

DAG DIGEST

News reviews and previews from Dewsbury Arts Group

August 2017

WELCOME BACK

Another varied, interesting but perhaps less challenging season beckons

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Rather like Brenda from Bristol there was no appetite for an election at the AGM. Maria Bailey took up her official post as youth section representative. We welcome Mike Roberts, Alex Lindley and Lynne Stainthorpe as general members whilst Margaret Biglands is now president. In the meantime, we say a huge thank you to outgoing presidents Barbara and Terry Ryan, outgoing Chairman John Daniels, outgoing wardrobe supervisor Mary Glover and the ever-outgoing committee lady “Auntie” Jean Hobson. There are no words to convey adequately or all the immense contribution to the Group they have made, so far, collectively and individually.

Full details of who’s now who on the committee can be found on the attached contact list.

“Assassins” lived up to its billing as “perhaps the most controversial musical ever written” It told the story of nine men and women who either killed or attempted to kill presidents of the United States. David Heathcote, in his review for *The Huddersfield Examiner*, summed it up when he said. “Sondheim’s music and

characters are complex and the immensely talented Dewsbury Arts Group cast mastered both.”

“Acting Leader” bowed out at Sheffield on 26th June. Whilst the play was not adjudicated, everyone concerned treated the performance as if it was. The Group has always received a warm welcome at Sheffield and this year was no exception.

The Summer art exhibition had a new venue and an uncustomary slot in the calendar. It could be said that neither forced change helped. Traditionally, the Preview has fitted nicely in to the start of summer being after the last production of the year and just before the barbeque and AGM. Nice though St Paul’s church is, some may feel it was a little out of the way. Numbers attending the Preview and the event generally were well down on previous years and this meant fewer pieces of art from the excellent selection were sold.

The sun put his hat on and shone brightly upon those attending the Barbeque and treasure hunt. Once more, the Ragtime Rascals provided lazy day ambient music; burgers and sausages were flipped; beer was drunk and those on the treasure hunt once more tried to get inside the head of Stanley Accrington. Despite some competitors going round several times (you know who you are) no one has yet got a perfect score. Maybe next year.

On the face of it, the new carpet and a lick of paint in the auditorium belies the considerable effort and graft put in over the summer by a dedicated band of helpers under the expert guidance of David Fletcher. It is more than a two minute job to clear the auditorium and store chairs and delicate equipment to make way for the builders to reinforce the floor and reprofile the auditorium seating before carpeting and repainting. It all looks very sparkly and everybody gets to see!

A bit further behind the scenes in the wardrobe department Thursday nights in August have been clear out nights. The top floor needs to be cleared to allow for the moth invasion to be dealt with. Rationalising and preserving the wardrobe is an ongoing project. Grateful thanks to all those able to give of their time to get these important jobs done.

First and Second year drama classes start on Saturday 2nd September at 10.30. a.m. Third year and advanced classes start on Friday 1st September at 7 p.m.

If there are young people aged 11 and over who would like to join the classes, or if there is anyone who would like to volunteer to provide and support the classes, please contact Maria Bailey on 0113 2049772 or 07586 297492 or mandm90@btintertnet.com

Life drawing sessions are held on Wednesdays throughout the year. No experience is necessary. The first session will be on 13th September between 7 and 9 p.m.

The Foyer exhibition in the Frank Mitchell Gallery features the work of Dennis Palmer. Dennis has exhibited and sold art at exhibitions and shows mainly in West and North Yorkshire. He now restricts his work to the Spring and Summer exhibitions at DAG to which he is a long standing contributor. His work varies from the figurative via the stylised to the abstract working in acrylics on paper or canvas with a particular emphasis on the use of pattern. He trained as a lecturer at Bretton Hall College of education and taught at schools in Batley and North Leeds, the latter as head of art.

Play readings are held throughout the year. This is the opportunity to have a go at a wide variety of different parts in one evening in a relaxed informal atmosphere. Chris Ward (01977 301405) tries where he can to arrange a reading once a month. Last season the choices ranged from Luther to Oh What a lovely war to Ayckbourn so there was truly something for everyone.

The Opening Social is the first of two come one come all events to welcome everyone to ring in the new season. “The Social” is the chance to find out about more about the season’s productions. Each director will be on hand to tell you all you want to know about their production and how you can get involved. Every production is a team effort; it is not all about “the turn”. Think about being a stage manager, operating the lights or sound, helping with wardrobe or props or meeting and greeting front of house. Even better if you know someone who might like to join in the fun; bring them along on Wednesday 6th September at 7.30. The evening will be rounded off with entertainment.

Then on Saturday 9th September we can look forward to an action packed Open day. It promises to be quite an event with talks, art demonstrations, rehearsed readings, stand-up comedy and sketches in the auditorium with exhibitions and talks about set building, lighting and sound, props and costume everywhere else. Meanwhile, the increasingly legendary coffee shop will pop up again with the finest teas, coffee and cake. Yes, CAKE.

Please join us any time between 12.30 and 3 and spread the word about our hidden gems.

Officially, subscriptions became due on 1st June last. Details of how to avoid Chris Ward putting your name in the window were attached to the previous number.

Interested in being a director? Information about what is involved and what slots are available, is attached. At first, the very idea of directing a production can be quite daunting. Certainly, it can be very challenging. However, a big part of the Opening Social is to talk to people to find out more about everything.

To make the switch from the paper version of DAG Digest to an e-Digest, please e-mail jackym.fletcher@gmail.com

Envelopes containing the paper version will be in the tray by the booking office for collection by those attending productions. Please remember to swing by.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

PRODUCTIONS

Entertaining Angels, by Richard Everett

30th September and 2nd to 7th October 2017

A Funny, touching and thought-provoking play that centres on Grace, a spikey, recently bereaved, widow of a country vicar.

BOOK NOW

See flyer attached

Valid for season tickets

The Best of Act It Sing It

19th to 21st October 2017

An evening featuring the most popular items from our series of Act It – Sing It productions coupling musical items from the best of Broadway and the West End with their source material.

See flyer for details.

BOOK NOW

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

RETURNS Please telephone David Fletcher on 01924 505861 or email dewsburyartsgroup@ntlworld.com as soon as you know you cannot come.

AUDITIONS

Auditions information and reading copies will be available at the Social.

After that, audition information is available on the website www.dewsbuyartsgroup.info, from our secretary Jacky Fletcher: 01924 505861 or jacky.fletcher@gmail.com or in the new season brochure.

The next audition is for:

Gargling with Jelly. The Play on 14th September 2017 from 7 p.m.

Are you a dynamic young person able to engage and control an audience or could you be witless parents? Fancy yourself as a larger than life scattybags or are you someone that could be so bad that the audience will shout at you; a lot? Check it out and come along.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Opening Social

Wednesday 6th September from 7.30 Bring yourself and friend along for more info on the new season.

Open Day/Coffee Shop

Saturday 9th September 12.30-4

Things to do things to see. A chance to see behind the scenes and enjoy a coffee or tea and a piece of cake while you find out more.