

DAG DIGEST

Reviews News and Previews from Dewsbury Arts Group

Spring (ish) 2018

In this number:

- * All my Sons
- * Make Yourself at Home
- * Play readings
- * Foyer exhibition
- * Spring Exhibition
- * Barbara's wardrobe
- * Next season's programme
- * Dates for your diary

All my Sons is a classic piece of Americana which garnered widespread and fulsome praise. David Smith, of The Arthur Miller Society, was impressed by the “wonderful hard-working facilities culminating in a gem of an auditorium” He praised Sue Daniels’ “perfect replica set” and Andy Wright’s “rose-tinted” lighting before describing individual performances as “outstanding”, “brilliant” and in one case, having “just the right amount of bile and venom”. He concluded: “The cast were allowed one modest curtain call. In New York or London they would have received national ovations, they would indeed.”

The luck of the Irish deserted the Group on St Patrick's day as *Make Yourself at Home* bowed out of the All England Theatre Festival. David Foxtan's confection of infidelities and misunderstandings was well received by the audience but less so by the adjudicator. Still, the team came away with the rather splendid “Adjudicator's Special Cup for Acting” which will be displayed in the bar. The team left the theatre and drove in to the teeth of a blizzard that whited out the motorways. Special mention must go to “Sherpa” Gary Clayton who drove the scenery van from Dewsbury to Knaresborough and back and somehow, back home to Thorne. There will be no evening of plays next season. For the first time since the Group's foundation, nobody has, to date, come up with a suggested festival play. If there is someone out there who would like to maintain our proud tradition and propose, produce and direct a one act play that would tick all an adjudicator's boxes, Jacky Fletcher would be pleased to hear from you.

Youth classes are getting giddy with excitement as they have continued to focus on rehearsing the plays that they are to preform as part of the Youth Theatre Showcase on 15th and 16th May. Years 1&2 will perform *Goodnight Children Everywhere* by David Foxtan whilst year 3 will give a premiere

to a new play by Matt Bailey called *Freedom's Game*. Please support them as they strut their own stuff.

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

The latest play reading took place on 12th April when Alan Plater’s “Close the coalhouse door” was chosen. A very brave attempt was made at the Geordie accent, even if it did tend to stray throughout the rest of the country. Chris will contact regulars with details of the next session. If you wish to become a “regular” please ring him (01977 301405) or e-mail him on chriswardofackworth@yahoo.co.uk

The foyer exhibition in the Frank Mitchell Gallery features the work of Josie Barraclough. A former pupil of Heckmondwike Grammar School, Josie began her career as a designer and painter after further study at Batley Art College, Huddersfield University and Bretton Hall. Her work has grown from her fascination with colour, focusing on landscapes, natural and manmade forms. Josie produces her work in oil, mixed media and collage. Working from her studio in Liversedge, in addition to producing work for exhibiting she has a regular flow of commissions. She is also Head of Art at Bradford Grammar School. An active member of Dewsbury Arts Group, Josie has exhibited widely both here and abroad, most recently at Bingley Gallery and at the Sunny Bank Mills Gallery in Farsley.

The Spring Exhibition closed on 24th March. As one visitor put it: “There was an interesting wide ranging collection of quality art work. Thought provoking and some nostalgic pieces. Well worth a visit.” Four pieces of work were sold, including two of significant value.

Things have moved on with Barbara’s wardrobe. All three rooms have been “demoted” and all rubbish removed. Painting has begun and we are nearly ready to start laying the flooring; exciting times. Many thanks to *Brian Vasey of Regional Paints* for the advice and the ceiling paint (although the members who had then to paint the ceiling may be less excited due to their aching shoulder muscles). Work continues as we fit it in between productions, work and life.

As the current season draws to a close, please find attached details of the exciting programme for the 2018/19 season. Having been presented with a blank piece of paper, it was a daunting task for the dedicated programme planning committee to come up with a wide and varied programme that could cater to all tastes. There is a panto, (oh yes there is), a commemoration of the Great War and classic drama mixed in with poignancy, comedy, farce, a musical and of course the return of the music hall. Do read all about them and if you fancy getting involved,

check out the audition page of the members section of the website at www.dewsburyartsgroup.info

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

PRODUCTIONS

22nd, 23rd and 25th to 30th June 2018: “The Music Man”

Book music and lyrics by Meredith Wilson, story by Meredith Wilson and Franklin Lacey

A great Broadway and West End musical of the old style for all ages. Harold Hill poses as the leader of a new boys’ band and sells band instruments and uniforms to naïve Iowan townsfolk drawn in by a promise to train the members of the new band. However, (spoiler alert) Harold is no musician and plans to skip town without giving any lessons.

A Broadway hit in 1957, the show won five Tony awards, including Best Musical and features songs such as (Ya Got) Trouble, Till There was You (later a hit for The Beatles) and of course, Seventy Six Trombones.

BOOK NOW (Flyer attached)

Valid for season ticket holders

15th and 16th May 2018:

Youth Theatre Showcase

Goodnight Children Everywhere by David Foxton attempts to solve the dilemma of having two tribes of children competing for parts in a nativity play whilst *Freedom’s Game*, a new play by Matt Bailey, is set in a new dark age where war and slavery threaten a mythical empire.

BOOK NOW (Flyer attached)

AUDITIONS

A Bunch of Amateurs

by Nick Newman and Ian Hislop

5th June 2018 from 7 p.m.

Director Helen Fox needs a washed up Hollywood star and a load of am-dram enthusiasts to give life to this witty comedy. Where’s she going to get them from?

See details attached.

ART AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Striking the set

Join Tony Fox on **Sunday 6th May** at 10.30

Play Reading

Chris Ward will contact people with details of the next session.

Drawing sessions

April/May

Every Wednesday

Saturday 19th May 12.30 until 3pm

Owl Pop-Up Coffee Shop Come along for coffee, cake and a chat.

Prefer the feel of paper rustling through your fingers, to have something you can pin up on the notice board or scatter across the coffee table? If you receive the Digest by e-mail but would rather go back to receiving the paper copy, please e-mail jackym.fletcher@gmail.com