



1906 – 2006

Carver Theatre Newsletter

March 2014

Hello All!

I guess it's a bit late to wish everyone a Happy New Year, but I feel I ought to as I missed the opportunity to do so in January, so I will..... Happy New Year! Here's to health, wealth and happiness for you and yours in 2014 – and for the Carver too!

Thanks to all for the good wishes to myself and Denise over the last few months, it was much appreciated, and great to know our many friends at the theatre were rooting for us. Apart from putting on the odd show now and again, it's that community spirit that really makes coming to the Carver such a pleasurable experience! Thanks too to Jo for stepping in and keeping the Newsletter ticking over in my absence – hopefully you will notice some slight changes to the layout of the Newsletter, prompted by a conversation with Jo, the nature of which will only be disclosed at the Carver bar in exchange for a beverage!

And my final thank you goes to the many contributors, without whom there would be no Newsletter, only a stream of pointless drivel from me, so without further ado, let's get on with it!

Gang Show – 50th Anniversary

Talking of community spirit, I attended the Marple Gang Show last night. What a great show it was with tremendous enthusiasm and sheer joie de vivre from the cast of thousands on stage. Well done to all involved – on stage, back stage, front of house and anywhere else!

Saturday night was a landmark performance for the Gang Show as it marked 50 years since the first one back in 1965. 50 years of continuously wowing Marple audiences with rousing renditions of popular songs and sketches, and last night many friends of the Gang Show past and present were in the audience to help them mark the occasion. And just to make the fairytale complete – the show concluded with a real life, unscripted proposal of marriage, which I'm delighted to report was accepted!

The Gang Show represents community working at its best in my view, 3 local community organisations coming together for the mutual benefit of all, and of the local populace too – Scouts, Guides, and of course us the Carver Theatre. We provide the venue, and they swell our coffers through copious sales of refreshment during the show! Everyone's a winner.

Production Committee updates

The Production Committee have now arranged another workshop weekend run by Abigail Anderson who ran a very successful Directing/Acting course last year. Everyone who attended found it very useful and very helpful. During the workshop Abi will cover techniques for pre-rehearsal preparation, textual analysis, staging, giving and taking notes, rehearsal etiquette, characterisation and a selection of textual exercises. There will also be time to discuss your own projects and experiences.

The date is 10/11th May and the course lasts from 10am – 4.30pm on both Saturday and Sunday and you will be required to attend full time on both days. The course is limited to 21 people. This is being funded by the GMDF so it is completely free to everyone who attends. It is available to other societies in the GMDF, so if you are interested please get in touch with me as the places are going quite rapidly.

We have re-arranged the read through and casting for LADIES DAY in the Library at Carver for Thursday 17th April. Martyn Preston who has made such an excellent job of directing 'If I Were You' has agreed to direct this play and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the 17th.

The Production Committee are concerned that we are having new members who join and we don't see them again and don't get to know them. In order to get to know new members, we have arranged a new members evening on Wednesday 2nd April at 8pm in the Library at Carver, when we will read short extracts from plays. We hope all new members will attend, and also our own regular members will attend to support this evening.

Bernice Yates, Production Committee

New Members

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

Martyn Preston who we all know as director of 'If I Were You'. In addition to directing Martyn is interested in acting, social events and working behind the bar; **David Cooper** whose interests include stage work before and during the show and Front of House; **Susan Cooper** who has also expressed an interest in Front of House; **Jill Ratcliff** who is an award winning actress having appeared in many musicals, plays and competitive festivals; and **Ann Sturme**y who we welcome back to the Carver and who will be appearing in the next play. Apart from acting, Ann is interested in props, prompting and Front of House.

Pamela Mainprize, Registrar

Carver Cheese

Don't panic this is not an article about bad jokes, instead it's an invitation to come and have fun at a Wine and Beer tasting evening Wednesday 16th April. There will be a supper of Cheese, Biscuits & Bread.

Cost £5.00 including a free drink

RSVP caroline@alexanderdigital.co.uk or Deborahwoodruff100@yahoo.co.uk

Chadwick Street Car Park

As you all probably know the car park next to the Theatre is likely to be developed for retail use. The local grapevine has at some point in the last 2 years had every supermarket on the planet developing the site without any factual evidence. However, the latest news as you will see is the project has hit the buffers for the time being. The information below is from the minutes of this month's Marple area meeting of our local councillors.

"At the last area committee meeting David Hoyle (Marple Business Forum) requested an update on progress with the proposed food store on the site of Chadwick Street car park, also that progress should be reported at all future Area Committee meetings.

Cllr Candler replied that the council is now working with new development partners and are currently resolving contractual issues with the old partner (Kirkland Developments).

The new partner (Carrilion) is currently investigating alternative developers for the site.

It was agreed that a progress report would be prepared for each future meeting".

The issue of relocating the sorting office has also still to be resolved so in effect the scheme is back at square one. The delay of course increases the amount of time before a major building project renders the car park unusable by our patrons. It also gives us more time to establish the feasibility of funding the replacement of the wooden section of our building with a new theatre. Watch this space!

Andy Tinsey, Executive Committee

Some bits from facebook:

From Dan Smith at the end of "If I were You"

A FANTASTIC last show! A big thanks to the stars, starlets and the A-team of backstage crews for making what was most likely my last run at the Carver for three years such an amazing experience - You were a pleasure to ASM for, great to work with and a joy to watch!

Thanks to everyone I've had the pleasure of meeting at the Carver over the last year - I've never failed to be impressed by your friendliness to members, both new and old. Your passion and dedication for not only the theatre but each other is amazing, and should be highly commended. I've had an absolutely cracking time, and I wish each and every one of you every success in life.

If you're ever in Stavanger or Aberdeen and fancy a tour of the ship, give me a shout!

From Alison Mee -a member of the facebook group (theatre-goer, not Carver member)

The Carver's latest production is the Alan Ayckbourn play, If I Were You. Centring on a couple of days, and one extraordinary event, in the lives of married couple Mal and Jill Rodale and their families, and a very enjoyable evening it was.

On purchasing a programme the usher warned us not to read it too closely before seeing the play, and I'm glad she did as there is a very detailed synopsis contained within, which would have spoiled the surprise for a first timer to this play as I was. The play has quite a slow start, and you wonder where it is going. Depressed Jill (Joanna Bircher) is moping through life in an unhappy marriage to her repulsive cheat of a husband Mal (Stephen Johnson). However, the play really gets into its stride in the second half as Mal and Jill deal with the unusual position they find themselves in, and it's clear that Bircher and Johnson have a whale of a time portraying these changed characters, with some well crafted and highly comedic detail.

Stacey Coleman and Mike Wallis as Mal and Jill's kids Chrissie and Sam, and Simon Donahue as Chrissie's bully of a husband Dean, complete the cast and delivered a great show on this opening night. The two level set was cleverly used to portray the two settings of the action, the Rodale's home and Mal's workplace. They certainly managed to pack a lot onto the bijou stage at the Carver.

Special mention should go to Wallis as teenager Sam, his performance was excellent and highly amusing, and he earned a well deserved spontaneous round of applause from the audience at one stage.

There were a few empty seats on the night we visited, the show is on until the 8th March and if there are tickets available for the rest of the run I'd recommend it. Details can be found on the [website](#) and tickets are only £8, you can pay that for a drink at some theatres these days!

All in all, a highly enjoyable and excellent value night out, in one of the friendliest little theatres you could hope to visit.

So whose Theatre is it?

Well the answer could be the members, the trustees or the communities, but actually it's yours if you are reading this!

So why pose the question? We all joined the Carver for different reasons but share a common interest in live theatre and the buzz of being actively involved in productions. However to achieve this objective we must run the Carver as a business it does not run its self. To keep the doors open and the heating and lighting on requires money, enthusiasm and most importantly people. It is becoming increasingly difficult to persuade you the members to participate in this essential part of our theatre. Without the officers, the executive and sub committees the theatre is not viable. The time has come to think "What else can I contribute to keep the Carver running". Could you give up a little time and be on the executive or one of the section committees? Every year we have something like 46 posts on the Exec and the section committees to fill, that's more people than turn up for the AGM normally!

Please think about it. Without your active help we will struggle. Being part of a committee is not as onerous as it sounds and it is fun running the theatre..... most of the time! Want to know more – Ask a member of the exec, at least one of them will be in the bar on club nights.

To those who regularly help out on the bar, front of house, teas, programmes, lighting, sound, or choosing, directing, acting or managing shows and to those who run the society in general our heartfelt thanks.

Gary Fielding, Phil Kiernan & Andy Tinsey, Exec members one and all!

Ed – 46 Exec and Committee positions! That's a lot of posts that need filling! Come on folks, I'm sure we can do something about it!

Next production

Pack of Lies, Hugh Whitmore. 9th-17th May 2014

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 MI5 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.

Dates for your diary

New members' evening (old members also welcome!)	2 nd April
Carver Cheese	16 th April
Ladies Day – read through	17 th April
Pack of lies	9 th – 17 th May
Workshop weekend with Abigail Anderson	10 th – 11 th May