

CHESHIRE THEATRE GUILD

www.ctguild.org.uk

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2010



2010/2011 PLAY FESTIVAL

All groups should have received by e-mail an information sheet for this year's festival, plus the GoDA marks descriptors - a 2 page document that I am sure you will find of interest (and perhaps a little scary!). If you have NOT received this information please let me know on john.powell485@btinternet.com or Gerry Card on gcard@ic24.net. Gerry now sends out all information that comes to you by e-mail. Anything you receive from me is sent to individuals rather than the entire CTG group that Gerry has set up.

SO WHY THIS NEWSLETTER BY POST?

CTG have always offered to send out your leaflets, flyers etc, and you will find a selection with this newsletter.

COMMITTEE CHANGES

At the AGM, Bob Nixon (who has stage-managed our awards evenings) and Jean Teggins (who had the unenviable task of looking after our actors/directors register) both stepped down from the CTG Committee. (Please note this register is a service CTG no longer offer.) Joining the committee is GORDON HAMLIN - can there be anyone on the Cheshire am-dram scene that does not know Gordon? We are delighted that (at last) Gordon has joined us.

At the recent AETF (West Pennine Division) Finals Night, Gordon received the HOLLAND TROPHY for "Consistently high standards of Direction across several societies and for raising the standards of Amateur Theatre in the process". This was well deserved by Gordon. CONGRATULATIONS!

FIRST AID COURSES

In the past these have been run by CTG but we no longer feel able to take the risk of not getting sufficient numbers, as the cost to us is per course not per person.

The advice then is to use a course facilitated by a local college and Sir John Deane's college at Northwich (Tel.01606 810020) are running first-aid courses on a couple of Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m November 20th and December 4th, at a cost of £40 per person, to include a first-aid booklet and lunch.

ALPHABETICAL ORDER

Did anyone see this play at the Vic Stoke? It is set in the cuttings library of a large newspaper and (obviously) requires a lot of newspaper cuttings - and I do mean a lot. At one point they get thrown in the air like confetti, covering the stage.

I therefore loved the programme note of Gwenda Hughes (Director). "When watching the production, please spare a thought for the Stage Management of the theatre who spent many a long and dull hour with scissors and newsprint to provide us with sufficient cuttings for the play. They also serve who only stand and snip"

LIVING THE PART

While on a rehearsal break for "Waiting for Godot" in Melbourne, Sir Ian McKellan was mistaken for a beggar. Sitting by the stage door in his tramp costume, a passer-by took pity on him and put an Australian Dollar in his bowler hat. "I hope the audiences will be as generous" said Sir Ian.

A REPLY FROM THE LATE HAROLD PINTER.

An O-level pupil got short shrift when he wrote to the late Harold Pinter asking about the significance of a few details in "The Caretaker". This was in a letter dated November 1966, which surfaced when it fell out of a book sent for auction by the playwright, who replied:

1. Davies's papers are in Sidcup because that's where they are.
2. His name is assumed because he assumed it.
3. The brothers see little of each other because they rarely meet.

And so on, in similar vein. The letter, whose original owner is unknown, ends: "I assure you that these answers to your questions are not intended to be funny."

ANOTHER THING YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT ENGLAND

YORKSHIRE

In 1936 Mackintosh's introduced a toffee and chocolate assortment which took its name from a sentimental play by JAMES BARRIE author of Peter Pan, the play was "Quality Street". The product image was based on the main character of the play, a soldier and his young lady, Quality Street is still made in Yorkshire, although Mackintosh's is now part of Nestle.