



1906 – 2006

## Carver Theatre Newsletter

October 2013

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new 2013/14 season. It promises to be a great one, and indeed has already started with a terrific production of the classic *An Inspector Calls*. More of this later, but I need to mention 2 things that were new to the Carver but which probably went unnoticed by most of the audience. Firstly, the conversations with the director and cast which followed two of the performances; I thoroughly enjoyed the discussion I attended on Friday, there were some interesting questions from the audience members that stayed behind, and insightful answers from the cast and director. The second innovation was the shadowing of the lighting operator undertaken by some of our younger and/or newer members. Shadowing provides a great opportunity to see how something is done without the responsibility of doing it for real. According to Joanna (who was operating the lighting for the show) "It was great fun to have them on board and hopefully they will be able to have a go at being lighting operator for future shows. I would love to encourage anyone taking on a role to send a message out, especially to new members, to see if they want to 'shadow' to learn the ropes." We can't always rely on the same old people to undertake roles at the Carver, so let's all aim to step up and at least try out one new role this year! Talking of taking on new roles, the position of Social Secretary remains unfilled. Although there are many facets to this role and many are being fulfilled successfully, it appears to me there is still a need for someone, or a small group to take on the organising of our social events. These have been very popular in the past and are a great way of integrating new and existing members. I'm sure our Chairman would be delighted to hear from anyone, or any group of people willing to undertake this task. I have attached at the end of the newsletter a list of the current officers of the Carver so we all know who is doing what on our behalf.

And so the newsletter proper, and thanks to Audrey for kicking us off with a great review of our last production. The opinions expressed are of course entirely her own - although judging from the feedback I overheard at the bar on the nights I was in, all the positives Audrey notes were echoed many times by the rest of the audience.

### **An Inspector calls - review**

I went to see `An Inspector Calls` Saturday night. It was a superb production. The set was mind blowing in its originality, the symbolic clock on the revolve conveying J.B. Priestley`s obsession with time. The continued degrading of the characters recorded by the by the outside decadence which was gradually introduced into the house. Although I have difficulty hearing I know the play very well and could follow it quite easily.

The silent prologue, concerning Eva and the harsh circumstances in which she lived before the play opens was inspirational. Likening it to the opening scene of 'Hamlet', dark and foreboding, putting a question in the audience's mind. Fay Sidebottom was convincing in this role and continued to affect our senses in later scenes.

The Birlings were enjoying the engagement celebration of Gerald and Sheila. Mr. Birling was being his pompous self and like Polonius, did not truly understand what he was commenting on. The audience were aware of this particularly with the reference to the 'Titanic' (dramatic irony). Mrs Birling was equally ignorant of these matters.

Gerald, too, was uninformed and full of his own self importance. We realise Eric Birling has a drink problem early on in the play. Sheila is quite impressed with her engagement ring and quite shallow at the beginning.

Mr Birling was in favour of the engagement because it would unite two industrial families.

The set for this scene is convincing, although some would query the use of plastic for early in the 20th Century, it does help the portrayal in the transparencies of the characters and the way the characters use their costumes to emphasise the period.

The positioning of the characters was excellent and the movement was impressive.

The use of the revolve helped the passing of time and when the characters were stationary it emphasised a dramatic moment.

The entrance of the Inspector was welcomed by Mr. Birling as he thought it was something to do with his committee work for the Council. He still was not concerned even when he was aware he was influential in Eva's downfall. He accepted no responsibility at all. Similarly Gerald and Mrs. Birling.

Priestley accepts that there is no hope for them and puts all his hope on Eric and Sheila from the younger generation.

This was a strong cast led by an influential Director. The set was convincing and would be worthy of professional set builders. The lighting and costumes added much to the production.

An intriguing play which leaves us with much thought and questioning our own behaviour. Rosy Perkins must be congratulated and deserves an award. This production was equal, if not better than the 'Bacchae' at the Royal Exchange.

Audrey Bramwell

### **Refurbishment Team**

The Carver Reurb Team is looking for someone to assist us by producing CAD drawings of our vision for the refurbishment. If you can help or know of someone who can help us (free of charge) in this respect, we would be most grateful. Please get in touch with me urgently if you think you can help.

Pamela, [registrar@carvertheatre.co.uk](mailto:registrar@carvertheatre.co.uk)

### **New Members**

We would like to extend a warm welcome the following new members:

Sophie Woollams, whose main interest is acting; Andrew Jolley, whose interests include acting, set design, set construction and painting and working backstage during productions; Sally Jolley, who needs no introduction to Carver members as she directed

our award winning production of *Calendar Girls*; Jonathan Green, who is interested in acting and helping with the newsletter; Lucy Savin, who is interested in a wide range of activities from production and acting to all aspects of stage craft and Gerard Crawshaw who is interested in acting and stage work including set building together with Front of House, and has previous experience with other local amateur dramatic groups.

### **Read through for Pack of lies**

Please note that the read through for "Pack of Lies" has had to be moved from Tuesday 15th to Wednesday 16th October. It will take place in the Library at 7.45pm.

This play is directed by Bernice Yates and will run from 9th to 17th May 2014

Rehearsals will start week beginning Monday 17th March 2014. There will be a proper break in rehearsals for Easter.

*Pack of Lies* by Hugh Whitmore. The unsuspecting Jackson household - Bob, Barbara and their daughter Julie live opposite the Krogers - a convivial Canadian couple and their closest friends. Then a mysterious stranger arrives, announces he is from M.I.5 and coerces the Jacksons into allowing their house to be used as a surveillance post. In the nightmare months that follow, the Jackson's decent happy life is shattered as the truth about their much-loved friends is gradually revealed to them.

Bob Jackson Late 30's early 40's. Family man who loves his garden and family.

Barbara Jackson 30's early 40's. Suburban house wife whose hobbies are dress making and attends art classes. Her life revolves around her husband and daughter.

Julie Jackson 15+ A bit of a wayward teenager.

Helen Krogger Late 40's A bubbly and extrovert American

Peter Krogger 40's to 50's Also American but much quieter than his wife. Dresses very casual.

Stewart 40's to 50's A suave civil servant from M15

Thelma Late 20's early 30's Sturdy ex regular army girl - member of M15

Sally 30's Fairly plain middle class girl also ex army and also member of M15

Debbie Woodruff, [deborahwoodruff100@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:deborahwoodruff100@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Marple Choral Society**

On November 16<sup>th</sup> they are presenting performances of Faure's Requiem and Pavanne plus Poulenc's Stabat Mater, accompanied by Stockport Symphony Orchestra. Tickets are £10 and available from 0161 494 8410 or on the door of Norbury Parish Church.

### **What the Dickens!**

Performed by the pupils of Stage Struck on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October at the Art Theatre, New Mills in aid of The Christie and Tanzania UK. Call 0161 427 6489 for more details and for tickets.

### **Expenses**

At the Exec on Thursday we agreed that the bar till must not be used to pay expenses. This is because it depletes the till and it then runs short of cash just when it is needed, i.e. to give bar customers their change.

In future please request all expense reimbursements to be made directly to me with your name, payee details (if different) and purpose of expense and I will pay directly. In due course I shall require the payees's bank account details so that I can pay directly into their bank account. This will save considerable amounts of time and money as bank cheques are now so expensive and time consuming to process. All expenses must be accompanied by a receipt or a VAT invoice with the "Carver Theatre" as the addressee or in the purchase order so I can claim the VAT back from HMRC.

Mike

**Dates for your diary**

Readthrough for We'll always have Paris

16<sup>th</sup> October

We'll always have Paris

8<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> November

Sleeping Beauty

10<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> January 2014

If I were you

28<sup>th</sup> Feb - 8<sup>th</sup> March

Pack of lies

9<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> May

## CARVER ROLES AND COMMITTEES 2013-14

**President:** Barbara Hambleton

**Chairman:** John Woodruff

**General Secretary:** Serena Botterman

**Registrar:** Pam Mainprize

**Treasurer:** Mike Strivens

**Finance Committee:** Phil Kiernan, Dave Davies, Andy Tinsey, Stan Bannister

**Auditors:** Geoff Harrison, Mike Yates

**House Secretary:** Dave Davies

**House Committee:** John Woodruff, Nick Bradley

**Production Secretary:** Debbie Woodruff

**Production Committee:** Bernice Yates, Tonia Williams, Liz Galloway, Chris Sturmeay, Kirsty Jackson, Gerard Lennox

**Publicity Secretary:** Joanna Bircher

**Publicity Committee:** Pam Mainprize, Dave Alexander, Paula Whittleworth, Jane Lennox, Stuart Vaughan

**Stage Secretary:** Matt Kayes

**Stage Committee:** Nick Bradley, Andy Tinsey, Jane Lennox, Mike Galloway, Donna Norbury

**Pantomime Secretary:** Matt Kayes

**Pantomime Committee:** Joanna Bircher, Gary Fielding, Nick Bradley, Pat Bircher

**Junior Secretary:** Eve Clayton

**Junior Committee:** Paula Whittleworth, Victoria Kayes, Fay Sidebottam

**Executive Committee:** John Woodruff, Serena Botterman, Pam Mainprize, Mike Strivens, Dave Davies, Debbie Woodruff, Joanna Bircher, Matt Kayes, Eve Clayton, Phil Kiernan, Gary Fielding, Andy Tinsey

**Bar Manager:** Dave Alexander

**Other Roles:**

**Interval Teas and Coffees:** Jan Bolland, Majorie Bradley plus team

**Building Development Group:** Andy Tinsey (lead), Richard Rhodes, Mike Strivens, Phil Kiernan, Dave Davies

**Interior Design Team:** Pam Mainprize (lead) plus team

**Work Group - Carver Committee Structures:** John Woodruff (lead), Joanna Bircher, Mike Strivens, Phil Kiernan, Andy Tinsey