

The Hound of the Baskervilles

by Arthur Conan Doyle
adapted by
Stephen Canny
& John Nicholson
for Peepolykus
directed by James Firth-Haydon



Performances Wednesday 4, 5, & 7 February at 7.45pm

Alice in Wonderland

by Lewis Carroll
adapted by
Eve La Gallienne
& Florida Friebus
directed by Tim Rowland



Performances Friday 6 February at 7.45pm
Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 February matinees at 2.45pm

Editor's notes

Happy New Year to all our readers. Last year's programme ended with the great success of *The Diary of Anne Frank*, with good box office returns and critical acclaim from the Brighton and Hove adjudicator.

See page 8 for full details.

We continue the season with two productions by our Youth Theatre Group – *Alice in Wonderland* by the younger members and *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by the senior members. The timing of these two productions is changed to meet the needs of younger actors so make sure you note the dates of these shows. The good news is that tickets are only £4.

Full details in Director's notes on page 6. My search for a member to take on the editorship of this newsletter has borne fruit and Paul Myles will be the editor of the next newsletter. May I say farewell and thank you to all our readers for the support and kind words I have received over the past eight years and fifty three editions.

michealturner@btinternet.com

IN THIS ISSUE...

- 3 PREVIEW**
The Hound of the Baskervilles
Alice in Wonderland
- 4 REVIEW**
The Diary of Anne Frank
- 6 DIRECTOR'S NOTES**
- 8 INFORMATION**
- 9 ANNOUNCEMENTS & LETTERS**
- 10 AUDITION ALERT**
Inherit the Wind
- 12 BOOKING FORM**

DIARY DATES

PERFORMANCES

The Hound of the Baskervilles
4,5,7 February

Alice in Wonderland
6 February, matinees 7 & 8 February

AUDITIONS

The Thrill of Love
10 January 10.30am Foyer

Inherit the Wind
14 February 10.30am Foyer

PREVIEW

The Hound of the Baskervilles

by Arthur Conan Doyle

Adapted by Stephen Canny & John Nicholson for Peepolykus
directed by James Firth-Haydon

The Strand

Man found Dead on Moor

Sir Charles Baskerville was recently found dead in circumstances which can only be described as strange and mysterious. In order to uncover the clues that led to his death, the family doctor, Dr. Mortimer, travelled to London to seek the help of the best detective the world has ever known, Monsieur Bertillon was unavailable to comment as to why it was none other than Sherlock Holmes and not himself that had been given the task of solving the murder of Sir Charles Baskerville and the mystery of the *Hound of the Baskervilles*. In fact, you too can also try and solve the mystery if you dare. Come and see for yourselves the stunning and amazing production as three members of the Lewes Theatre Youth Group rip through the story you all should know. It's a literary classic, a story that captured me as a young boy and I hope will entertain you for the evening. We look forward to seeing you there, if you dare.

**Wednesday 4 February at 7:45pm Thursday 5 February at 7:45pm
and Saturday 7 February at 7:45pm
Tickets £4 each person It's a steal...**

PREVIEW

Alice in Wonderland

by Lewis Carroll

Adapted by Eve La Gallienne & Florida Friebus, directed by Tim Rowland

The younger members of the Youth Theatre Group are performing arguably one of the best-loved children's books of all time. Directed by Tim Rowland, with a talented cast, both *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass* are respectfully brought up to date in this crazy, hip-hop infused, hilarious, nonsensical extravaganza! Join in with the world famous and absurd characters including The Mad Hatter, the Red Queen, Tweedledee and Tweedledum, along with the perplexed Alice for a thrilling and magical adventure for all the family.

Tim Rowland

Friday 6 February at 7:45pm Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 February matinees at 2:45pm

Evening performances at 7.45pm. Matinee at 2.45pm on 7 & 8 February.

THE BOX OFFICE 01273 474826 will be open daily from Saturday 31 January 10.30-1200 then Monday 2 February to Sunday 8 February 1030-1200 and 7-7.30pm on 2 & 3 February and from 7pm on Wednesday 4 February to Saturday 7 February, performance nights. The Box Office will also be open for the two matinees from 2pm on Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 February. Postal bookings received before the Box Office opening period will be given priority. Tickets not paid for 15 minutes before the performance is timed to start may be resold.

In any case seats booked in advance but not taken up must be paid for if not resold.

REVIEW

The Diary of Anne Frank



Anne Frank wrote her diary as a young teenager when she, her family and her father's acquaintances were forced into hiding by German Nazis in Amsterdam. Since its publication by her father in 1947, after Anne's death in Belsen, it has been translated into more than 60 languages, sold more than 25 million copies and used as an educative and inspirational tool.

In 1955 this dramatisation of Anne's original diary by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett opened on Broadway. Subsequently, it played simultaneously in seven German cities and opened in Amsterdam in 1956 with Dutch royalty present. At its first outing it received a Tony Award, A Pulitzer Prize and The New York Drama Critics Circle Award. Then the 1998 revival in USA received a Tony Award for Best Revival in an adaptation by Wendy Kesselman. Since then this much loved play has been

performed numerous times in amateur and professional theatres.

For this production Chris Weber Brown chose a talented cast of seasoned LLT actors and new faces.

The production opened on an excellent multi-level set, designed by Geoff Parker, which perfectly captured the dreary, claustrophobic and cramped conditions that the eight characters were forced to live in for two years.

The situation in which the Frank and Van Daan families and the stranger Mr Dussel find themselves in is pretty intolerable and provides an excellent premise for drama. Hidden in an attic above a shop and so as not to be found by the Nazis, 5 adults and 3 teenagers are forced to remain silent during the day time, even unable to use the toilet or run water. As if this weren't bad enough they are entirely reliant on occasional visitors Miep Gies and

REVIEW

The Diary of Anne Frank

Mr Kraler for meagre, dwindling food rations and information from the outside world.

Watching how each character copes in this highly stressful situation, how the relationships ebb and flow and how a semblance of dignity and harmony is maintained provides engrossing viewing and this cast did full justice to their roles in the drama.

Chris Parke and Hannah Wilson as Mr and Mrs Frank poignantly and sensitively portrayed the heads of the household struggling to control their own fears and frustrations in order to ensure their children's emotional and practical wellbeing. Their daughters, the idealistic Anne thirsty for life and experience and the quiet, studious Margot were convincingly and sensitively played by Eilla Dorman-Gajic and Maddy Barnes. Steve Mallen and Sharran Rigby Smith as Mr and Mrs Van Daan whose tense relationship and personal frustrations quickly rose to the surface confidently provided the perfect foil to the calm and dignified Franks. Jonny Amies as the sensitive Peter Van Daan was funny and moving as he struggled with being in such close proximity to people while dealing with his burgeoning sexuality and his attraction to fellow adolescent Anne.

In a deftly placed central scene the playing out of the teenage romance in this crucible works on two levels. First we are treated to the humour and poignancy of first love and secondly it serves as a symbol of the human spirit flourishing in a climate of evil and fear.

Adrian Bowd as Mr Dussel, the elderly and irritatingly fastidious dentist finding himself having to live cheek by jowl

with strangers was wonderful. Julian Message as Mr Kraler, the sympathetic local businessman who nevertheless makes opportunities out of the war, was perfectly bureaucratic and unctuous. Seer Dindial played Miep Gies with warmth and sensitivity.

I don't think there could have been many people in the audience who didn't know the story of Anne Frank and the tragic fate met by her, and her family and friends. Knowing the ending doesn't diminish this powerful, enthralling and cleverly crafted play that remains fresh and entirely relevant. With Chris Weber Brown at the helm of his talented LLT cast it was a memorable night at the theatre.

As Anne Frank noted with innocence in her diary "I want to bring enjoyment to all people, even those I've never met". Her powerful legacy lives on to inspire new generations through her brave, searching voice serving to highlight the ugliness of injustice and prejudice with grace.

Lucie Fitchett



Photographs
by Keith Gilbert

Club Director's notes

As we have now reached the end of the 2014, we can look back at the last play of the year, *The Diary of Anne Frank* directed by Chris Weber Brown. This was entered for the Brighton and Hove Arts Council awards and the adjudication took place after the first night's performance.

Normally the Awards Evening is held during the second week in December, but this year it was brought forward by one week so unfortunately none of the cast and crew could attend as the play was still in performance. Our play was highly commended and we won seven nominations and four awards.



Chris Parke won the Best Actor as Mr Frank and also for the part he played in the Wick Production of *The Cherry Orchard*. This is the first time in the history of the awards that the same actor has been voted the "best" in two different productions.

Sharran Rigby Smith

Best Supporting Actress for Mrs. Van Daan. **Geoff Parker** Best Lighting Design. **Chris Weber Brown** The Arthur Churchill Award for Excellence.

Also nominated were **Ella Dormand-**

Gajic Best Actress. **Adrian Bowd** Best Supporting Actor. **Chris Weber Brown** Best Director. **Chris Weber Brown** Best Overall Production. **Geoff Parker** Best Set Design. **Charlie Pope** Best Sound Design.

I am very pleased for everyone concerned that we did well because the cast, crew and director worked hard to achieve a high standard that was certainly appreciated by our audiences.

Two sets of schoolchildren came to see *The Diary of Anne Frank* which was very encouraging. As an ex-teacher I did wonder at first how they would react as some had never been exposed to a performance of this kind. However, they seemed engrossed, or as their teachers said, "very engaged". The sales of squash and biscuits exceeded all expectation, so that too was a result. Now as we enter the New Year, we're thinking ahead to the first productions. The Youth Theatre are rehearsing two plays, *The Hound of the Baskervilles* to be performed by three young actors, two of whom have performed several times in our adult productions. This play will be performed on Wednesday 4 February, Thursday 5 February and Saturday 7 February at 7.45pm. The younger members will perform *Alice in Wonderland* on Friday 6 February at 7.45pm and then on Saturday 7 February and Sunday 8 February at 2.45pm. Performing at these times means that the younger children and their parents won't have to worry about late nights and getting up for school in the mornings. There is a special price

Club Director's notes

for each performance £4.00 for adults and children.

Rehearsals are starting for *The Weir*. It has a cast of five and has attracted two new members to the Club, which is good news.

Auditions for *The Thrill of Love*, directed by Miles Jenner, take place on 10 January at 10.30am. Auditions for *Inherit the Wind*, directed by Cathryn Parker, take place on 14 February at 10.30am.

Finally I'd like to pay tribute to all the people who help us run the Club. Unless you actually spend time in the theatre as a volunteer, it's hard to assess how many hours people spend doing the various jobs. Therefore I thought I'd give you an idea of some of the areas and departments which we have to cover in order to put on plays. The list of helpers includes: Costume Department, set designers, set builders and painters, lighting, sound, props and furniture. Jack Wilkinson and those who stick labels on envelopes which they then stuff with Newsletters which are edited by Mike Turner. People who live locally deliver them saving us the cost of postage. Mike Palmer manages Publicity, the flyers, posters and programmes. Some of our latest members and actors have found us through the website. We have a Production Manager and a Theatre Manager who is responsible for maintenance of the theatre and health and safety. Members of the committee some of whom are named in this list, also have to meet seven times or more

annually. It is a legal requirement to have chaperones when children under sixteen appear on stage. The Youth Theatre is well-served with two teachers who also act as chaperones along with Pauline Lucas.

Well before the plays open, Mike Piller - Box Office, Carole Leeds - the bar and Jane Rimmington- Front of House start to draw up rotas of helpers for the run. The week before and during the run of the play, the Box Office Staff led by Mike are available to answer phone calls and issue tickets. The bar is stocked and the Front of House kitchen is checked for supplies.

Many volunteers come in during the day as well as on Tuesday nights for Working Party, particularly the ladies doing costumes, and the scenery builders, but it helps if you are retired. Finally Arthur Howells aged 94 still appears on Tuesday nights to make us tea and coffee at 9pm and then wash up the mugs. A further incentive for work to continue until 10pm occurs when Ian Edwards opens up the bar and it's drinks at Club prices.

So I'll take this opportunity to thank them all and wish them and yourselves a rather belated VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

Pat Shrimpton

The Diary of Anne Frank



Photograph
by
Keith Gilbert

LEWES THEATRE CLUB INFORMATION

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION £10 Double £16
Over 60s, Student & Juniors £6 Double £10
ADMISSION PRICES Evenings £8.
Matinées £6

ANTHONY JENNER BAR

All are welcome in our bar. It is open before and after all evening performances, as well as during the interval. Interval drinks may be ordered in advance.

THE NEWSLETTER

Published before each production. Contributions in the form of articles or correspondence are welcomed and should be addressed to The Editor, Lewes Little Theatre, Lancaster Street, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 2PX.

MEMBERSHIP

Applications should be sent to the Membership Secretary. Acting Membership involves no extra subscription. Members wishing to act are invited to attend auditions announced in the Newsletters.

CAR PARKING

Limited space at the theatre is available to those with disabilities. Municipal Car Parks,

close by in Brook Street and the Needlemakers Centre, are open free of charge after 6pm.

THE WORKING PARTY

This hard-working group undertakes set building, costume, repairs and maintenance, both inside and out, meeting every Tuesday evening.

DISABLED PEOPLE

Members who have difficulty negotiating stairs and steps may enter the Theatre by the former entrance on the east side of the building. Seating close to this entrance is in Rows G9-11, H10-12 and J5-7. We can accommodate one wheelchair at certain performances. For details, ask at the Box Office. A disabled persons' toilet is located between the two main doors to the Auditorium. A fully operational induction loop has been installed. Aids should be adjusted according to the manufacturer's instructions.

OFFICERS

Chair Joanne Cull
Director Pat Shrimpton
Treasurer Bob Leeds
General Secretary Derek Watts
Membership Secretary Nigel Sharpe

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Weir

21 – 28 March 2015, 7.45pm

Lewes Little Theatre

Described as a modern classic, *The Weir* was written by the acclaimed Irish dramatist Conor McPherson and won the Evening Standard, Critics' Circle and Olivier Awards for Best New Play after it premiered at the Royal Court Theatre in 1997.

Join our characters in a remote Irish pub and listen to them swap ghostly stories as they try to impress a visiting stranger, a woman new to the area.

Haunting, funny and moving, this thought-provoking piece of modern theatre will have you spellbound with gripping storytelling and revelations of love and loss.

I'm delighted to announce that the familiar faces of Nigel Sharpe, Derek Watts and Simon Hellyer are joining the cast together with Andy Bairsto and Victoria Brewer in their first roles at this theatre.

Put the dates in your diary as you won't want to miss this beautifully written spine-tingling one act play!

Sandra Tomlinson

Letters...

Dear Editor,

Two years ago I resigned as President citing 'pressures of business'. This pressure resulted from a conflict of interest I foresaw when we were in receipt of Lewes Cinema's request to operate from the theatre. I had for some months been working on a project to sell my Company's depot to a local charity for the purpose of building a three studio cinema in Lewes and felt that my continued involvement in the management of the theatre would be inappropriate in these circumstances. Following Lewes Cinema's termination of their agreement with the theatre and the recent planning decision allowing Lewes Community Screen to commence building their 'Depot Cinema', I am grateful for the opportunity to fully explain my actions.

Miles Jenner

AUDITION ALERT AUDITION ALERT

INHERIT THE WIND

by Robert E. Lee & Jerome Lawrence

Directed by Cathryn Parker.

Audition date: Saturday 14 February 2015 10.30am in the foyer

Production Dates: 4 – 11 July 2015

Inherit the Wind is one of the iconic plays of the 20th century. It is a fictionalised account loosely based on the 1925 Scopes “Monkey” Trial, which resulted in John T. Scopes’s conviction for teaching Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution to a high school science class, contrary to a Tennessee state law.

Hillsboro is an obscure country town about to be vigorously awakened. In the sweltering July heat the good folk of this sleepy backwater become embroiled in a fascinating courtroom battle which sets neighbour against neighbour and tears families and friends apart. Bertram Cates, a high school teacher, is being defended by Henry Drummond, the renowned agnostic defence attorney, who is pitted against his old adversary, the equally formidable Matthew Harrison Brady, whose fundamentalist views turn the case into a crusade. It appears the whole town is on trial as the case rushes towards its dramatic and unexpected climax.

Lee and Lawrence’s gripping 1955 play is as resonant today as it was 60 years ago when it served to highlight the pernicious canker of McCarthyism. Whilst the trial is about religious fundamentalism versus the freedom of individual thought, the play is not about science versus religion: It’s about the right to think.

This is a play of epic proportions and calls for a large cast. There are upwards of 20 speaking roles and potentially as many again non-speaking supporting roles. There are a number of roles for young people aged between 12 – 16 which will be auditioned separately.

Townsfolk appear in most of the plays scenes: a rally, a prayer meeting and in the court scenes. The rally involves a marching band and the singing of revivalist hymns so I am looking for musicians and singers as well as actors. The non-speaking supporting roles will not be specifically auditioned but there will be a production meeting in late April to sing/play through the music.

If you would like to audition, or to be involved as one of the townfolk (particularly as a singer or band player trumpet/trombone/cornet/drum), please contact me by text/phone 07900 350726 or by email loneoakgeo@aol.com – if appropriate please put “townfolk” in the email subject line.

Copies of character notes and audition pieces can be obtained from me by email only.

Cathryn Parker, production director.

Scripts available from Chris Weber Brown chriswb16@hotmail.com or 07588 531888 or at the theatre.

Cathryn Parker

Inherit the Wind - Characters

Character	Playing Age	Description
Howard Blair*	13	Boisterous and intelligent farmer's son
Melinda Loomis*	12	Impressionable, sweet on Howard
Rachel Brown	22	Sweet, pretty, torn between her love for Cates and her loyalty to her fundamentalist preacher father. Unsure of what she herself believes
Mr Meeker	40+	County Bailiff, gruff but kindly, fair
Bert Cates	24	Grade school teacher at heart of political storm for teaching Darwin in this fundamentalist community. Educated, quiet, shy, well-mannered, principled. Deeply in love with Rachel.
Mr Goodfellow	40+	Haberdasher, open –minded, jovial
Mrs Krebs	40s	God fearing, pious, solid, respectable woman. A big noise in the Women's Aid (WI) in the town
Rev. Jeremiah Brown	50+	Town's fire & brimstone fundamentalist preacher. Firm, fierce, principled and unbending. A Zealot.
Sillers	40+	Feed store workman/ Foreman of the jury
Phil***	20+	Workman (non-speaking)
Mr Krebs	40+	Boarding House proprietor, businessman
Bollinger	20+	Member of town band (cornet or trumpet player)
Cooper	40+	Member of the town band
Dunlap	40+	A rugged, righteous looking pious man (singer)
Bannister	40+	Eager to be liked, nosey parker, illiterate, jurymen
Mrs Loomis**	40+	Melinda's Ma, god fearing woman
Mrs Blair	40+	Howard's Ma, fierce, proper, choir leader (singer)
Hot Dog Man**	20+	Any age, loud, forceful
Mrs McLain	40+	Undertaker's wife, businesslike
Doc Kimble***	50+	Town's doctor, conscious of his social standing
Elijah	60+	Hermit, unkempt, wild, zealous (singer)
E.K.Hornbeck	30s	City slicker journalist, sophisticated, cynical, contemptuous, irreverent. Acts as a commentator on events
Hurdy-Gurdy man**	20+	Any age – non speaking role
Timmy*	13	Excitable, sociable schoolboy
Matthew Harrison Brady	65	A benign giant of a man. Paunchy, balding(?). God fearing, clever. Charismatic orator & consummate politician - aspiring to the highest office
Mrs Sarah Brady	55+	Brady's perfect wife. Loyal, elegant, supportive
Mayor	50+	Slightly pompous, but overawed by Brady
Tom Davenport	30+	Circuit District Attorney. Earnest, clever, ambitious
Newspapermen x 3***	Any	Pushy
Photographer**	20+	Brash, pushy
Henry Drummond	60+	Intellectually brilliant, dogged, passionate, steely determined class lawyer, with a sense of humour and compassion.
Reuters Man**	25+	Young, suave, well spoken, English reporter
Judge	60+	Curmudgeonly old conservative, but nobody's fool. Determined to maintain the dignity of the court.
Harry Y Esterbrook	25+	Radio announcer
***Musicians, Townsfolk, Scientists, Jurors, Spectators ***	Any	Hymn singing otherwise non speaking – please let me know if you'd like to be involved in this way.

* Youth Group role – separate audition

**supporting speaking role – not separately auditioned, expressions of interest requested

***non speaking supporting roles – not separately auditioned, expressions of interest requested

The Hound of the Baskervilles

Performances Wednesday 4, 5, & 7 February at 7.45pm



Alice in Wonderland

Performances Friday 6 February at 7.45pm
Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 February matinees at 2.45pm



BOOK NOW

NAME

MEMBER NO

ADDRESS

TEL DAY TEL EVE

Please complete the form legibly and send it with remittance and S.A.E. to Box Office, Lewes Little Theatre, Lancaster St. Lewes, East Sussex BN7 2PX. Cheques should always be made payable to LEWES THEATRE CLUB. TELEPHONE BOOKINGS: 01273 474826. See page 3 for Box Office hours.

PLAYS	Preferred Date	Alt. Date	Matinee or Evening	No. of seats	Preferred Location	Total
The Hound of the Baskervilles			Evening £4.00			
Alice in Wonderland		X	Evening £4.00			
Alice in Wonderland			Matinee £4.00			
The Weir	First night only 2 for 1	X	Evening £8.00			
The Weir			Evening £8.00			
The Weir		X	Matinee £6.00			
Grand Total						

Please note. If the Box Office is able to fulfil only part of a request, a refund may be collected from the Box Office during opening hours. Alternatively, members may prefer to enclose either separate cheques or an open cheque crossed with a maximum amount.