

When I went to see the opening night of Death of A Maiden on Wednesday, it being the only night I could, I anticipated a very serious play. In fact it proved to be absolutely gripping, exceptionally emotive and thought provoking on a distressing subject matter. Superb acting and directing portrayed such a spectrum of emotions that left me thinking she did shoot him, was haunted by memories triggered by the music when she was still vulnerable. But ... then again maybe not. All I could say was well done to the whole team and that's the truth, the real truth.

If you didn't see this production you missed a gem so make sure of booking for Blithe Spirit, tickets selling fast.

Can I remind you all about the Christmas Draw on Sunday 16th December after the Set Strike. Please bring prizes down as the more donated the more fun we have.

Some members still need to let me have their promises for the Promise Auction on Friday 11th January. The date should already be in your diary but friends and neighbours welcome too. My email is janine.walters5@btinternet.com or 0161 485 1888.

It has been good to see people coming down on a Thursday evening and Sunday lunchtime simply because the bar is open - do keep it up and more join in.

Those of you who have been down over the last week and especially the weekend will have seen a major sweeping up of leaves in the car park and clearing of the flower bed next to the Conservative Club. There is still lots to do so if anyone has free time please carry on the work undertaken by a small number so far.

Janine (President)

Dates for your diaries:

Saturday 8th -
Saturday 15th December

Blithe Spirit, by Noel Coward

Sunday 16th December

Christmas Draw

Friday 11th January

Promises Auction

Saturday 26th January -
Saturday 2nd February

The Thrill of Love, by Amanda Whittington



The ArtCo reports.....

Many thanks to everyone who made it possible to get *Ghosts* on the stage in time for the opening night. I am particularly grateful to Mike Brown who not only directed the production with great equanimity (having provided his own adaptation of the original translation), but also sourced many of the props and items of furniture. As previously mentioned, the GMDF adjudication can now be found on the members' page of the website. Audience figures were disappointing at a fraction under 50% but, with so much going on, it was perhaps not surprising that bookings were down.

Anthony Josephson gave us a memorable evening of World War I poems, letters and play extracts on the eve of the centenary of the WWI Armistice supplemented by songs of the period. I am very grateful to him for all the thought and time which he put into this project. Some 15 readers helped to deliver the material which he had so carefully assembled. This all amounted to a fitting and poignant reminder of the horrors of war.

Death and the Maiden played to an audience of some 92% in the Studio. Directed by Victor Hassan, Lorna Kong, Simon Darlington and Chris Rogerson gave excellent performances of this challenging play. Well done to all concerned. The audience feedback was very positive. All three of the cast were new to our Studio. Simon will be seen again in *The Thrill of Love* and Chris in *Communicating Doors*.

Blithe Spirit opens on the 8th December. A preview can be found elsewhere in this Newsletter. Sales are at about 73% with 12 days to go. Get your tickets while you can. The Tuesday is already sold out.

The PS&CC will shortly be asking Directors to indicate interest in their selection of plays for the 2019/20 Season. The plays with, hopefully, their Directors will be announced at the annual Christmas Draw.

Hamish Lawson



Our Next Production

Blithe Spirit

by Noel Coward

Saturday 8th - Saturday 15th December

When Charles Condomine (successful novelist) decides to invite a professional clairvoyant to dine at his house, in order to “study her character” for a book he is writing, he has no notion what this will entail. He soon finds himself trying to account for the presence of his deceased first wife – visible to him, if to no-one else – and a cause of confusion to the company, and great hilarity to the audience.

Constantly revived, and always welcome, this remains one of Coward’s most successful pieces. One of my abiding memories is seeing it at Raffles Hotel, Singapore, beautifully performed (in English) by a professional company from Malaya: the setting was transposed from East Anglia to an exotic Pacific island, but the characters, and the jokes, remained firmly the same. (The company’s policy was to feature some of the UK’s best-loved plays, and this was to be their first choice; they probably couldn’t have made a better start.)

The director for this production is Mike Bullimore, and the cast is as follows: Jackie Longdon, Freya Clarke, Paul Reid, Rani Jackson, Joan Taylor-Jones, Mike Brown and Adele Singer. It may be – and, indeed, it is – an old favourite, but still guaranteed to entertain and amuse. Don’t miss it.

Derek Slater

Newsletter Contributions

Contributions for the next newsletter are due by 12th January for issue 14th January.

E-mail: andyandjulie@tiscali.co.uk (PLEASE PUT "CHADS NEWSLETTER" IN SUBJECT).