



# PROMPT

**Summer 1996**

## Welcome

. . . to this Summer edition of **Prompt**. As we are nearing the end of the season many of you may be about to take, or be in the middle of, exams. We would like to wish you all the very best of luck and, whether you're about to go off to university or not, remember that there's plenty going on to keep you busy during the holidays. Now would be a good time to have your diary at the ready . . .

For this edition I would like to extend special thanks to South Bucks District Council for helping distribute **Prompt** to a much wider audience. If this is the first time you have seen a copy then a very special welcome to you. If you have any items for inclusion in future editions of **Prompt** please do not hesitate to send details to the address which appears at the end.

Remember that SBDC now produce *What's Happening*, a guide to all similar goings-on in their area. The guide will be distributed free to all homes in the area and everyone is welcome to submit items for inclusion to: Debbie Stubbs, Arts Officer, South Bucks District Council, Council Offices, Windsor Road, Slough. (  )

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### **floor 13** Frances Taylor & Emma Sikora

After our successes at Chalfont and Maidenhead we just want to thank all the cast and crew: so, a big THANK YOU goes to – Gary Boon, Sharon Calcutt, Row Lennon, and Jon Lunt for their Oscar-winning acting; and Ian Moores, Piers Sanders, Andrew Benstock and Matt Powers for their amazing back-stage work. Also we really appreciate everyone who came to support this fabulous, dazzling, brilliant, show that we directed so wonderfully (modest girls that we are!) Thanks everyone and well done. 

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### **a true lifesaver** Jonathan Fowke

It's the middle of March, the weather is abysmal and I am due to direct a film for part of my degree. I have a crew, the equipment and have booked the locations. The only problem is I have no cast! But,

help is at hand in the form of . . . Young Theatre. Either I'm desperate or I'm mad, I think the latter applies. Well anyway, Young Theatre once again came to the rescue.

Thank you one and all for turning my initial thoughts into such an interesting production, not to mention such an amusing set of out-takes. (The phrase "take 28" springs to mind!)

Many of the cast and crew had never acted in front of a camera before and found it quite unnerving, but nevertheless turned out a superb performance. As Helen Sharman commented: "When acting in front of the camera, I feel as if I have been glued to the floor; any movement on my part and I've stepped out of shot". Another popular comment from the cast was: "I never knew that so much went into the making of a short film. I'll never be able to watch television in the same way". Well, all I can say is that I hope I haven't totally destroyed you belief in the magic of the small black box!!!

The preview of the finished production took place on Thursday, 30th May. I think that the film was received well, but it's a bit hard to tell when all your cast members are cringing at the sight of themselves on TV. For those interested: a public performance of *A True Detective* will be screened as part of "An Evening With Tight Fit Theatre" on 21st September. It will be followed by a selection of the more memorable out-takes.

Once again, thank you one and all for your support, without you the production could not have gone ahead. All I have to say is: "It's A Wrap!" 

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### **more goss.** from R.B. your G.D.

Some important changes are taking place at the Curzon Centre, changes that concern us. The storage space which we were promised for costumes, props etc., has had some problems, and will now not be ready until the middle of next season. Due to this, a clearout on and under the stage will be taking place, giving us room to store everything neatly, and in one place. It has to be done on Saturday, 29th June from 10.30 ready for us to begin our set build the

following week. We need about a dozen members willing to work hard and efficiently. See me for more details.

Future publicity people: we now have three decent, plywood, roadside boards (4ft by 4ft or 1m<sup>2</sup>). In other words, the sooner we have a design for them they can go up.

Finally, the *End of Year Party* will begin at 1.30pm on Monday, 29th July at the Curzon Centre. Due to this there will be no YT on Sunday 28th July. During the day the older members will be organising an "It's a Knockout" competition, plus a BBQ. The evening will consist of a fancydress party in the Owen Room from 7pm - 12pm. The theme will be announced at a later date.

Be good and work hard on The Owl and the Pussycat please and SELL TICKETS!

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## the Owl and the Pussycat went to See.

by Sheila Ruskin and David Wood.

[*Er, that is, the play is by them. This information came from Richard B. - ed*]

Just to remind you: the performances for TOATPWTS will be held on the 18th, 19th and 20th July at the Curzon Centre. As if you didn't know.

The cast and crew are as follows:

Owl	Rowena Lennon
Pussycat	Suzie Buckley
Dong	Frances Taylor
Quangle	Ben Sansum
Spoon	Lauren Bell
Pig	Andrew Benstock
Prof. Bosh	James Rider
Turkey	Philip Jordan
Plum Pudding Flea	Chris Davidson
Jumbly Girl	Gary Boon
Head Jumbly	Jane Twyde
Jumbly 2	Sarah Benstock
Jumbly 3	Vicki Heime
Mr Canary	Chris Gurney
Mrs Canary	Kirsty Lunn
Birds/Fishes	Becky Sharman, Karen Wilkins, & Sharon Calcutt
Director	Richard Benstock
Associate Director	Matt Wilson
Stage Manager	Jane Dutton
DSM	Tracey Warren
ASMs	Paul Wilson & Pilsbury
Musical Directors	Charlotte Heime

Costumes	Sally Davies Jess Benest Emma Sikora
Front of House i/c	Helen Wallace
Publicity i/c	Laura Finlayson
Make up	Catherine Jeffcock Holly Ducker
Lighting	Jonathan Fowke Lucy Hamlet
Sound i/c	Alex Smith
Set Design	Becky Sharman
Box Office	Helen Sharman

If your details are missing, or not how you would wish to appear in the programme, then for goodness sake tell someone and SELL TICKETS!

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## *The Winter's Tale*



It has been a few weeks now since the passing of the production and I, like most of you, have had time to reflect on the three evenings in April. I firmly believe that *The Winter's Tale* typified all that The Young Theatre is, and should be, about. A cast and crew working together, dare one say, as a team whose common goal was to present the highest quality of performance possible. Which we did.

A lot was learnt by **all** participants in **all** departments. We proved that Shakespeare, and theatre, can be dynamic and daring. Risk and danger are not dirty words; but are to be welcomed given the requisite support and encouragement. Shaking the tree should be the norm never the exception in all our theatrical endeavours.

It is undoubted that the production deserved to be seen by a wider audience. It is a great shame that the press did not consider The Young Theatre worthy of reviewing - after all we have only been active in the area for 25 years and we are just a bunch of kids who play at it. Hmph - I think not and neither did the overwhelming majority of the audiences. Still we had a go and we did it - together.

My thanks to all participants. Everyone did more than was expected by certain quarters and you can't say fairer than that. In particular I would like to mention some of the performances, which were a little bit special. Sophie Harrison, for the best Paulina I have ever seen or worked with; Carla Quelch, for her growing ability and talent; Ben Sansum and Chris Lambert, for two mature and clear

performances; and Pilsbury, for his trust which undoubtedly paid off. Don't despair the rest of the cast!! As a team you pulled off some of the best acting to be seen on a Beaconsfield stage. There wasn't a single weak link in the chain.

To my crew an enormous debt of gratitude. Every department excelled in their brief and a director cannot ask for more than that. A number of members have asked if I am planning to direct next year. After some thought I have decided that I would like to have another bash next year and I hope that the Executive Committee will allow me to. I have a lot left to give and a lot left to learn from the group. So here's hoping. Mark Oldknow

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## this could be you

News has reached us of a few past and present YT members:

**Richard Harwood** appeared in *The Bill* on 30th May (using his stage name of Richard Atlee);

**Bill Tapley** has been signed up for the new series of *Backup* as "Oz";

**Andrew Kitchen\*** has become the Artistic Director of Maddermarket Theatre, Norwich;

**John Grantham** (was John Graham\*) is a theatrical agent;

**Debbie Lewis** has been elected a local councillor;

**Rob Diment** is playing a major role in the forthcoming Chiltern Shakespeare production;

**Karen Ogborn** is to be the Wardrobe Mistress for a company about to tour Germany;

and, of course, **Zoe Ball** co-presents *The Big Breakfast*.

(\* former members of YT North Harrow)

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## other groups' news

### Chiltern Shakespeare Company

Will be performing Shakespeare's *A Merchant of Venice* at Hall Barn, directed by our very own Aviva Wiseman. Performances are at 7.30pm on 12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Tickets from Chapter House, Gregories Road, Beaconsfield (01494)

### Beaconsfield Theatre Group

*Love On all Floors*, or as the press kindly mis-named it - *Love on all Fours*, or as the cast affectionately refer to it - *LOAF* - was quite an

adventure. I had directed a new play for Peter Vincent a couple of years ago, that time his partner was David (A Bit of A Do) Nobbs, but this time he had collaborated with John Chapman. John is my hero among comedy writers, having crafted *Move Over Mrs Markham* and other such gems and I am ashamed to admit that I was half way through throwing an instant Sainsbury's dinner at him when I realised exactly who was sitting in my living room!



**BEACONSFIELD  
THEATRE GROUP**

Problem number one - to find the right cast - was solved by the appearance of Dave Capstick - Rev'd Parris in *The Crucible*. Problem number two - find a set designer who could cope with rope ladders and disappearing beds - no problem - ask our Graham. Problems three to ten were solved by having Lyn Benest as my assistant. The rest was down hill - albeit very fast and slightly out of control!

To work with such experienced writers was a joy - they both came to rehearsals, accepted - and gave criticism. At the end of the run, BTG had learnt a great deal about the mechanics of farce, and the authors had been able to see the holes in their script - and there were a few! *LOAF* is a play with great commercial potential, and we hope that we have pushed it a little further on its way to the West End. Whatever happens, everyone involved had a wonderful time, an important element in the stressful world of amateur theatre. One audience member thanked the writers on his way out and said 'Why not make this your Scarborough? Please do it again.' So, here's hoping . . . Helen Sharman

Forthcoming BTG events include:

A Review evening on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> July at 8pm at the Beacon Centre. Tickets £5.50 (£4.00 conc.) include supper (box office)

Auditions at the United Reform Church, Crabtree Close, at 8pm on the 16<sup>th</sup> July for a show to be directed by Jenny Quille (call: .)

### Tight Fit Theatre

Following their success with *Separation* by Tom Kempinski, forthcoming productions include: some unique promenade theatre in Burnham Beeches on 1st August and on 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> August, as a community project, *Teechers* by John Godber. TFT

are looking for actors and technicians of all shapes, sizes for both projects so, if you want to have some fun in the summer months phone

Open auditions will be held during the evening of 14th June. (If you are reading this after 14th June, don't worry, phone anyway.)

Tight Fit Theatre's other current project is to write and produce a new pantomime for children: *Robin Hood (the Early Years)* which, in addition to being performed at the Beacon Centre on 21st August, will be touring Gerrards Cross (20th), Stoke Poges (20th), Denham (22nd), and Burnham (23rd).



The pantomime is aimed at an audience aged 3-8 years so if you wish to give someone a summer treat, this will be your chance.

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### Chesham Youth Theatre

Martin Wallace has been chairman of the Chesham Youth Theatre for a number of years and feels that the time has come when he must step down from the role. Without a chairman, of course, the future of the group could be cast into doubt.

If there are any likely candidates out there please phone and I will be happy to pass on names. Tim Hill

### annual general meeting

Notice is hereby given on behalf of the Executive Committee of The Young Theatre (at Beaconsfield) that the next Annual General Meeting will be held at



2.30 pm on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September. As usual, parents will be welcome.

The agenda and other relevant documents will be delivered to members at a later date.

### diary dates

Jun 14	Open Auditions	TFT
Jun 29	Clear Out	YT
Jly 6	Review	BTG
Jly 16	Auditions	BTG
Jly 18-20	The Owl and the Pussycat Went to See	YT
Jly 29	End of Year Party	YT
Aug 1	On Location at Burnham Beeches	TFT
Aug 16,17	Teechers	TFT
Aug 21-23	Robin Hood (The Early Years)	TFT
Sep 15	AGM	YT
Sep 21	An Evening With . . .	TFT

### prompt

This edition of Prompt was edited by Tim Hill

All comments and contributions are welcome and gratefully received:

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