

March 1996

NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given by the Committee of The Young Theatre (at Beaconsfield) that a General Meeting will be held at 2 pm on Sunday 21st April.

The agenda will comprise:

- 1) Apologies for absence,
- 2) Ratification of changes to committee membership,
- 3) Any other business.

All members should attend. If you are unable to do so, or if you wish to add to this agenda, please call Alison Lister (



IT'S KUDOS TIME AGAIN

Just after Christmas you may have seen in the Buckinghamshire Advertiser . . .

Agnes of God



. . . that *Agnes of God* was "critic's choice" for 1995, and Aviva Wiseman's portrayal of Mother Miriam was considered "performance of the year". So, congratulations to Mark Oldknow, the director, and all his cast and crew.

In the same article

the CRUCIBLE

was highly commended. Ian R. Wallace and the cast and crew must also be congratulated.

With these two shows being mentioned, the Young Theatre once more proves itself to be one of the most exciting theatre groups in the area. Will we have as much success with . . .



THE APRIL SHOW

The Winter's Tale



We are keeping an eye (or two) on ticket sales for this show. How close are you to winning either of the £10 WHSmith tokens?

In case you have forgotten, every member of the group is expected sell a *minimum* of five tickets and if you sell the most tickets (and more than ten) you win £10. Please note, that the cast and crew are expected to sell a *minimum* of ten tickets (each!); their prize (of £10) being awarded for highest sales over fifteen. After the disappointing box office returns for *Alice* it is **vital** that we do not shy away from the need to sell this show.

By way of explanation of what we will be doing in this production, Tim Hill posted news of it to an Internet Newsgroup (rec.arts.theatre.misc). Let me quote Tim's reply to a curious New Zealand Internet surfer:

“. . . Running time estimated two hours, including a mid-way 20 minute interval. i.e., two acts.

“A TV celebrity (a patron [Bob Holness]) has agreed to videotape the opening chorus, and other bits. We are in the middle of filming other inserts: departure by boat, arrival at gym (don't ask!), etc.

“The effect we are trying to portray, and I assume you know the plot, is that Sicilia is a nation influenced by the news media. An 8' x 8' on-stage screen shows monochrome, silent, news and documentary footage intercut with live on-stage camera(s). We are drawing parallels with our dear Royal Family who have similar moments of public ineptitude. Leontes could have been a British Monarch! No, surely not. ;-)

“In our filming we have tried to emulate some real news footage, such as the famous Diana 'Panorama' interview. (Well, famous here anyway.)

“Act two, and the action switches to Bohemia. A land of entertainment television where the inhabitants

dress as their on-screen heroes. I think this gives you a flavour! . . ."

So now you know, go out there and sell! As a reminder: The Winter's Tale is being performed on the

11th 12th and 13th April at 8pm

Tickets: see James Rider or phone:

(day)

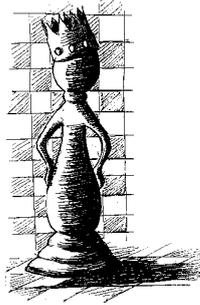
(eve)

You may already have heard that there has been a slight change to the published cast, due to pressures of schoolwork. *Mopsa*, *Gentlewoman*, and *Gaoler* will now be played by Tracey Warren.

Tickets are also available from Amersham College. 

ALICE

Despite disappointing ticket sales, the production was well received by those who came to see it. We believe that a proportion of sales were lost to the pantomime at the Wycombe Swan and other local events. This is borne out by a sharp reduction in the number of block bookings for the matinée by local groups. If ignored, this problem will not just go away: the committee and membership are going to have to think hard about an alternative approach to the Christmas show. Helen is very keen to hear from anyone who may have suggestions.



That being said, the local papers loved *Alice*. Thanks must go to: the two Steps for putting together their first major show; the crew for a super set, lighting, sound etc.; Becky Sharman for her hard work on the costumes; and the cast for good performances. Also, to Philip Sheahan for allowing us the opportunity to continue the group's commitment to mounting new works. 

FESTIVAL PLAY

Floor 13's cast has been announced as:

Gary Boon, Row Lennon, Sharon Calcutt, and Jon Lunt. Directed by Emma Sikora and Frances Taylor. Matt Powers is Stage Manager.

This is an original play written by the group and extended since its first incarnation at the opening of the Beacon Centre.

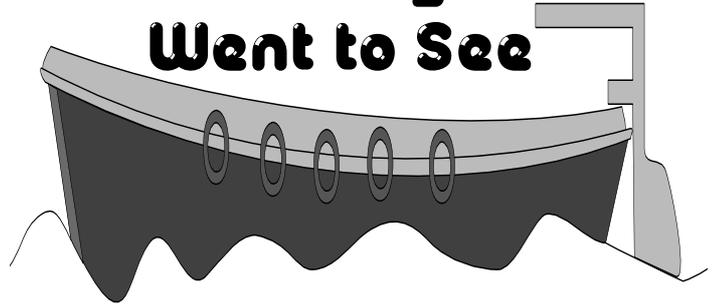
Performances will be given at both the Chalfont and Maidenhead festivals, and hopefully Henley too. We are waiting for confirmation.

Dates of performance will be published in the Winter's Tale programme, so you'd better be there to buy one! 

FROM YOUR G.D. BY R.B., O.K?

As I'm sure most of you (members) are aware, writes Richard Benstock, I am directing the summer show which this year is going to be the musical:

The Owl and The Pussycat Went to See



by Sheila Ruskin and David Wood.

The dates of this show are:

18th, 19th, 20th July

(The week most local schools break up).

I was hoping to do a matinée for school parties on Friday 19th as it can be used for an end of year outing?? Those with contacts within schools, please find out whether this is a possibility.

I am hoping to involve **all** the younger members of the group and as many new members as possible. If anyone knows anyone who is anyone who can do something, bring them down to . . . 

NEW MEMBERS DAY

Anyone thinking about joining YT and who wants to know a little more about it, is invited to the new members' day on the Sunday immediately after *The Winter's Tale* (14th April). If any member has a friend who is interested invite them to come along with you. The day will be spent on: fun and games, auditions for the summer show and other activities designed to show potential members what a great group we are.

There will be lots to do, including helping with the Winter's Tale strike.

For further information phone

Chris Lambert on 

NEW WRITERS' WORKSHOP

PLAY DEAD

The writing team at YT is busy biting pencils over a piece with the working title of *Play Dead*. Led by Rob Diment, Katie Hubbard, and Helen Wallace, this is a one act play with a strong anti-drugs message, writes *Helen Sharman* [but not, this time, for Village Voice! - ed.]

The project has attracted a great deal of interest and we have been working with the Youth and Community team at the Curzon Centre. A few weeks ago, a group of members spent a most interesting afternoon with Fred from the Local Health Authority. He was an amazing communicator whose job includes: visiting schools and youth clubs, talking to young people, and giving the hard facts about drug abuse.

The plan is to tour the play in late October / early November: we have invitations to perform at Beaconsfield School, Beaconsfield High School, Bluecoat School (Reading), and the Royal Grammar School.

Ideally, the play will be followed by a discussion, possibly led by Fred, and perhaps a separate discussion with parents.

All we have to do now, is stop biting the pencils and start writing with them!



OTHER GROUPS' NEWS

BEACONSFIELD OPERATIC SOCIETY

28-30 March *The Zoo & Trial by Jury*
At the Curzon Centre—tickets available through Mary Jeffries (

BEACONSFIELD THEATRE GROUP

22-25 May *Love on all Floors*

This is a world première written by Peter Vincent and John Chapman, directed by our very own Helen Sharman. Tickets available through her.

TIGHT FIT THEATRE

1-4 May *Separation*

This is a new professional company based in Buckinghamshire and formed by Mark Oldknow, Karen Ogborn & Jonathan Fowke. This will be their inaugural production which we hope you will lend your support. Tickets will be available soon.



CRISIS

As has been previously reported in Prompt, a number of YT members, were involved in a



charity concert given in aid of Crisis, the charity for the homeless. The concert took place in Holy Cross church, Greenford to a packed house. The play, penned by Ian R. Wallace and Tim Hill, went down extremely well. Four members of the audience were so convinced by the play that they asked which satellite channel it was to be broadcast on?!!!

Congratulations to all involved. The evening raised £800 for **CRISIS**



CHORLEYWOOD OPERATIC

This society performed two one act operas at the Watersmeet in Rickmansworth on 29th February - 2nd March, writes *Mark Oldknow*. "So what?" I hear you cry. Firstly, they were directed by our very own Sheila Anderson. Secondly, the show was designed and stage managed by Graham Southgate. Thirdly, the set was built, painted, and supplied by the Young Theatre. If I may say so, it looked bloody marvellous.



I know that Sheila has expressed her gratitude to the group for our involvement.

Incidentally, she is directing *Fiddler on the Roof* for Beaconsfield Operatic Society for next October and is looking for young singers to audition on Tuesday, 23rd April. If you are interested please speak to Helen S.



DEADLY EMBRACE

BTG have now settled into their new home at the Beacon Centre, this being their second production there. Before long it will be a tradition!

Cindy Linley directed this technological



thriller with her customary style and panache, aided by a strong cast. Notable performances from: Sue Dorman (almost unrecognisable) and Paul Hearmon. It is perhaps unfair to highlight two performances in what was an ensemble, but life's like that.

The set was one of the best seen at a recent BTG production and was designed by Ben Benest. It was lit very well by Andrew Hallmark and John Twydle.

Special mention must go to John Twydle's imaginative computer program which lifted this

production from the ordinary.

Congratulations to cast and crew for an entertaining evening's theatre.

ROLL OF HONOUR

This issue of Prompt continues the Member of the Month with the usual alteration in that these newsletters are not monthly! The award goes to anyone who the committee feels have made an outstanding contribution to the group. The only criteria are 100% effort and 100% commitment.

For this issue the winner is:



Three cheers and congratulations.

AND FINALLY

Congratulations go to:

Matt Wilson, James Rider, and Helen Wallace for passing their driving tests. (Who's next, Catherine Lambert? Will the roads ever be safe again!!! - ed.)

Suzie Buckley and Sarah Benstock have been granted places at the school that "best fits their personal needs" (They've passed their 12+. - ed.)

Oh! Yes! To all those at the R.G.S., your worst nightmare will be with you next year. Yes, it's Pilsbury!!! (aka Simon Gurney).

Katie Hubbard has been elected as Youth Interests Representative to the Management Committee of the Curzon Centre.

Well done all of you.

PROMPT

This edition of Prompt was edited by Mark Oldknow (01494 and Tim Hill (01296 . Your comments and contributions will prove invaluable.

By the way, Tim will be delighted to receive Email from any readers of Prompt and, if you ask nicely, he will be happy to distribute this publication across the information superhighway. He has already offered to give up some of his web space so that Young Theatre will have its very own home page on the World Wide Web. Check it out!

mailto: :o.uk

http://w w w.

Contributors please note: the deadline for the next edition of Prompt is 2nd June. Please submit by

email if you can! Publication date 9th June. Contributions are welcome from all.

COMPETITION

No prize, I'm afraid. Just be happy in the knowledge that you're a smartass if you can find the ten hidden words, all of which are relevant to The Young Theatre.



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TIRDPEZKT

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CBKVCEOLG

TTECUTNRE

ORBVILOCP

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Crikey, G.D., I'd better get on with selling tickets for The Winter's Tale!