



Thame
players

BACKDROP

January 2012

Visit Thame Players' Website now by clicking:

www.thameplayers.co.uk

What's on:

18 th January	Audition – Present Laughter	7.45
21 st January	Cinema – The Guard - http://thamecinema.org.uk	8.00
28 th January	Cinema – A Separation - http://thamecinema.org.uk	8.00
29 th January	National Clown Theatre	2.30
29 th January	Thoughts in Cold Storage by Patrick Collins	8.00
5 th February	An Audience with Josephine Tewson	7.45
10 th February	Magic Thamed Revisited	7.45
11 th February	Cinema – Tinker Tailor (2011 version)	8.00
12 th February	An Audience with Henry Blofeld	7.45
6 th – 10 th March	Dancing at Lughnasa by Brian Friel	7.45

A Very Happy New Year to All!

As you can see from this issue of Backdrop, The Players Theatre is already very busy with a wide variety of theatre and film from visiting groups and from Thame Players. An enormous amount of work goes into staging the Thame Players' productions and it's great fun and hugely satisfying to be involved in putting them on. If it's a while since you took part in a Thame Players' show, in any capacity, make this the year that you get involved!

Do remember to check the Thame Players' website for all the latest information.

Molly Iszatt

Molly Iszatt passed away on Christmas Eve after several years of declining health. Our thoughts are with Ernie and their children Graham, Shirley and Marianne and their families at this sad time.

Molly and Ernie came to Thame from Theydon Bois where she had been involved in amateur drama with the local theatre group. She was very proud of the fact that she gave Michael French his first stage part in one of her productions – he later went on to fame in Eastenders and Holby City. Molly's daughter Shirley was a member of Thame Players and Molly was keen to use all her knowledge and experience for the benefit of a new group. She directed numerous productions including several pantomimes and Agatha Christie Murder plays her last ever venture with us being "A Murder is Announced". Her most memorable production for the Players was undoubtedly "The Boyfriend". Molly served on the committee for many years as Secretary and as Vice Chairman. She was a huge support to me during the years that I was Chairman. She and Ernie were always willing to help wherever they could, be it with theatre maintenance, set painting, props, costume, box office, the bottle stall or any of the myriad tasks that needed doing in the 'old' theatre. She also appeared on stage from time to time and had a major role in 'Naughty Girls' which was written and directed by Robert Duncan. If Molly was not directly involved in a play she was usually Front of House manager, taking on the task for the whole week of the show ably supported by Ernie. They always 'dressed up' for the job and brought a touch of old-world style to proceedings. It is in this role that most members and friends will remember her. She was a very lively, glamorous and generous lady, Most of all she was my very good friend and I will miss her. Sue Deaney

MARCH PRODUCTION :

DANCING AT LUGHNASA directed by Yvonne Maxwell

Auditions for this beautiful, evocative, poignant play by Brian Friel took place in November. The cast is as follows:

The Mundy Sisters

Kate	Jenny Warner
Maggie	Colleen Tudway
Agnes	Sarah Rosling
Rose	Juliet Kendall
Chris	Nicola Rochford
Michael	Peter Sawyer
Jack	Brian Holt

Gerry Evans Richard Potts

Rehearsals start the second week of January and hopefully the cast members have been honing their Irish accents over the Christmas break!

The production runs from 6th-10th March 2012.

PRESENT LAUGHTER AUDITION

At 7.45 on Wednesday 18th January 2012

Present Laughter by Noel Coward will be directed by Chris Parker. It is a deliciously witty portrait of the heady lifestyle of those who were wealthy, theatrical or well connected. It sparkles from start to finish with cut-glass humour and spectacular repartee. With its brilliantly funny dialogue and captivating characters this wonderful play will be a great opportunity to challenge your acting ability!

There are 11 characters, 6 female and 5 male:

Garry Essendine	male
Liz Essendine	female
Daphne Stillington	female
Morris Dixon	male
Henry Lyppiatt	male
Joanna Lyppiatt	female
Monica Reed	female
Roland Maule	male
Miss Erikson	female
Fred	male
Lady Saltburn	female

WANTED

We are looking for anybody interested in learning some basic information about our sound equipment. Examples would be, how to play front of house announcements, how to play a CD for incidental music, how to use the mini discs, and if people are very interested in sound how to run other sound items such as radio mics.

Phil Rapps is happy to show individuals how to run things and we can then produce an idiot's guide to the basics as a refresher which will be kept in the sound box.

If anybody is interested please contact me on 07958 719397, I am going to be one of the trainees as I want to learn more.

Steve Lambell.

THOUGHTS IN COLD STORAGE

Sunday 29th January at 8pm

Patrick Collins has devised and is presenting another of his 'words and music' evenings in aid of charity at the theatre at 8pm on Sunday 29th January. This one is called *Thoughts in Cold Storage* and is likely to be as popular as his past productions. As usual the show will feature our patron and RSC actor, Bruce Alexander, and tenor, Adrian Thompson. Tickets for the show cost £7.50, or £6 for concessions, and will be available from the beginning of January only from 'Arts Desire' in Swan Walk or by telephone on 01844 215440



NATIONAL CLOWN THEATRE

Sunday 29th January at 2.30pm

Here's a fun show for all children and their families. Peter Rowell is bringing his clown act to the theatre on Sunday 29th January at 2.30pm in the afternoon. Families are assured of slapstick family fun with traditional clowning, magic, quick change illusions, a human slinky acrobat, balancing, prizes and surprises. Gallons of fun and bucketfuls of laughs. The show lasts about 80 minutes and costs just £4.50 for a ticket. **Tickets can only be obtained direct from Peter on 01384 423496**



Thame Cinema 4 All -

The Guard

Saturday January 21, 2012

Ireland 2011, 96 minutes, 15 certificate, *Directed by John Michael McDonagh, Starring Brendan Gleeson, Don Cheadle*



The cinema has entertained us with countless maverick cops over the years, and Brendan Gleeson adds another lovable rogue to the gallery with Gerry Boyle in McDonagh's hilarious film – very much in the same vein as that of his brother Martin's *In Bruges*.

Thorn in the side of his superiors in the Connemara Garda, Boyle is a man with his own questionable moral code, and scant respect for procedure, authority or, indeed, the law. He loves booze, fry-ups and prostitutes but also Russian literature, philosophy, and his mum.

Into his sleepy realm comes Don Cheadle's FBI agent Wendell Everett, on the trail of international drug traffickers operating in Irish waters. Uptight and Ivy-league, disciplined and humourless, Everett represents the personal and professional antithesis of Boyle. Initially repulsed by his shambolic, boozy faux-racism and contempt for procedure, Everett is reluctantly forced to acknowledge and rely on Boyle's methodologies.

The familiar good cop / bad cop formula transcends its generic conventions with laugh out loud brutal humour, razor sharp dialogue and the unlikely but carefully observed setting. McDonagh brings the sensibility of Quentin Tarantino and the opera of the Spaghetti Western to this bleakly beautiful coast and its isolated and suspicious community. **A little violent, granted, and gloriously profane but hilarious, and great fun.**

AN AUDIENCE WITH HENRY BLOFELD **REVISED DATE - SUNDAY 12TH FEBRUARY at 7.45pm**

There is a change to the date that Henry Blofeld - or Blowers - is visiting us, due to his commitments in Dubai. His show is a must for all cricket fans. Clive Conway's latest celebrity production is An Audience with Henry Blofeld will now be performed at 7.45pm on Sunday 12th February.



Blowers starts the first act with a good old grumble about old age which leads onto his four recent hip operations. Then the current scandals are given a good going over. Cricket has its moments too. Ian Botham had an affair, Mike Gatting, another England captain fell for a redtop. The meretricious merits of Twenty/20 are up for discussion. So are those who run English cricket and who jumped into bed with Sir Allen Stanford. Blowers then talks kindly and humorously about the Test Match Special commentary box when he brings alive some of the great commentators like Brian Johnston, John Arlott and Jim Swanton. He tells why cakes became such an important part of TMS. The first half ends with wine stories involving John Arlott and wine waiters before ending with an hysterical story about a night in a barn on the Pennines. The second act he returns briefly and amusingly to old age, then boarding school at the age of seven and a half and how he fell in love with cricket. He talks a little bit about his own chequered career. Two hundreds made at Lord's where he was

also once the third victim of a hat trick. He spent 28 days unconscious after a collision with a bus at Eton and went up to Cambridge from where he was sent down after two years having gained the worst cricket Blue since Crimean War. He played in first class matches against both Keith Miller and Denis Compton.

He tells of the amazing luck he had getting into first cricket writing and then cricket broadcasting. Fifteen minutes about his namesake Ernst Stavros Blofeld who was one of Ian Fleming's baddies in the Bond books. He got to know Ian in his club and then on his first honeymoon, in Jamaica, had lunch with him at his house in Oracabessa where he met Noel Coward. He then tells two stories about another friend, Clive Dunn, aka Corporal Jones in Dad's Army.

So a great evening is in store. Tickets cost £14 and £12 with £2 off for concessions and will be available from Tickets Anywhere, 01844 217228, from 19th December. Until then tickets will be available for the concession price of £12, from cricket fanatic, **Brian Holt, on 01296 437406**. But hurry – Brian has loads of contacts in the local cricketing world and tickets are sure to sell fast.

MAGIC THAMED REVISITED

Friday 10th February at 7.45pm

Many of you will remember the spectacular magic of Sam Strange and Richard Young last February and the February before. For one performance only they are returning to Thame with a show of many of the stunning tricks and illusions they performed then. The evening promises to be most entertaining and is recommended for young and old alike. Magic, illusions, mind reading, humour and much more will baffle the audience and leave them wondering how on earth it was all done.



The performance will take place on Sunday 10th February at 7.45pm. Tickets cost £12.50 and will be available from 19th December from *Tickets Anywhere*, Greyhound Walk, Thame, telephone 01844 217228.

Shoestring Productions
Presents

Breath of Spring

By Peter Coke



7.30 pm on 16th, 17th and 18th February 2012

Matinee 2.30 pm 18th February 2012

Whitecross Hall

Aylesbury Road, Monks Risborough, HP27 0JN

Unreserved seating, tickets available from:

**David Shuttle, 6 Duke Street, Princes
Risborough**

Or book by phone: [0843 289 7501](tel:08432897501) (calls 5p/min)

Ticket Prices: Evenings £8.00, Matinee £6.00

Amateur production by arrangement with Samuel French Ltd

Thame Players 2012 Season

A great new season of plays has now been chosen for the Thame Players own productions for the coming year. Start planning how to get involved now!

March Dancing at Lughnasa by Brian Friel, directed by Yvonne Maxwell

Cast: 3 men, 5 women

May Present Laughter by Noel Coward, directed by Chris Parker

Cast: 5 men, 6 women

July Arcadia by Tom Stoppard, directed by Tim Shepherd

Cast: 8 men, 4 women

September Born in the Gardens by Peter Nichols, directed by Brian Holt

Cast: 2 men, 2 women

December Humpty Dumpty by Ian Cleare, directed by Mary Cleare

Cast of thousands

Remember that all the above plays not only need members to act but also backstage – set, costume, sound, lighting, props – and front of house running the bar, checking tickets, programmes and looking after the audience.

Reminder - Thame Players Membership Audit

If you have not already responded, this is a reminder that in order to keep our membership information up-to-date and make sure that information is getting out to everyone who should be receiving it a questionnaire has been sent out to all full members.

Please complete and return this to the address below, whether there are any changes or not. That way, we will know whether anyone has been missed. It is particularly important that we have correct e-mail addresses and know whether you are happy to receive Backdrop by e-mail or whether you want it posted to you.

There is also a question asking whether you are happy for us to use your e-mail address to send you information about other groups and organisations in and around Thame. Until now, we have been sending you anything that might be of specific interest – including their auditions, TV and film work for extras and shows put on outside the Players Theatre. If you wish to continue to receive them, please tick the relevant box.

GETTING IN TOUCH WITH THAME PLAYERS

Chairman: Tony Long 07881 688895

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