

DAG DIGEST

News reviews and previews from
Dewsbury Arts Group

March 2017

SPRING FEVER

So much on offer, why choose?

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The Evening of Plays spanned the generations. In “**Give a Little Love**” by Alan Stockdill, four ladies of a certain age are brought together at a Bay City Rollers convention. They reflect on how the course of their lives compares to their teenage dreams and obsessions.

We were pleased to welcome Alan Stockdill to the Saturday evening performance who said “*It was my very great pleasure to watch the*

production of “Give a Little Love” at Dewsbury Arts Group. There is always a frisson of trepidation when you watch someone else take on a piece you’ve written. But as soon as the lights went up I knew that I was in safe hands. The director [Maria Bailey] cast and crew did me proud. It was my second visit to the theatre. The first was to watch “Be my Baby”, which I thoroughly enjoyed. I came midweek and was amazed to find it sold out. Fortunately, you managed to squeeze me in and I was so glad you did. I was struck by the friendliness of everyone; no wonder you are doing so well with audiences. Good quality theatre with a warm Yorkshire welcome; it is a great combination.

“Thank you for doing me the honour of producing one of my plays. I look forward to visiting you again in the near future”

“The After Dinner Joke” by Caryl Churchill was an ambitious piece for the advanced youth group to get to grips with. There were a lot of sketches which meant that, as an ensemble and individually, there was no time to ease in to a new scene or characterisation; they had to make an impact. Whilst the piece itself may not have been engaging, the performances were.

The Foyer exhibition in the Frank Mitchell Gallery features the work of Bruce Mulcahy. Produced *en plein air*, the practical difficulties of working outdoors in all season are put to one side as the important thing for him is to react directly to the landscape and the colours, textures and light of the moment. All works are for sale.

As all the people who turned up for the play reading were blokes, “Absurd Person Singular” was abandoned in favour of “Oh What a Lovely War” There is a biting political message running through the play which is seen very much from the perspective of lions being led by donkeys. Those gathered had a good stab at the many familiar music hall songs that intersperse the action. It was very timely given the commemoration of the Great War.

We are going to have another go at *Absurd Person Singular* by Alan Ayckbourn on Tuesday 21st March. There really is something for everybody. For more information ring Chris Ward on 01977301405 or just turn up.

We could change plays at the last minute because of the library of scripts and scores we have accumulated over the last 50 odd years. Ben Telford has just completed the task of collating all this material to make it accessible. Further details of lending arrangements are to follow. In the meantime, huge thanks to Ben for the thorough way he has gone about this.

The Owl Pop Up Coffee Shop popped up on 4th February. Once again, a wide range of proper coffees, teas and delicious cakes and buns was served up. There was a nice mix of members and season ticket holders and many have commented that it is good to kick back socially away from productions and rehearsals. Thanks again to Lacey Telford for pulling it all together.

The Spring Exhibition at Batley Art Gallery Batley library Market Place Batley continues until 25th March. Sponsored by Calder Graphics of Huddersfield, the exhibition features work by talented local artists. As the group has such a diverse range of artists to call upon visitors will be guaranteed some great artwork and something of interest for everyone.

If you have not been along, put a tiger in your tank as you are missing a treat. Entry is FREE

Life Drawing sessions continue every Wednesday evening. No experience necessary, just turn up. See the diary section for more details

Richard Brook has been pounding up and down the mean streets of Heckmondwike in preparation for the London Marathon in April. He has reached 16 miles now and is starting to run out of places to run without going in circles or up ludicrous hills. That said, the London route is flat; easy peasy then. There is a well known “wall” at 3/4 stage (about 19 miles) which he is hitting all the time, especially when he is not looking where he is going. But the euphoria and the well deserved bath at the end make it all worth it. So, do please support his efforts by coming along to see “*Whose Show is it Anyway?*” on **25th or 26th March.** Every penny raised will go the NSPCC.

Our festival play, “Acting Leader”, won through at Bridlington. Mark Bailey won best director and Stacey Waterworth best actress. Excellent! Join us in Saltburn; see details in the diary section.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

PRODUCTIONS

25th and 26th March

The Podolski Players present

“Whose Show is it anyway?”

Give marathon man Richard Brook a good send off and help raise funds for NSPCC

BOOK NOW.

See flyer attached

28th and 29th April and 1st to 6th May

“The Odd Couple”

Neil Simon.

This is probably Neil Simon’s best known play. The clever dialogue contains many classic one liners and there is a quite unexpected conclusion.

BOOK NOW

See flyer attached

Valid for season tickets

6th or 7th May 2017

Festival play: **“Acting Leader”**

Saltburn Community Theatre

This is the semi final of the All England Theatre Festival. We do not yet know which day we will be on. Sheenah Taylor is the contact in Saltburn: 01642 2481638 or sheenataylor@hotmail.co.uk The winners go through to the English Final in Bridgwater on 3rd June.

16th and 17th May

The Youth theatre members are working on three one act plays

1st years: **“Someone”** by David Foxton. How Did Jack the Ripper evade justice? Who was the man in the iron mask? Did Shakespeare write all those plays? Here did the great pyramids really come from? And most importantly of all, are aliens really inhabiting planet earth?

2nd years: **“Sleeping Dogs”** by David Foxton

It has never been easy being the “new kid” at school for Julie. whose classmates do not believe a word she says! When one of their own goes missing, they formulate a plan to get their own back. They do not intend to “let sleeping dogs lie”

3rd years: **“Table for Six”** by Matt Bailey

Nothing is quite what everyone expects in this fast moving comedy set in a dismal run down east end restaurant. With an angry European chef, an incompetent waiter and a waitress with a penchant for crime, any trouble could befall the unfortunate souls who have decided to dine there.

TICKETS (Artspace productions)
www.dewsburyartsgroup.info or call the **Ticket Source** box office on **03336663366**

RETURNS Please telephone Jacky Fletcher on 01924 505861 as soon as you know you cannot come.

ART ACTIVITIES

Life drawing sessions

(Between 7 and 9 p.m.)

March

22nd Room 1, Ley

29th Room 1, Helen

April

5th Room 1, TBA

Spring exhibition

**On now until Saturday 25th
March**

Mondays: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays:
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Closed Wednesdays and Sundays.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Play reading

Tuesday 21st March at 7.30

“*Absurd Person Singular*” by Alan Ayckbourn. Plenty of parts for everyone of all ages. Celebrate the vernal equinox with a bit of fun

WATCH THIS SPACE

DAG DIGEST EXCLUSIVE

The programme planning committee have sifted through a mountain of scripts and put together the attached programme of productions for the 2017/18 season. We shall entertain angels, gargle with jelly and be handbagged (by you know who). All my sons will join the neighbourhood watch before we march with the music man and 76 trombones. If that isn't enough, we'll have the best of Act It S(W)ing It, a seasonal old time music hall, an evening of plays, youth productions and art exhibitions.

Put a sheet over the idiot's lantern;
you'll never be at home at this rate.