

CROAK

Toads Theatre Newsletter February 2023



'Hello everyone, Christmas seems like an age ago. Easter will creep up on us when we're not looking, then it'll be summer...yay! I have always been the optimistic sort!

A Matter of Life and Death was a wonderful and extraordinary play beautifully crafted by Geni Wyatt. The use of film, live piano, minimal set, imaginative use of props...I was captivated as many of us have been. So much work went into this production. Well done to all concerned and to Jake for managing such a technical show. How many people jumped out of their skin when Jo Loosemore appeared from wardrobe?

Alistair showed the original David Niven film, A Matter of Life and Death as a tie-in to the show at Cinemundi in the coffee shop on the morning of the Charity Night. I'd never seen the film so really enjoyed it. A shout out for Cinemundi by the way, contact Alistair Conquer for more details.

Next up is The Bully Wee Band on Sunday January 29th and then The Youth Drama Event on Thursday 16th and Friday 17th February. Please come and support us.

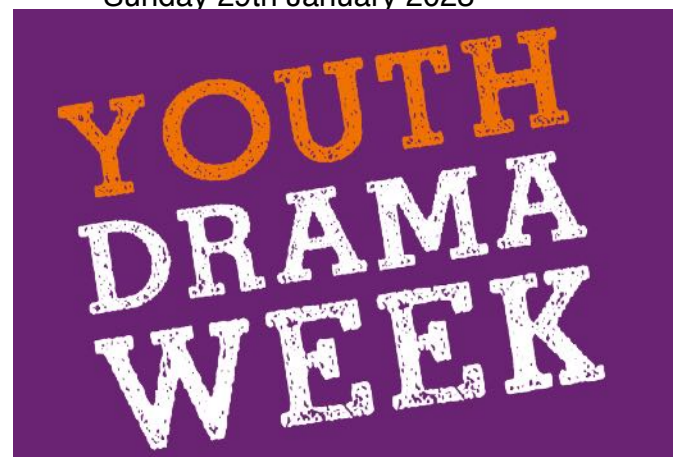
Apologies for the ongoing problem with the heating in the theatre. It's an old system (aren't we all?) and John Miles and Alistair Conquer are working tirelessly to try and sort it. Please bear with us and wear an extra layer.

By the way, please leave any Valentine's Day cards for me in the box office. They have a sack ready!

Anna Reynolds
Chairman



Sunday 29th January 2023



Thursday 16th and Friday 17th February



Tuesday 7th March to Saturday 11th March

Editors note - If you are viewing online then the many of the images have links, click, or double click on them to reveal more information or more photos. Dependant on the speed of your internet connection the photos may take a short while to load. If you have any technical issues or would like to add content to future newsletters then please contact me by [clicking here](#).

News Desk



The Wednesday Club, February, 2023

Our new year started with a high.... Steve Gill and his friends, 'Lazy Jacks', gave us 'An introduction to Shanty Singing'. Most of us knew a bit about shanties, however their lavishly illustrated talk also described the various rhythms which were required for different tasks. Many new faces from the local folk clubs joined the packed house. This was the largest Wednesday Club takings since we started 23 years ago! Perhaps Steve could pull a few ropes for us and do a repeat performance one Friday in the bar?!

We next reviewed 'Mother Goose', with Jason Davey there to represent the cast. Our first panto in eleven years was considered to be a great success. This year we will be performing 'Cranford at Christmas', however there may be another Panto in 2024.

We have yet to hold the review of 'A Matter of Life and Death' which is currently in production.

February starts with 'Julia's Book of Guinness Records', selected by Julia Bale. It's remarkable how this annual publication has grown into being a selection of increasingly obscure and zany human activities!

Next we have Robin Brown, Jazz Pianist. Robin is a new Toads' member, with a wealth of theatrical anecdotes and experiences, but this afternoon he will be entertaining us on the Clavinova.

Patricia Oxley, the enthusiastic Prima-Donna of Poetry, has been on a Mediterranean cruise, visiting Athens, Venice and many places around the Adriatic. Prepare for the slides!

Next week we have a free date, followed by John Hall's latest quiz. He once appeared as a nasty Italian police inspector in 'Accidental Death of an Anarchist'.... so he 'Vill aska de questions'!

Later on in March we have Jim Redman with 'Telephones, Teachers and Tobacco', in praise of Bob Newhart. This will be followed by our review of 'The Importance of Being Earnest' with members of the cast.

Suzy and I will be on holiday for a month, so there will be no Wednesday Club review from me next month, but perhaps we can persuade Nigel to cover!?

Hasta la Vista, baby!

John Miles.



For The Performance Listing for Amateur Productions in South Devon, from Dawlish to South Brent, click on the Thespis logo above.

CineMundi

It's all going well, so far! Regular meetings on the second Monday of the month at 10.00 for 10.30 plus extras especially to tie in with TOADS productions ... and we still can't publicise the titles!

A number of people have mentioned that daytime is not good for them and why don't we do something in the evening, so we are going to try. On Monday February 27th there will be a **FILM NIGHT** in The Little Theatre Café starting at 7.00 pm

If you wish to know what the film is and be put on the non-public circulation list, then please contact: tlccinemundi@gmail.com and for those who have asked what it stands for The Little Theatre Café- the licence holder.

Who knows – the bar might even open, if there's enough demand! So don't be shy in coming forward. Click on Coming Soon for cryptic teasers.

**COMING
SOON**

**Membership
Corner**

I'm writing this in France as we're spending a few weeks at Ian's home where we should have spent Christmas but my recent surgery prevented that.

This month, I'm including a reminder to our directors about membership of Toads for cast and crew in a production. It's good to bring new blood into our company but it is a condition of participation that they become members as soon as possible after rehearsals have begun. Details and forms are available by clicking on the Membership Corner logo above. I am happy to be contacted for advice or assistance.

As always, our thanks are due to the members who reliably volunteer their services in the various capacities which keep our theatre running, whether in the box office, wardrobe, props, set building, maintenance, bar, coffee shop or front of house, not forgetting on or off stage for productions.

Sherry Dudley

Toads Productions



Hedda Gabler

A TOADS Season Production

(By Henrik Ibsen in a new version by Patrick Marber,
Directed by Heidi Pyburn)

Tuesday 9th to Saturday 13th May 2023

The cast for Hedda Gabler

Hedda Gabler - Jo Loosemore

Tesman - Ben Butler-Cole

Loveborg - Dave Grant

Judge Brack - Jef Pirie

Mrs Elvstead - Harriet Crook

Aunt Juliana - Adele Reynolds

Bertie - Helen Gould



Click on the photo to reveal 14 more photos



A message from Ceni Wyatt, Director.

Well, what can i saythe cast and crew pulled it off !

Thank you so very much. A very difficult tech heavy multi layered play- which isn't Toads normal cup of tea I know, but seems to have been well received, drawing in a new audience and new actors.

We were cursed with sickness and the Christmas break is always a difficult time to do a play but with lots of hours in the rehearsal room and dedicated people it came together.

I hope you all enjoyed the experience as much as I did stressful at times, but always fun now I need a lie down



How about leaving your review of A Matter of Life and Death on Trip Advisor? There are already nearly 80 reviews, the last one dated 7 October. Just click on the Trip Advisor Logo above.



sandy60
leicester
71 contributions

...



High quality acting in great venue

Oct 2022

We went to see the 39 Steps which was brilliantly performed by the 4 actors playing numerous parts throughout the play. This is a great venue (a converted church) with a very warm welcome from all the volunteers working there. There was also a lovely atmosphere in the bar so would also recommend having a drink there.

Written 07/10/22



A message from Heidi Pyburn.

Devon Young People's Theatre in association with TOADS Theatre Company would like to take you on a journey of Theatre Through the Ages with a selection of songs, scenes and monologues.

We start in ancient Greece where drama originated. We then travel to Italy to meet the Commedia del Arte players of the 17th century. Next on to Shakespeare's England where we will travel through time to meet characters from the stories of Emily Bronte, Oscar Wilde and George Bernard Shaw. Then on to the 21st century to experience the golden age of musicals right through to the modern drama of today.

Join us for this magical adventure on the 16 and 17 February at 7:30 pm.

For more information about LAMDA click the poster below

DEVON YOUNG PEOPLE'S THEATRE
PRESENT
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
TOADS THEATRE COMPANY

THEATRE THROUGH THE AGES

A selection of Scenes, Monologues and Songs

FEBRUARY
THURS 16TH & FRI 17TH 7.30PM

We teach **LAMDA**
Exams & Qualifications

BOX OFFICE :
01803 299 330

£6.00 tickets
CONCESSIONS
Students (16 & under) £4

BOOK ONLINE @ WWW.TOADSTHEATRE.CO.UK
Box Office Open: Tuesday - Friday (10am - 12 noon)
THE LITTLE THEATRE ST MARK'S ROAD MEADFOOT TORQUAY DEVON TQ1 2EL

Essential Contacts and Information

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Committee members *

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if you'd like to join the wardrobe team

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Devon Young People's Theatre

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If you'd like to help In the coffee shop

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Editor Croak Newsletter.

Bea Hutchings
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For press/magazine publicity

Anne Jordan 01626 330866
annepoppy@blueyonder.co.uk
if you'd like to join the props team

Paul Lewis 07555 396654
paul1970lewis@yahoo.co.uk
set building/painting, etc.

Jon Manley & Jackie Tarney
07815 323982
boxoffice@toadstheatre.co.uk
If you'd like to help behind the bar

Jon Manley & Bea Hutchings
openmic@toadstheatre.co.uk
For Members Nights, Open Mic

Jake Wilkins
technical@toadstheatre.co.uk
for technical issues



If any members wish to show off their, e.g. musical/comedic, talents, please contact either Bea or Jon by clicking the advert above.

Members are welcome to bring guests - they will need to be signed in. Numbers may be restricted depending on how popular these evenings are.

Friday 24th February 2023

Friday 17th March 2023



1. Who wrote Treasure Island and Kidnapped.
2. What does TARDIS stand for. (DR Who)
3. Who won an Oscar for his direction of Lawrence of Arabia.
4. In which National Park is Yes Tor.
5. The Isle of Sheppey is in which English county.
6. Which part of the human body is the patella.
7. Which American animator was a member of the Monty Python team.
8. Who wrote and created Dracula.
9. Who was the first replacement for Brian Jones, in the Rolling Stones, after his death.
10. Which 2 South American countries have borders with Ecuador.

Where am I?

Known sometimes as a gateway it is a market town/city, surrounded by history. many battles were fought with "the old enemy".

There is a "rude" church and a castle which sits atop Castle Hill. Mostly dates from the 15th and 16th centuries. Kings and Queens have been crowned there, one being Mary in 1542. The football team play their home games at Forthbank Stadium.

Overlooking the town is a monument to someone who became a hero, captured on film not long ago. But you will need a good and brave heart to reach it, it's quite a climb.

[CLICK HERE FOR ANSWERS](#)