

DAG DIGEST

Reviews, news and previews from Dewsbury Arts Group

March 2020

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

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Anyone coming to see *The Hound of the Baskervilles* expecting to see a Victorian melodrama was to be bitterly disappointed.

If they were up for some brilliant comic acting they will have been delighted. Under Mark Bailey's sensitive direction, Malcolm Parkinson, Chris Ward and Matt Bailey played over a dozen characters with impressive timing and a range of bizarre accents and coped with quick costume changes and moving the set. Tony Fox's clever multilevel stage served as everywhere from Baker Street to Dartmoor, the whole effect enhanced by atmospheric lighting and spot on sound effects.

There was much laughter in February when the Group presented a double bill of one act comedies. *Interior Designs*, by Jimmie Chinn is about three women's relationship with Him (Nick Jackson) a brash, arrogant odd job man. Stacey Fleming's downtrodden Amy, Lucie Raine's self assured Holly and Helen Fox's frumpy spinster Irene share a common fate of loneliness and frustration. With a stark black well lit set, director Maria Bailey ensured that the audience was captivated by four convincing well pitched performances. *Party* by Tom Basden, set in a garden shed, presents four well-meaning teenagers who want to create a new political party to save the world from itself. A new fifth member thinks it is a party to celebrate his birthday. The fast-paced script was brought to life by very talented and assured Youth Section members Daniel Lee, Catherine Bailey, Aimee Allen, Anya Firth and Reece Woodhouse, with a delightful cameo by Ben Telford. Director Steven Goddard struck the right balance between comedy and sympathy.

Meanwhile, youth members' attention will soon focus on the Youth Theatre Showcase in May. The plays selected are all by David Foxtan being *Oubliette* for the first years, *Sawney Bean* for the second years and the premiere of *The Searchers* for the third years. Although

classes remain full for this year, names continue to be added to the reserve list. Anyone interested in joining our youth classes should email Maria Bailey on mandm90@btinternet.com to be added to the list and all will be contacted around May for confirmation of them starting in September 2020.

The Foyer Exhibition in the Frank Mitchell Gallery features the work of Trevor Pittaway. Items are available for sale; see foyer notices for details.

Drawing classes continue to take place every Wednesday evening between 7 and 9. No experience is necessary and whilst formal teaching is not given there is always a helping hand nearby to guide you through. To find out more about this talented and convivial group, please contact the Art Secretary Zahoor Sakharkar on 07979316858 or haseenmultimedia@gmail.com

The Spring Exhibition was made up of 13 artists exhibiting 55 paintings. Between 30 and 40 people attended the preview and enjoyed nibbles, wine and an excellent exhibition well displayed.

We may be only half way through the current season but the tireless programme planning committee have put together next season's programme. The result of their work will appear for your salivation in the next number.

The Group is offering an "on the day" scheme to sell any unsold tickets for half the normal price to all Students on production of Student ID. How this scheme works:

1. As these half price tickets cannot be pre booked, on the day you want to see the play check ticket availability on our website www.dewsburyartsgroup.info before 5 p.m.
2. Present your Student ID at the box office from 7pm onwards and buy your ticket for £5.
3. Relax and enjoy the performance.

FOR THE NOTICE BOARD

Productions.

25th and 27th April to 2nd May 2020

- ***Murder Margaret and Me***

By Philip Meeks

Intrigue over high tea, and brandy snaps as the Queen of Crime meets “the funniest woman alive.”

(See flyer attached)

Valid for season tickets

14th and 15th May 2020

- ***Youth Theatre Showcase***

An evening of plays presented by the Group’s Youth Classes.

(See flyer attached)

TICKETS

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

- *If you have any queries regarding the booking, return or exchanging of tickets, please ring David Fletcher on 01924 505861 or e-mail: dewsburyartsgroup@ntlworld.com*

Mark the Date

Summer Exhibition – Dewsbury Town Hall

10th July to 15th August 2020