold from time to time. The bottom line is that most years we can make it balance and any surpluses are retained on deposit for leaner years and emergencies. According to Mr. Micawber:

"Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen pounds nineteen and six, result happiness. Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds ought and six, result misery."

We're pleased to report that the "result" for Canterbury Players is "happiness". We consider ourselves fortunate to be in this position particularly when two thirds of NODA groups ran at a loss last year.¹

We are aware that this newsletter is read by some of our audiences who are not members, so we'd like them to know that we really do appreciate their support.

Thank you.

¹National Operatic and Dramatic Association "Theatre Business" magazine Spring 2010

Smiths Restaurant

**Fine Dining And Sophisticated Entertainment
at Smiths Restaurant
on Saturday 22nd May 2010**

(for members and guests)

A "Members And Guests" event comprising an evening of fine food, wine and sophisticated entertainment is being arranged for Saturday 22nd May 2010 at Smiths Restaurant, Eccles who will be serving the fine food and wine. Canterbury Players Amateur Dramatic Society will be providing the sophisticated entertainment.

Programme

7:00	arrive for drinks
7:30	act 1
7:45	starter
8:15	act 2
8:20	act 3
8:25	main course
9:10	act 4
9:15	act 5
9:20	dessert
9:50	act 6
10:05	coffee & raffle
10:50	end

As you can see from the programme, we're planning 6 short "acts", so we need volunteers to read a monologue, or a poem, or perform a quick sketch – the choice is yours. We want our "regular" readers to step forward, but it's also an ideal opportunity for anyone who would like to "dip their toe" so to speak. We'll do one or two rehearsals beforehand but the intention is to do it with scripts and have a laugh!

For those who have access to the internet, there's a great website where you download and print many poems and monologues.

www.monologues.co.uk

Volunteer NOW!
ring Heather on 0161 747 9948
if you want to do a turn.

Reservations

You will be able to make your menu choices on the night from the set menu and the cost will be £18 for 3 courses and coffee. We have arranged to pay for the dinner on one bill so please pay as you go directly to the waiters or at the bar for drinks, menu supplements and liqueur coffees. The last "Smiths" event was a great success so book early to avoid disappointment as we are again limited to about 40 persons. So, if you want to go, return this slip to David with £10 per person deposit as soon as possible and send the balance of £8 to him at least a week before the event, i.e. before 15th May 2010.

name:

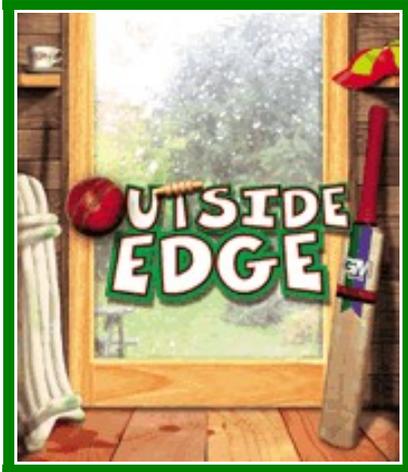
Please reserve _____ places for Saturday 22nd May 2010. I enclose £10 per person deposit.

(If you don't want to cut up your copy of the newsletter, just send a note with your deposit. We just need your name and number of tickets required.)

Spring 2011 Production

That's right – 2011 !

Not only have we already chosen a play for our Autumn 2010 production, but we're almost certainly decided on the play for Spring 2011 as well.



“Outside Edge” is the odds-on favourite at the moment. It's a play by Richard Harris about a cricket team trying to win a game of cricket whilst sorting out their various marital problems. It was first performed on stage in 1979 and adapted by the author into a TV sitcom series in the 1990s. We have presented this play once before in 1994.

If you have anything which you would like to submit for inclusion in a future newsletter, please send it to David Holstein.

email: david@davyhulme.net