

DAG DIGEST

Reviews, news and previews from Dewsbury Arts Group

Summer

2021

SEE IT SAFELY HERE

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There were full houses when live performance returned for three nights at the end of June. As COVID restrictions had not been lifted fully, capacity was reduced to 50%. For those lucky enough to come along, safety was the watchword. A one way system funnelled everyone up the new ramp, under the new canopy and in to the climate controlled theatre. Interval drinks were served at table. Served up on stage and screen were a series of some of the Group's greatest hits. Sketches from plays were performed live but as there could be no live singing musical excerpts were on film. Backstage, performers were kept in bubbles with no mingling. It was all a bit strange as mingling with your mates is a big reason for getting involved. Still, for performers and audience alike it was great just to be up and running.

The Youth Section has kept busy and engaged during the great unpleasantness through regular classes on Zoom. Maria Bailey and her team look forward to welcoming everyone back for live classes on 10th and 11th September. Although the first year is full, with a waiting list, new members are always welcome. Please contact Maria Bailey on 078629792 or dagyouth@btinternet.com for details.

Understandably, there's been very little activity in the Art Section. It is hoped to start up live drawing classes with a taster session in September. Art Secretary Zahoor Sakharker (07979316858 haseemmultimedia@gmail.com) wants to revive interest in the art section which has always been a fundamental part of the Group

Enjoy the enclosed brochure setting out what we hope to do in 2021/22.

Thank you to all those who took part in the consultation for members and season ticket holders. The responses showed, largely, that there was a groundswell of enthusiasm to get up and running again. However, there are those who are hesitant and anxious; we understand.

As part of the Group's commitment to keep everyone safe, our secretary, Jacky Fletcher, has secured a licence for the theatre under the "See it Safely" scheme. The scheme follows Performing Arts Guidance issued by the DCMS and features 6 priority actions for everyone to follow. A health and safety assessment been carried out. The new climate control system is designed to help provide adequate ventilation and a strict cleaning regime has been implemented. People can check in by using the NHS QR code poster. Finally, we will make sure that procedures put in place are carried out. Because the safety of everyone in the building is paramount, this is not a box ticking exercise. The procedures were put to the test successfully for *DAG Returns!*

Although restrictions were relaxed on 19th July and enable us to perform to full capacity audiences, in line with several other groups and companies the Group has decided to play to a reduced two thirds capacity. In deciding to do so, it is acknowledged that, for now, not all people will want to sit shoulder to shoulder with people they do not know. The attached seating plan shows how social distancing will be maintained. Although no longer mandatory, all front of house staff will each wear a face mask; as a courtesy to others, the Group strongly encourages the continued use of face coverings by everyone.

Please see the attached request/reminder about payment of membership and season ticket fees. The cost of season tickets has been held at £65. Should the season be curtailed, a proportionate discount will be carried over to the next season. There is a slight increase for general ticket sales to £12.

FOR THE NOTICE BOARD

Production.

- *2nd-9th October 2021*

DRY ROT by *John Chapman*

(See flyer attached)

BOOK NOW

Valid for season tickets

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*
- *Tickets can be booked based on the attached booking plan which assumes that at the time of the production a two thirds capacity will be possible. In the event that government regulations impose further restrictions, the Group has contingency plans in place to ensure that, wherever possible, people who have booked for a production will get to see it. For example, depending on the level of demand, extra performances may be added.*

Auditions

Ahead of every audition there will be a pre audition. Everyone is welcome to come along for an informal read through and perhaps, a chat with the director.

PLEASE NOTE: Auditions are by appointment only. To secure your slot, please contact the director.

IT'S WONDERFUL LIFE

By Margaret Elliott Nelson

Please see attached details

- Pre audition-27th July 2021 @ 7.30
- Audition-7th September 2021

SWITZERLAND

By Joanna Murray-Smith

Please see attached details

- Pre audition: 7th September 2021 @ 7.30.
- Audition-16th September 2021.

BAZAAR AND RUMMAGE

By Sue Townsend

Please see attached details

- Pre audition-20th September 2021 @ 7.30
- Audition-19th October 2021.

COMPANY

By Stephen Sondheim and George Furth

- Pre audition-12th October 2021 @ 7.30

Full details will be circulated with next newsletter.