

CROAK

NEWS

AUGUST 2021

Editor: Bea Hutchings marketing@toadstheatre.co.uk



Welcome... What can you say when there's sad news and good included in this month's Croak? The sad news -You will receive, or have received via email, the most amazing obituary for James Tyler (the best I've ever seen, and a wonderful tribute to him and Katy), and also good news that our theatre is back! So, I thought a couple of quotes, one by Walt Whitman and the other by Sylvia Plath, would be something to think about for August.

"Keep your face always toward the sunshine, and shadows will fall behind you." Whitman.

"August rain; the best of the summer gone, and the new fall not yet born. The odd uneven time." Plath.

Bea Hutchings.

The New Jersey Boys Saturday 21st August 2021

(Performance
7.30pm)

FROM THE CHAIR

And August comes in with a whimper – where's the sun gone?!

The theatre officially re-opens Monday 2nd August at 10.30am. Our new daily opening hours are Monday to Friday, 10.30am to 1pm. Note we have reduced the opening hours by 30 minutes as an increasing number of bookings are now being made online.

As many of you may be aware, James Tyler passed away recently after battling cancer for some time. Our sincerest condolences go out to all his friends and family and especially to his wife Katy – a good bloke taken from us far too early. Liz Loly and Laurence Frewin have written an obituary (approved by Katy) which has been emailed/posted as a separate link/file.

Our first production on The Little Theatre stage will be The New Jersey Boys on Saturday 21st August and it will be interesting to see how much confidence the paying public have in going to the theatre.

The Little Theatre will NOT be enforcing any form of vaccine passport control. We will make sure that QR codes (track and trace) are placed throughout the theatre, hand sanitiser stations will be at the two main entrances and patrons may wear masks if they wish to do so. As stated in previous issues of Croak, we cannot socially distance our audience as this would be financially non-viable. Signing in backstage, for everyone, will continue indefinitely.

DON'T FORGET: if any member wishes to stand for committee and/or the post of Chairperson, please let anyone on the committee know. To emphasise again – ANY MEMBER can stand. Nomination forms and AGM notices will be included with the September Croak.

I think that's all for now – as always, keep safe and well.

Jon Manley (woodworm infested Chairman)



The New Jersey Boys, make a welcome return to the Little Theatre with their superb tribute show including the music of Frankie Vallie and the Four Seasons plus tributes to Showaddywaddy and other musical legends. The choreographed show, featuring the amazing falsetto voice of Einar Vestman and the humour of all round entertainer Gary Gould, guarantees an evening of fast-moving entertainment with superb harmonies, stunning solo spots and light comedy. As well as all the hits from the Four Seasons, the packed two-set programme includes tributes to other legendary performers such as Elton John, Freddie Mercury and Tina Turner. **BOOK NOW!**

ATTENTION : IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL TOAD FOLKS

IMPORTANT NOTE: Any vacant committee positions are open to **ALL** full TOADS members. Please don't think, for example, you have to be on committee in order to stand for Chairperson – any full or life member has the right, subject to two nominations, to stand for the post.

WEDNESDAY CLUB

The Wednesday Club. August, 2021

We held our first indoor meeting on 21st July, with a catch-up and the introduction of three new members, all keen to help FOH and in set painting. It was interesting to be back in the theatre again, with the splendidly-cleaned carpets and upholstery; unlike the members who all seemed a trifle worse for wear.

The following week we had a 'Show and Tell' meeting, in which we each brought along something which meant a lot to us. I took my pension statement.

Next week (4th August) we will wind up for the summer break with a presentation by Jim Redman, plus interruptions from Thea, entitled "How many camels can you fit in the eye of a needle?"... sounds interesting?

We will re-group in September, with a full programme of stunning, mind-blowing and fascinating meetings... or perhaps we'll just go back to the usual diet of mediocrity?

Guy Henderson, the Chief Reporter from 'Herald Express' has re-printed 'The Torbay Thespis' in his section of this week's paper! I was pleased that he had given this publicity to all the local productions; plus it's free. This means that, because several local societies, including Toads, now publish 'Thespis' in their newssheet, all company members are aware of what's happening out there.

David Warren will soon be appearing in a play on Russian TV! I hope he succeeded in Putin on the accent.....

So even though we have only just re-opened, we are closing the doors until September; back to the normal season... if we can remember what normal was.

John Miles.

What's On in August.

3rd-7th August. 7.30pm.

'Stage Struck', by Yvonne and John Eddeleston, directed by Paula Smith. Dawlish Rep. at Shaftsbury Theatre. 01626 863061

17-22nd August. On tour.

'The Canterbury Tales', by Geoffrey Chaucer. Directed by Richard Clark. Dartington Playgoers.

17th August (7pm) - Staverton Playing Field.

18th August (7 pm) - St Mary's Dartington churchyard

19th (7 pm) and 22nd August (3 pm) - St Mary's Totnes churchyard

20th and 21st August (7 pm) - Broadhempston Community Orchard

22nd August (3 pm) - St Mary's Totnes churchyard

Book via website. Ticketforce.

Wednesday 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th August. 7.00pm.

Monday 30th August. 6.00pm.

'Zebediah Hook (The Smuggler of Shaldon)', written and directed by Leon Winston.

Shaldon Theatre Company.

Outdoor performances on The Green, Shaldon