

DAG DIGEST

Reviews, news and previews
from Dewsbury Arts Group

New Year 2022

BACK WITH A BANG

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Next season the Group will celebrate its 60th anniversary.

This season the Group has of necessity been careful in its planning. Constrained by current or potential restrictions, a bare minimum season has been crafted with, in the main, casts limited to five or less. It is hoped that the Group can be more expansive for our celebratory year. Thank you to all members who responded to the questionnaire. The Programme Planning Committee can now finalise a programme that reflects the best of the past six decades. It promises to be an exciting time with, perhaps, a nice surprise or two.

At least one member of the audience admitted to having “something in my eye” after a performance of *It’s a Wonderful Life*. A morality tale based loosely on *A Christmas Carol*, the well known film stars James Stewart as George Bailey, a man who has given up his personal dreams to help his community. His suicidal thoughts are put aside when his guardian angel shows him how much he means to so many people. Distilling a piece featuring a cast of hundreds into one played by four actors is no mean feat. However, Mark Bailey, Nicholas Bailey (no relation to George), Anya Firth and Steven Goddard worked very hard to bring it to life as did Jacky Fletcher backstage, making sure that everyone was dressed in the right stuff for the right scene. Chris Ward had his work cut out to coordinate movement on stage, scene changes and audio visual presentation as seamlessly as possible. It was a mighty effort by him and by technical guru David Fletcher to pull it all together so successfully.

After the excitement of returning to face to face classes again in September the youth section is in full swing. The Group is grateful to Dewsbury Endowed Schools Trust for the award of a grant of £1,000. This will enable a theatre trip to the LBT in Huddersfield this year and has contributed to the upkeep of the theatre. After the “treats” of a circus skills workshop delivered by Steve Broomhead (typically referred to by David Wood as “Brush”) and a street dance workshop run by Alison Hartley, casting is underway for the Youth Theatre Showcase on Friday 20th and Saturday 21st May. The Junior Group will be performing *Figments* by David Foxton and the Senior Group will be performing *The Searchers* also by David Foxton. The latter has never been performed before by the Group. We know that David is always with us in spirit and the legacy of his and Judith’s work very much guides what we do in the running of the Youth Theatre. Although, currently, youth classes are full, we are now taking names for the September 2022 classes of children who will be 11 and going into year 7 in September 2022. If you wish to put your child’s name down or know of anyone who is interested, please email dagyouth@btinternet.com or contact Maria Bailey on 07586 297492.

Live drawing sessions continue on Wednesdays between 7 and 9 p.m. These sessions are open to all members of the group. Whilst there is no tuition as such for absolute beginners, materials and friendly encouragement are readily to hand. For more information contact Art Secretary Zahoor Sakharker (07979316858 haseemmultimedia@gmail.com) or just turn up

NEXT UP

BAZAAR AND RUMMAGE

By Sue Townsend

5th & 7th to 12nd March 2022

(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 assumption that at the time of the production a two thirds capacity will be possible. In the event of further restrictions being imposed the Group has contingency plans in place to ensure that, wherever possible, people who have booked for a production will get to see it.