

Studio has been firing on all cylinders for the last six months as we've forged ahead with fund-raising plans for our building extension, mounted four productions and managed to snaffle a few more awards into the bargain. Even as I write, our fifth and final production of the season, a hot and steamy version of *A Streetcar Named Desire* is in the starting blocks and raring to go from July 17-22. Don't miss it.

### SO FAR THIS YEAR.....

We've had a time-travelling comedy thriller in Alan Ayckbourn's *Communicating Doors* in February and a visit to 19th century Cornwall for Daphne du Maurier's mystery romance *My Cousin Rachel* in April. Postponed from last year's programme, our *Old Time Music Hall* finally took off in May featuring more blazers, boaters and boas than you've had jellied eels - and that was just the audience.

In March, under the umbrella title *Great War/Cold War*, we staged two one-act plays by J M Barrie and Alan Bennett at Studio before entering them into the one-act play festivals at Totton and The Woolstore

Theatre in Codford. *An Englishman Abroad* won the competition at Codford and *The Old Lady Shows Her Medals* was placed second out of ten entries from across the south of England at Totton. Rachel Fletcher won the Best Actress award at both festivals for her performance as Coral Browne in *An Englishman Abroad*.

Rachel also took home a Curtain Call award in January as part of the set design (Alistair Faulkner the designer here) and props team for *The Ladykillers*, which shared the top award with Tim Greathead's prison ship for *Female Transport*. George Cotterill and Joel Powney added to the awards tally by winning the lighting and sound category for their work on *Toad of Toad Hall*.

### MONEY AND MENTIONS

With fund-raising garden parties and news of successful grant applications, our bid to add an extension to our

theatre, giving us much-needed additional dressing rooms and rehearsal space, has got off to a great start. Among our donations has been a £700 cheque from the regulars of the Railway Inn/The Dust Hole (Salisbury's pub with two names) who made Studio their chosen charity for the year. Jackie Pilkington is working tirelessly to extract money from funding bodies and our fund-raising team is busy working on ideas to raise the level of our coffers to the point where we can start building.

The garden party, held at The Court House, Lower Woodford, by kind permission of Mr

and Mrs J Studholme, was blessed with beautiful weather. Many of the cast of the *Old Time Music Hall* reprised their turns before an appreciative audience, which included Salisbury MP John Glen, newly appointed Minister for Arts, who was impressed enough to mention our fundraising efforts in his column for the Salisbury Journal.

### CHANGE AT THE TOP AND A NEW SEASON BECKONS

We had a change at the top when chairman George Goulding stepped down for personal reasons. Peter Mitchell has taken over as acting chairman for the final six months' of George's tenure.

**Meanwhile our new season is taking shape, offering a mix of classic drama and modern comedy with a little retro hilarity and female emancipation thrown in and a trip to the barricades besides.**

#### Dates for your diaries:

**October 16-21: An Ideal Husband.** A perfect marriage, a high flying political career and a threat of blackmail. What price morality when faced with scandal and ruin in Oscar Wilde's ferociously witty and surprisingly apposite play? Jill Redston gets our new season going with this beautifully costumed treat.



**December 5-9: Four Candles: An Evening With(out) Ronnie Barker.** Expect sketches, silliness, a smidge of cross-dressing and plenty of horn-rimmed humour as Studio present an evening of laugh-out-loud gems from the pen of comedy genius Ronnie Barker. Postponed from last year, this is the perfect alternative Christmas pick-me-up to counter pantomime fever.

**February 19-24: Les Miserables (Schools Edition).** Join us at the barricades as Studio Youth Theatre proudly presents Alan Boublil's and Claude-Michel Schoenberg's iconic musical version of Victor Hugo's classic story of injustice, heroism and love set against the turbulent background of the 1832 June rebellion in Paris. This is the schools edition special adaptation, licensed by Music Theatre International and Cameron Mackintosh (Overseas) Ltd, for performance exclusively by young people. A must-see.

**March 15-17: Here Come The Girls.** A century after the landmark ruling giving women the right to vote, Studio celebrates the songs and plays written by suffragettes of the Actresses Franchise League and their supporters in the fight to turn public opinion and change British democracy forever.



**May 21-26: Jane Eyre.** Director Tamsin Jacson brings one of our best-loved classics to the Studio stage. Follow our spirited heroine as she journeys from unloved orphan to governess in a house where dark secrets lurk in Polly Teale's inspired adaptation of Charlotte Bronte's hauntingly romantic novel.



**July 9-14: The God of Carnage.** What lies beneath the surface of two respectable Parisien couples? This is Yazmina Reza's award-winning examination of what happens when a rational discussion about boys behaving badly gets out of hand. The gloves come off as a youthful dust-up leads to fisticuffs - and that's just the parents. Brutally funny and rightfully regarded as a modern classic. Contains strong language.

#### NOT ONLY.....

**October 26: Bouncers.** For one night only - Black Box Theatre bring John Godber's classic slice of 1980's Saturday night life to Studio.

**November 8-10: The Three Musketeers.** Studio once again hosts Bishop Wordsworth's and South Wilts' students as they swash and buckle their way through Alexandre Dumas' classic tale of friends, loyalty and betrayal.

**January 18-20: Pantomime.** Prepare to hiss and boo as Salisbury and South Wilts Scouts and Guides present their annual panto.

#### BUT ALSO.....

**July 22: SYT showcase.** This is the one where you get to spot the stars of the future as SYT invite you to join them for a showcase of their current activity - you might even get a taste of *One More Day*. It's free and starts at 11am.

**July 15: Coffee morning at St Thomas's Church** in Salisbury from 10am.

**August 19:** We have custody of the **charity market stall** in Salisbury. Please come and support us. Donations always welcome.

#### PLUS

Look out for the Waitrose green token scheme in the next few weeks. SYT has been accepted as one of the good causes.....



#### AND FINALLY

After two recent outings at Salisbury Playhouse, Studio patron Barney Norris has caught the ear and eye of former National Theatre supremo Sir Nicholas Hytner and been commissioned to write a new play, *Nightfall*, for Hytner's new Bridge Theatre. The premiere will be next April.

Barney Norris

All performances take place at Studio Theatre in Ashley Road, Salisbury, unless otherwise stated. Our box office is now Salisbury Tourist Information Centre in Fish Row. Tickets are £10, under 16s £8, and performances start at 7.30pm, unless otherwise stated. Seats can be booked on 01722 342860.