

Canterbury Players Amateur Dramatic Society

March 2017

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A Gala Night on The Town

NODA Awards Dinner



For several months of the year, as a society we give a great deal of our time to enjoy our hobby of amateur dramatics, in one way or another. Whether it be in the form of rehearsing and learning lines, directing, producing, set and props, lighting, sound – in fact the list is not exhaustive – we give our very best to entertain our audiences. On 28th January 2017, a group of Canterbury Players members attended The NODA Awards Gala and Dinner - the culmination of the previous twelve months efforts. The event took place in The Grand Room at The Manchester Principal Hotel on Whitworth Street. The ballroom was beautifully laid out with huge round tables to accommodate between eleven and twelve guests.

Each table had a magnificent candelabra and the atmosphere was upbeat and full of anticipation. Everyone was wearing their best bib and tucker; the gentlemen in dinner suits and the ladies in stunning dresses. We enjoyed a tasty three course meal and then the time arrived to hear who the successful nominees were. We belong to NODA North West District 1, an area which covers 21 societies, a mixture of musical theatre, operatics and drama.

The district representative, Kevin Proctor, who hosted the evening, shared with us that he has seen 52 shows over the course of the year. We should be very proud at Canterbury Players that both of our last season's productions received nominations. It is quite something when 52 productions have been judged.



Canterbury Players were nominated as follows:

- Best Supporting Male in a Drama – Colin Baker as Inspector Rough in **Gaslight**
- Best Supporting Female in a Drama – Diane Cornes as Sheila in **Relatively Speaking**
- Best Staging – **Relatively Speaking**
- Best Actress in a Drama- Debbie Dickerson as Bella Manningham in **Gaslight**
- Best Director of a Drama – Ann Robinson for **Gaslight**
- Best Drama – **Gaslight**

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Sadly, on the evening, we did not win any awards, however we were all very proud of the society's achievements and to have six nominations is no mean feat when there is such a wealth of talent represented. After the Awards Ceremony there was dancing and we all enjoyed a happy fun evening with like minded people who were celebrating the joy of their hobby with friends and fellow members of other societies.

Diane Cornes

Play Reading Events

Monthly Play Readings are a success!

The play readings at the Bird l'th Hand have been a real success so far! People have said they have enjoyed them and what's more, they keep turning up! A total of 18 people have been involved and at least 12 have attended on any one night. The informal feedback has been very positive. It provides the opportunity for people to connect on a regular basis and have some fun, as well as allowing new people to join in. This informal situation means that new people can gain confidence gradually and casually before committing to a part in a play. As a result of the play readings our friend John has attended and enjoyed, he is now interested in becoming more involved in the future. As well as John, we know other people who are considering involvement in this way. The landlady at the Bird l'th Hand has been very welcoming and is happy for us to have the room mid week, as long as we buy a few drinks. So far this has not been a problem! Hopefully we can continue in this way. Do come and join us and bring a friend! Dates will be posted on the website calendar.

Caroline & Rex

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Auditions



We have decided on this year's Summer Social production and it will be 'Hi de Hi,' a wonderful sitcom, taking place in the late 50s. Anyone got an old xylophone??!! Gareth will be directing and we will need just about everyone in the society, who enjoys acting, to fill the seventeen cast places!! Yellow coats will be everywhere! Gareth will send out the audition note shortly but do put Wed. March 29th in your diary.

We will be holding the event as part of Flixton Folk Festival, from July 11th to July 14th.

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See AUDITION NOTICE on the last page of this newsletter.

In November, Ann will be directing, '**Kindly Keep it Covered**' by Dave Freeman – a fast and furious farce!

The play takes place in a health farm and should be great fun! Auditions will be on Wed. April 12th and a notice will be coming out shortly.

Committee



News From Brook Road Methodist Church

I would like to introduce our new minister, Reverend Ian Kemp. He came into post from Sale, with his wife Lindsay, who is also a minister at Stockport. He is very interested in getting to know all aspects of the groups using the church and is keen on singing and drama. Reverend Stuart, who left last year, has now settled into his new post and he and his wife are very happy.



On March 3rd I took part in Women's World Day of Prayer at St Mary's in Davyhulme. They hosted this year and it was a very moving experience. Women's World Day of Prayer began as separate days of prayer organised by individual denominations in America in the mid 1800s and has now become a truly international and ecumenical day of prayer. This year the people of the Philippines have prepared the service which has been sent out to churches all over the world and they will all hold this special service on the same day. The Philippines was struck by Typhoon Haiyan in 2013 and caused much destruction. They still earnestly need our prayers.

Janet Bellass

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Dates for your Diary

Some of our members are performing in plays over the next couple of months and you may like to go and support them.



March 15th

Play reading at The Bird l'th Hand. 7:30pm upstairs.

March 19th to 25th

Arthur Hulse is the judge in 'Witness for the Prosecution' by Agatha Christie at Altrincham Little Theatre. Arthur joined us recently and was in Dad's Army looking after our dear 'horse' Neddy! We hope to see him on stage at Brook Road soon.

March 23rd to 25th

Colin Baker and Debbie Dickerson are in 'Noises Off' by Michael Frayn, at HATS, St Hugh of Lincoln Parish Church. Both were up for Noda awards for their parts in Gaslight. This is one of the funniest comedies ever!! We can't wait to see it!

April 3rd to 8th

Mags Johnson is in 'Rutherford and Son' by Githa Sowerby, at Altrincham Garrick. This is a powerful Edwardian Northern Classic. Rutherford is the hard tyrannical master of his glassworks factory and his home, at the time of the

upsurge of the British feminist movement.

May 14th to 20th

Chris Perry is also in 'Summer End' by Eric Chappell, at Altrincham Little Theatre. This is a drama / mystery set in a retirement home. Two ladies share a room and a sapphire ring goes missing....

April 5th to 8th

Also, there is 'Priscilla Queen of the Desert' at South Manchester Operatic Society. Kevin Proctor, our local NODA rep is directing and Ann Robinson's daughter, Rachel Barrington is in it. Dazzling costumes and music we're told!!!

The Secret Garden



On Saturday March 11th, I went to see 'The Secret Garden' at Altrincham Garrick. It was a modern musical, with a live orchestra and an attractive, carefully crafted set. This cleverly became places in India, a carriage jogging along the moorland roads of Yorkshire, bedrooms, study and grounds of a large manor house, together with moving robin and rooks! The stage came to life and 'bloomed' into the secret garden, towards the end of the show and in the auditorium, petals fluttered down from the ceiling. I think everyone left with a feel good factor and a lovely sense of how wonderful young children can be.

Friends and I took our grandchildren and we all thoroughly enjoyed the show. It was amazing! The singing was marvellous and the acting outstanding - especially the headmistress - we really liked her!! That of course was Chris Perry! Well done Chris - a delightful cameo role.

Judy Coates

Under Stage Working Party

If you can spare an hour or two on Saturday 22nd April, please come along from 10:00 am and lend a hand at Brook Road. We're tidying and re-organising the storage area under the stage. Please contact any committee member if you can help.

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Hi-De-Hi! Audition Notice

Hello campers! Hi de hi! Pleased to announce I'll be directing this for the society as our summer production at the sports club. We'll have a read through which will act as very informal auditions at Judy's home on Wednesday 29 March. Do let me know if you're interested in being in it but can't make that date. We're performing it in mid July.



Actual dates are July 11th to 14th so we can be part of Flixton Folk Festival.

There are 17 in the cast! Large, medium and smaller parts but all are 'colourful characters' and great fun. We have already cast one part, but only one and that is Gladys. We asked Ann Robinson's daughter, Rachel if she would do it for us and she has happily agreed. She played the part when we went to see the production at Altrincham Little Theatre last year. You would have thought she was Gladys from the TV series!!

"The play is a stage adaptation of the hugely popular British TV series, which revisits the 1950's and Maplin's Holiday Camp.

It's the start of a new season and founder Joe Maplin announces that he is setting up a camp in the Bahamas and needs female yellowcoats (entertainers) to go and work there. The annual "Miss Yellowcoat" competition will decide who. Imagine the rivalry! Camp cleaner Peggy, meanwhile, is thrilled at the prospect of a vacancy for a new yellowcoat and convinces Entertainments Manager Jeffrey that she is the ideal candidate for the job. Ted is forced to employ numerous money-making schemes when his ex wife turns up at the camp with a bailiff in tow and Yvonne and Barry Stuart-Hargreaves send the rumour mill into its usual overdrive when Gladys is overheard escorting Jeffrey into his chalet late one evening. Hi-de-hi, campers!"

Characters.....

GLADYS PUGH
BETTY WHISTLER
GARY
DAWN
TRACY BENTWOOD
PEGGY OLLERENSHAW
JEFFREY FAIRBROTHER
FRED QUILLY
MR. PARTRIDGE

YVONNE STUART-HARGREAVES
BARRY STUART-HARGREAVES
TED BOVIS
SPIKE DIXON
SYLVIA GARNSEY
HILARY BOVIS
BAILIFF
MR. PRITCHARD

Gareth Bevan

Remember to contact Gareth if you can't make it but are interested in a part.

As Gareth has said – Wed. March 29, my house - 7, Furness Road, Davyhulme. Gareth can't make it till 8.30pm but we'll be looking at some episodes on the TV from 7.30pm. We'll have some drinks and nibbles available and you are most welcome to bring anything you'd like as well!

Unfortunately Heather and David can't do their fantastic food this year but we have a tasty 'Joe Maplin's Special Spread' lined up and super costumes, including adult baby romper suit, fancy dress dustbin and lid (with porridge!), together with rather a large amount of yellow coats! Do come along and join us! RSVP to both Judy and Gareth – alan.judith@sky.com and garethjbevan@hotmail.com so we know who is interested and how many cushions to put on the floor. First comers get the chairs!!

Hi de Hi!

Judy Coates