

Canterbury Players Newsletter

November 2017

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A Word From The Chair

Canterbury Players has commenced its 2017/18 season in good health, having had a successful production of *Hi de Hi* earlier in the summer. Financially it may not have generated as much profit as hoped, but it did have more intangible benefits. These included putting CP on the local stage as part of the Flixton Folk Festival, and also gaining us some new members.

We're now turning our attention to November – which is a play called *Kindly Keep it Covered* by Dave Freeman. I met him a few times towards the end of his life. He's a good comedy writer having written for the *Carry On* films and TV series, as well as scripting many sitcoms including *Bless This House*.



We're almost in a position where we have our two productions for 2018 in place, together with our summer social event – more of these in due course.

The work of the publicity team has been immense over the last couple of months, which will help raise our profile further. We have a number of flyers for the society which we plan to distribute throughout the local area. We also have a pop-up banner at the local library, which will be its permanent home.

Our monthly play readings are also well received – we need to ensure

that members who are not involved in productions are involved in these if they wish, in order to keep them engaged and allow them to feel as if they are part of the society. The nature of our work is that only a handful of people can be involved on stage in our productions, yet we have a lot of others who are keen and enthusiastic, and we need to find ways to keep them involved. Our stage work has continued apace, having cleared and catalogued materials under the stage and getting most of the set in place for the November production.

The challenges over the next few months will be to increase our revenue through increasing audiences at our shows. This is the key for us increasing our income and being able to spend money on productions to make them look even better and get even more positive reactions from audiences. We don't want to make cuts for the sake of making cuts, but we do need to ensure as far as possible our productions are "cost neutral", if not profitable. We do need to maintain the high standard of sets for which Canterbury Players has become known.

Gareth Bevan

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Next Production

Roland Dickerby runs a health farm with his wife Julia, bought with the proceeds of a hefty insurance payout on the demise of Julia's first husband, Sidney.

Life isn't easy for Roland and today Fate has some-thing extra special in store for him . . .



Canterbury Players
Amateur Dramatic Society presents

**Kindly Keep
It Covered**

by Dave Freeman

15th-18th Nov 2017

tickets: £7 curtain: 7.30 pm

0161 748 8403

website: canterburyplayers.net

 at the Methodist Church Hall, Brook Road, Flixton, M41 5RQ
Canterbury Players Amateur Dramatic Society is affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association. This amateur production is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH LTD.

Spring 2018 Production

Canterbury Players
Amateur Dramatic Society presents

**MURDER
WEAPON**

a thriller by Brian Clemens

11-14 Apr 2018

tickets: £8 curtain: 7.30 pm

0161 748 8403

website: canterburyplayers.net

 at the Methodist Church Hall, Brook Road, Flixton, M41 5RQ
Canterbury Players Amateur Dramatic Society is affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association. This amateur production is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH LTD.

When Chief Constable Jessica Bligh accompanies her friend Diane Tulliver home to Dysart Hall after a night at the opera they arrive to a horrifying scene . . .

Characters

Jessica Bligh, Chief Constable, late 40s
Inspector Fremont, male, around 45 or 50
Constable Walters (male)
Charley Mirren, about 50, looks older
Hugo, around 35
Diane, about 30
Paul, well over 40

Auditions

Informal auditions will be held in the upstairs room at The Bird In Hand on Wednesday 29th November 2017 at 7:30pm. Please contact Gareth for more information.

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Spotlight On Chris



As you are no doubt aware, Chris Perry (right) is one of our excellent actresses and also a committee member. She recently moved to Bowden to be near her family and although still a member and continuing to make contributions to the society, she has begun to audition for parts in productions nearer her new home.

As a result, earlier this year, she was extremely pleased to be offered an important role in "Summer End" by Eric Chappell at Altrincham Little Theatre. This dramatic comedy is about two old ladies sharing a room in a nursing home and who interact about a suspected murderous plot, involving a sapphire ring and the previous deceased occupant of the room! This was Chris's debut at the theatre, so she was particularly thrilled when the prestigious, Cheshire Theatre Guild awarded her and her 'roommate' - 'Joint Best Actress' at their awards ceremony this year.

It's difficult to imagine that two old folk in their bedroom, at a nursing home, could be on stage together for most of the production and still manage to keep the audience enthralled, amused and totally entertained! It was a challenging role for Chris as she was on stage virtually the whole time and so had an enormous amount of lines to learn. I went to see the show with a friend and she was marvellous! Chris is obviously very proud of this achievement and was presented with a certificate, a trophy and a plaque for her to keep.

Well done Chris, we are very proud of you too!

Judy Coates

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Our Summer Trip To Maplin's Holiday Camp



I was really pleased to direct Hi-de-Hi as our summer production this year. Hi-de-Hi has long been one of my favourite series, but then I would count anything that David Croft had a hand in amongst my favourites. Hi-de-Hi – co-created with Jimmy Perry – came three years after Dad's Army finished its ten year run, and whilst their show It Ain't Half Hot Mum was still in production. Meanwhile, Croft was also busy with Are You Being Served, co-written with Jeremy Lloyd.



As you'll undoubtedly know, Hi-de-Hi is set in a holiday camp, featuring a large ensemble cast of misfits. Most of the characters are failures or people with little or no drive – Jeffrey is a failed academic, Ted is a failed comic, Mr Partridge is a failed music hall "turn" etc – which adds an undercurrent of tragedy to the show. The only character with any drive and determination is Peggy, the scatty chalet maid who dreams of being a yellow coat. We performed the show over three nights, and it proved to be another great success with sell out performances each night.

The cast all performed brilliantly – we were fortunate to have a brilliant Gladys, but all the other characters were perfectly sketched by those playing them. We welcomed a number of new people to our society prior to and during the production, and they all took part in the play. I hope they all had as much fun being in it as I did watching the rehearsals and doing some relatively

light-touch direction. The set, costumes and lighting all helped to create a perfect atmosphere.

We're planning something slightly different for our summer production next year – we'll release more details shortly – but in the meantime if you want to be involved then please do come along to our monthly play readings.

Gareth Bevan

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Dates for your Diary

ALTRINCHAM LITTLE THEATRE

"The Actress" by Peter Quilter

19th - 25th November 2017

clubtheatre.org.uk 0161 928 1113

CANTERBURY PLAYERS AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

Audition for "Murder Weapon" by Brian Clemens (Apr 2018)

21st November 2017

DUNHAM THESPIANS

"The Great Mallard" by Martin Clare

22nd - 25th November 2017

dunhamthespians.org.uk 07942 823600

H.A.T.S.

"Agatha Crusty And The Mighty Midget Murders" by Derek Webb

22nd - 24th March 2018

hatstheatre.org.uk 0161 748 5040

CANTERBURY PLAYERS AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY

"Murder Weapon" by Brian Clemens

18th - 21st April 2018

canterburyplayers.net 0161 748 8403