

DAG DIGEST

News reviews and previews from Dewsbury Arts Group

November 2017

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With great sadness we report the death of Barbara Ryan. Barbara was a member of the group from the very beginning and involved herself in all aspects of its activities. As recently as last year she was, with Terry, a joint president, fulfilling the role with her usual dedication, enthusiasm and aplomb. Barbara will be remembered for many things but mostly for her truly gifted ability as an actress and her unfailing support of others. RIP.

Stuart Marshall's "well directed and well paced production" of Entertaining Angels by Richard Everett was, in the opinion of David Foxton, a suitably "slick, engaging and fitting start to the season." Near capacity audiences saw Jacky Fletcher hold the stage as the tormented, recently widowed Grace, the comic edge of Carol Ward as her eccentric sister Ruth, newcomer Jessica Bellas as matter of fact daughter Jo and Liz Marland the anxious new vicar. Chris Ward "neatly and believably created" Grace's late vicar husband "Bardy".

The Best of Act It Sing It winged its way in to Upper Peel Street for three nights in October. Raw adrenalin spurred a cast of all the talents to convey everything from Shakespeare to Sondheim via Chicago, Venice and the dopey, mopey, heartless, tartless, stingy, dingy, beerless, cheerless menace of Parma. (But not necessarily in that order).

Feedback is important. The performers may think they are wonderful, seduced by the applause and adulation. "Brilliant," "absolutely excellent" and "The most wonderful production; no need to go to London" were just some of the written comments retrieved from the feedback box after *Entertaining Angels*. This was reflected in the counters in the green jar. Knowing how we might improve is just as

important as a pat on the back. If you put a counter in the red jar, do let us know why.

First year youth drama classes are now in full swing. The classes are open to children aged 11 and upwards and recent weeks have seen the number of new recruits increase significantly, eager to enjoy the benefits of a long-established group with an experienced team dedicated to ensure that everyone matters. Volunteers and helpers are always welcome. Spaces are still available at a cost of *just £20* a year.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining the classes, please contact Maria Bailey on 0113 2049772 or 07586297492 or e-mail her: mandm90@btinternet.com

Drawing sessions are held throughout the year. They are open to all members and take place *each Wednesday between 7 pm and 9 pm*. Full details can be found in the “Dates for Your Diary” section.

Play readings are held throughout the year. This is the chance to have a go at a variety of different parts in one evening in a relaxed informal atmosphere. The first was held on 27th October when we had a go at *Fools* by Neil Simon. There was a good mix of “veterans” and more importantly, those who’ve been members for years and *either* helped behind the bar or come along to performances. This is what it is all about. The highlight, perhaps, was Peter Wrigley playing a dim young girl. We have a well-stocked and catalogued library of plays to try and can make a choice based on who turns up. Chris Ward (01977 301405) will always try to choose one that can involve as many people as possible. Put yourself on Chris’s e-mailing list on chrisofackworth@yahoo.co.uk

The foyer exhibition in the Frank Mitchell Gallery features the work of Neil Saxton. Neil studied Graphic Design at Batley School of Art in the early 1980’s. For several years, he worked as a Mural Artist in Spain and latterly has worked for a local mental health charity as a signwriter and painter

After every production the set needs to be struck to make room for construction of the next one. If you can, please join Tony Fox on *Sunday 26th November from 10.30 a.m.* onwards to help with this important task. And, if you are still feeling fit and willing....

Over the summer and recent weeks, there has been a sizeable wardrobe clearout. All costumes have been evaluated. Those too small or now too precious to be used on stage are to be offered for sale *at a Vintage Fair at the National Coal Mining Museum on Sunday 26th November*. Additionally, there are to be all day sessions on *2nd and 3rd December from 10.30 am onwards* to clear out wardrobe completely in readiness for spraying and necessary renovations. We shall need a combination of those confident enough to decide on what to keep, what

to sell and what to chuck and heavy lifters to rip up carpets and clear out the rubbish. Decluttering was never this good. Please let Jacky Fletcher know whether you can come along to lend a hand.

Mike's Bar is hiring. The group is looking for hard working volunteers to staff the bar during productions. As well as selling drinks, taking payment collecting glasses and stocking the fridge there is the chance to socialise with customers and other members. Shifts are usually between 6.45 and 10. However, that can stretch to 11; you know how thirsty thespians get! If this sounds like your idea of a great evening out, please contact Laura Fletcher: laurafletcher11983@me.com

Subscriptions are due. Most have paid but a significant number have not. Please contact Chris Ward: 01977301405 chrisofackworth@yahoo.co.uk

As we display their posters, West Yorkshire Playhouse very kindly reward us from time to time with free tickets for their productions. We receive slips. All you need to do is ring the number and refer to the slip. To make it fair for all, the slips will be pinned on the noticeboard in the foyer next to the room allocations. Please help yourselves on a first come first served basis.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

PRODUCTIONS

20th and 22nd to 27th January 2018: *Handbagged* by Marie Buffini
Handbagged is a playful and intelligent speculation that imagines the conversations that took place between The Queen and Margaret Thatcher during the 11 years of her premiership.

BOOK NOW (Flyer attached)

(Valid for season tickets)

13th to 16th December 2017: *A Seasonal Old Time Music Hall*

Once again, because of popular demand, there is now an **EXTRA NIGHT** on Wednesday 13th. So, hurry, hurry, hurry!

BOOK NOW (Flyer attached)

8th to 10th February 2018: An Evening of One Act Plays.

“*Make yourself at Home*” by David Foxton. A French Farce in the classic style that will be the Group’s entry in the 2018 All England One Act Theatre Festival.

“*The Turn of the Screw*” by Henry James adapted by Steven Goddard.

BOOK NOW (Flyer attached)

TICKETS www.dewsburyartsgroup.info or call the **Ticket Source box office** on **03336663366**

AUDITIONS

Neighbourhood Watch by Alan Ayckbourn. Tuesday 5th December 2017 from 7.30. A cast to cover the generations calling for a jolly geek, a protective sister, a bully and someone who cannot help herself flirting who really does help herself. Throw in someone kind and nervous, someone awkward, a know all and a busy body and you have a recipe for a lot of fun.

Find out more: on the website: www.dewsburyartsgroup.info

or from our secretary Jacky Fletcher: 01924 505861

or jackym.fletcher@gmail.com

ART ACTIVITIES

Drawing sessions

November 2017

29th (Room 1): Life, Helen.

December 2017

6th (Room 1) Mark

2018

Spring exhibition

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Striking the set

Join Tony Fox on **Sunday 26th November 2017** from 10.30 a.m. onwards

Wardrobe clear outs

Come along to the stall at the Vintage Fair at The National Coal Mining Museum on **Sunday 26th November 2017**.

We need one major effort to get wardrobe cleared out fully, so the real work can start to get rid of the moths. Please join Helen Fox and Jacky Fletcher to get this important and essential work done ***on 2nd and 3rd December from 10.30 am onwards***.

Dinner Dance

2018 will be the Group's ***55th Anniversary*** and so we are holding a Dinner Dance at Dewsbury Town Hall to celebrate on ***Friday 23rd March 2018***. Dancing will be to the LA BIG BAND and catering will be by CGC Event Caterers of Garforth, one of the north's most prestigious caterers. ***Ticket Order Form attached***. (You can pay now or later!!)