

DAG DIGEST

Reviews, news and previews from Dewsbury Arts Group

November 2018

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***A Bunch of Amateurs*, by Nick Newman and Ian Hislop got the season off to a cracking start.** As one of the characters remarks “It’s a cruel world, amateur dramatics.” This very soon dawns on washed up movie star, Jefferson Steele as he is parachuted in to the Stratford Players’ village hall production of King Lear. Stuart Marshall, as Steele, commanded the centre of the stage within a stage, brilliantly created by Tony Fox, as he was surrounded by an ensemble cast of the am dram stalwarts; divas, the pompous, the organised, the enthusiast and the sycophant all brought to life through Helen Fox’s subtle direction. The parallels with Lear were apparent but with a happier ending.

***The Unreturning*, a new work collated produced and directed by Chris Ward was a moving poignant and fitting commemoration of the Great War.** The final episode of Blackadder Goes Forth was interspersed with song and haunting poetry; a view of the war seen from the perspective of the ordinary man. Again this was very much a typical group team production.

It has been a lively few weeks for the Youth Section. A group of fifteen went to the Lawrence Batley Theatre to see Othello. This was the chance to see a brilliant professional production with amazing performances. Whilst some may not quite have understood the play, most really enjoyed it and all agreed that it was a worthwhile trip. In the meantime, the group hope to be in discussion with the LBT about changes in their youth theatre provision. Watch this space.

On 3rd and 10th November workshops were held with circus skills (juggling/plate spinning/diablo/stilt walking etc) and mask work respectively. These were extremely well received by the children who were all wanting to cut their break short to get back to the fun.

The infamous Christmas party will be on Friday 7th December

Drawing sessions are held throughout the year. They are open to all members; no prior experience is required. Sessions and take place *each Wednesday* between 7 pm and 9 pm.

For the drawing sessions models are needed to pose. If anyone would like to pose as a clothed model, here's your chance. Typically, a model is required to pose for an hour and forty five minutes. It is not as gruelling as it may sound and you get to try on stuff from Barbara's Wardrobe. For more information, please contact Jacky Fletcher.

The Spring Exhibition will take place between 9th February and 23rd March 2019 at Crow Nest Park. It is exciting to return to the park which will be home to the exhibition in 2020 as well. Attached is a letter reminding people to submit their work in good time for inclusion.

Play readings are held bi monthly throughout the year. The next is on 27th November. The reading in September was Bedroom Farce which Sue Savile, as director of the forthcoming production, attended. There was a good mix of "veterans" and more importantly, those who've been members for years and have either helped behind the bar or come along to performances. People who have cut their teeth at these readings have gone on to be in productions. 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 Beryl Conroy. Beryl took up painting as a hobby 40 years ago and has been a member of the group since 1981. She is inspired by the beauty of our landscapes and flowers to create paintings for all to enjoy. All paintings are for sale and a percentage of all proceeds will be donated to charity.

Parking in Lower Peel Street can be a bit of a bind as we compete with our neighbours for space. People may not be aware of a free well lit public car park not so far away in Commercial Road. Turn off Bradford Road up the side of Bill Hargreaves bike shop and it is there on the right. If you can you may wish to make use of this space rather than face the prospect of doing a 17 point turn in Lower Peel Street to get back down the hill.

The heaters are coming. Regular attenders for winter productions will know that in past years the theatre has been a bit parky as we have relied on our venerable suspended heaters and body warmth. No more. New blowers have been ordered and will be in place in time for the Music Hall. So, if in the past you have been put off venturing in to the cold to see productions in the winter months we can now truly offer you a warm welcome.

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

PRODUCTIONS

12th to 15th December 2018: *A Seasonal Old Time Music Hall*

Once again, because of popular demand, there is now an extra night on Wednesday 12th. So, hurry, hurry, hurry!

BOOK NOW (Flyer attached)

19th and 21st to 26th January 2019:

Life X3 by Yasmina Reza

Valid for season ticketholders.

Don't forget to take up your tickets.

BOOK NOW (Flyer attached)

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

AUDITION

Tuesday 4th December 2018 from 7.30

Bedroom Farce by Alan Ayckbourn.

Trevor and Susannah's marriage is on the rocks and inflict their miseries on three couples whose own relationships are tenuous at best. Taking place sequentially in the three beleaguered couples' bedrooms during one endless Saturday night of co dependence and dysfunction, beds, tempers and domestic order are ruffled, leading all the players to a hilariously touching epiphany. (See details attached)

ART ACTIVITIES

Drawing sessions

Wednesdays between 7 and 9

Spring Exhibition

9th February to 23rd March 2019 at Crow Nest Park Dewsbury.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Play readings

22nd November 2018, 24th January 2019, 21st March 2019 and 23rd May 2019

CONTACT DETAILS

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

or from our secretary Jacky Fletcher: 01924 505861

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