



VIEW FROM THE WINGS

Issue No 15: July 2018

As temperatures soar, the excitement mounts, the walls grow higher on our new extension and the roof is almost in place. After months of planning, hours of debate about affordability, endless discussions with Wiltshire Council about land transfers, valiant attempts to wrest grant money and funding from decreasing pots of available cash and an ongoing programme of fund-raising, spade was finally put to soil in March. Since then, piles have been driven ever deeper, scaffolding erected, steelwork put in place, concrete laid and bricks risen higher. In the next month or so, we plan to knock through from the extension, joining it to Studio and completing what could be termed phases 1, 2 and 3 of the build.

Starting the build allowed us to draw down on the £25,000 promised by the Foyle Foundations and we have also been grateful to receive grants of £5,000 from Wiltshire Area Board, and £1,000 from the Walter Guinness Charitable Trust. Peter Mitchell, Jackie Pilkington and Hugh Abel are diligently putting in applications to other funding bodies as we speak.

But alack, in these austerity dominated times, there are frighteningly few out there. While progress thus far has been gratifyingly swift and relatively trouble-free, work now grinds to a halt as we run out of cash for Phase 4 to finance the fixtures and fittings of the interior. Fund-raising efforts will have to be redoubled and Rowena Greenaway, our Director of Productions for the 2018-19 season, is planning a programme of crowd-pleasers that we hope will bring in full houses and replenish our coffers and move the project forward.

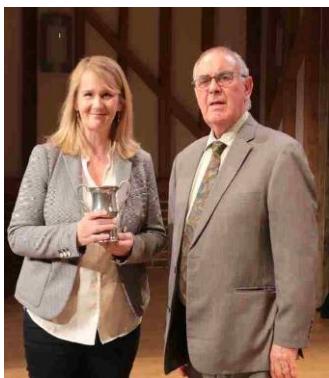
The hope is that if progress is seen to be made, people will more inclined to shell out a shekel or two in our direction. Our building committee will be drawing up a "wedding" list, so that if you fancy financing a door and coughing up for the kitchen sink we'll need, the costing will be available.

But that's not all that's been happening at Studio in the last six months....

Studio Youth Theatre triumphed with six sold-out performances of *Les Misérables School Edition*, which deserved every one of its nightly standing ovations.

Studio's distaff side showed what it was made of, fielding a cast of 17 women and a handful of men in a celebration of the centenary of women's right to vote. Two of the suffrage plays in *Here Come The Girls* went on to represent Studio at the Totton Festival of Drama where Rachel Fletcher won Best Actress (for the second year running) and Lesley Bates scooped Best Director for *The Twelve Pound Look* with Emma Way named Best Supporting Player for *How the Vote Was Won*.

Our girls got another chance to shine when director Tamsin Jacson put Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre* on stage in a version by Polly Teale with Alice Hudson and Sophie Townsend leading the cast as Jane and Bertha Mason.



Best actress Rachel Fletcher



Best director Lesley Bates

Finally, we have just finished a much-praised run of Yasmina Reza's *God of Carnage*, proving there is nothing like an evening of bile, venom and projectile vomit in the middle of a heatwave to tempt folk away from Wimbledon and World Cup on the telly.

Online ticketing

Online ticketing was introduced for our March production *Here Come The Girls* and has, so far, proved a great success. Close to 50 per cent of you now book your tickets online and Salisbury Information Centre, who act as our box office, say it works well for them too for people who prefer to book in person.

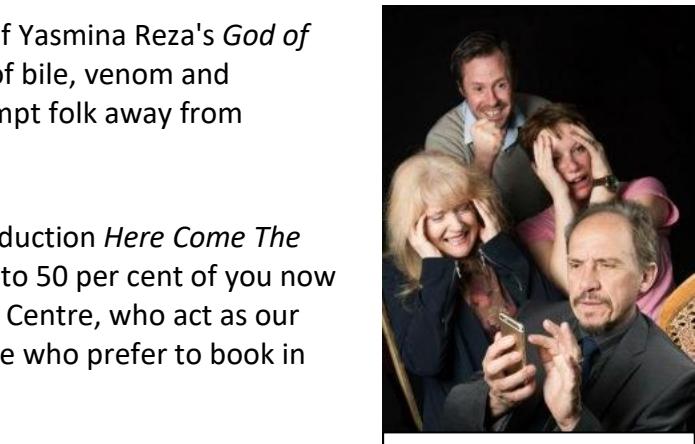
NODA membership

Studio has been a member of the Little Theatre Guild of Great Britain since the late 50s. At the time, it was the littlest of the Little Theatres - drama clubs that owned and ran their own premises. This year, we have also joined the ranks of the National Operatic and Dramatic Association, which is open to any drama or musical society and brings a myriad of potential benefits including regular reviews of our productions. Reps have so far attended *Jane Eyre* and *God of Carnage* and been suitably impressed.

High on Martin Down, something twitches



Linda Bassett (5th from left) and Robin Soans (3rd from right) with assorted twitchers. Alice Hamilton is the young, glamourous one in the centre.



The cast of *God of Carnage*

An intrepid group of Studio stalwarts answered a plea for assistance from our Patron Barney Norris to help him with a short film he had scripted. He and long-time collaborator Alice Hamilton (also a former Studio Theatre member) were testing their creative skills on a short film about birdwatchers (Call the Midwife's Linda Bassett, Robin Soans and David Beames) and needed extras to play additional twitchers. Linda and Colin Hayman, Claire Jacobs, John Severn, Lesley Bates, Lesley Dipple, Paul Chalmers and Peter Mitchell spent a very enjoyable (and hot) Sunday afternoon oohing and aahing

through binoculars at a very rare white throated warbler (actually a scrappy paper bird, closely resembling Concorde crafted by Linda Bassett). We await the premiere and the full red carpet treatment.

And our new season is waiting in the wings to tempt you through our doors, starting with.....

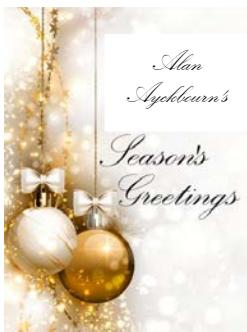
September 28-October 6: Charley's Aunt. It's been a perennial favourite since Brandon Thomas' rip-snorting farce first landed on the stage in 1892. A frothy soufflé of mistaken identities and narrow squeaks involving three undergraduates, three young ladies and a glamorous aunt from Brazil where the nuts come from. Ros Liddington and Barry Matthews-Keel join forces to direct this comedy classic - the perfect season-opener.

NB. No performance Monday October 1, Saturday matinee at 2.30pm on October 6.

PLUS

Gala Performance: Friday October 5, starting at 7pm. Tickets priced at £25, under 16s £10.





December 3-8: Season's Greetings. Christmas in the Bunker household, where assorted family members bring a whole new meaning to the word dysfunctional as they work their way through annual rituals, home truths and some shocking surprises in one of Alan Ayckbourn's sharpest comedies.

January 21-26: Treasure Island. After storming the barricades last year, Studio Youth Theatre go treasure-hunting. Join Long John Silver, Jim Hawkins, Billy Bones and blind Pew in the search for pieces of eight in this adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's much-loved rollicking adventure.

March 11-16: Dad's Army. Don't panic - time for Captain Mainwaring, Sgt Wilson, Lance Corporal Jones, Sgt Fraser and young Pike to fall in and defend the good citizens of Wilmington-on-Sea from the Nazi hordes. No need to tell you to get your ticket orders in early for this one.

April 10-13: A Trip Down Memory Lane. Dee Mansfield is master-minding a cabaret style evening of supper and song from 60s pop to the millennium.

May 20-25: Northanger Abbey. This is Tim Luscombe's version, first seen at Salisbury Playhouse in 2009, of Jane Austen's early work, whisking heroine Catherine Morland from her Wiltshire village to the sophisticated streets of Regency Bath. With a taste for Gothic romance novels, her meeting with the Tilney family and their home at Northanger Abbey, Catherine's vivid imagination goes into overdrive.



July 8-15: Much Ado About Nothing. Studio gets a taste of sunny Sicily in one of Shakespeare's brightest, wittiest and most accessible comedies. Beatrice and Benedick can never meet without crossing swords verbally; Claudio and Hero are tongue-tied in each other's presence. But Cupid's bow is trained on both couples - a happy ending is in sight. But not everyone wishes them so well.....

Plus

July 28 @ 1pm: Studio Youth Theatre showcase. It's that time of year when our youth theatre show us what they've been up to in their weekly sessions. Always entertaining and happily also free. Come along.

August 24: Monocled Murderer. Studio teams up with History at Large to present a simulated trial of Percy Topliss aka The Monocled Mutineer for the murder of a Salisbury taxi-driver. In the courtroom at Salisbury Guildhall at 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from Salisbury Information Centre. Proceeds to Studio's building fund.

October 19: A Question of Guilt - The Trial of Dr Crippen. History at Large in collaboration with Studio Theatre in the courtroom at Salisbury Guildhall at 7.30pm. Tickets £10 from Salisbury Information Centre.



Proceeds to Studio's building fund.

October 24-25: Bully Beef and Whizzbangs. As the centenary of the Armistice draws near, BlackBox Theatre bring Chris Hawley's multi-award-winning play, set in the trenches of the French battlefields.

Fund-raising to raise the roof - yes, literally

July 21, 7.30pm: Summer supper and barn dance. This promises to be a great evening at Studio Theatre with our resident caller Gary Nunn. Food will be included in the very reasonable ticket price of £10. To help with catering, please let Peter Mitchell know if you are coming - 01722-501399, 07986-133776 or peter.mitchell203@ntlworld.com. No actual tickets will be issued. Just come along even if you haven't "booked".

August 18, 10am-12noon: Coffee Morning and Book Stall at the United Reformed Church, Fisherton Street.
November 17, 10am-12noon Coffee Morning - at the United Reformed Church, Fisherton Street.

All performances take place at Studio Theatre in Ashley Road, Salisbury, unless otherwise stated. Our box office is now Salisbury Information Centre in Fish Row. Seats can be booked on 01722 342860 or online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/studiotheatresalisbury