

MARCH 2017

Diary of Events for March - April

- Sat 4th March **“Bridget Jones’s Baby”** (Screen at the Phoenix) 7pm
- Weds 8th March **Hereford Drama Festival** entry “Can Malone Die?” (Members Evening)
- Friday 10th March **Hereford Drama Festival** entry “Can Malone Die?” at the Courtyard
- Sat 18th
& Sun 19th March **Phoenix Youth Theatre Showcase** (for PYT parents)
- Sat 25th March **“Sully”** (Screen at the Phoenix) 7pm
- Mon 27th March -
Sat 1st April **“Ruddigore”** by G&S (Phoenix Theatre Company) 7.30pm
- Sun 9th April **“Solid Air Concert”** (Keith James) 7.30pm

(please see the Members’ calendars for March & April 2017 at the end of this Newsletter)

Welcome to the Phoenix Theatre Newsletter

As a community theatre, we are enthusiastic about involving those with an interest in the arts, which is why our bi-monthly Newsletter can now be read by anyone visiting our website. We should like to raise awareness of the activities within the theatre to a wider audience and develop a more involving relationship with those that attend our performances.

In this month’s Newsletter we have a preview of Ruddigore by G&S (including a link to a short video of a recent rehearsal), news of our Phoenix Youth Theatre (PYT), together with an article Zoe Hutton, one of the many talented young actors that have benefited from the tutelage of Sarah O’Neill our leader of PYT.

Graham Russell
(Newsletter editor)

Production Co-ordinator's Column

Brian Jackson and Mary Brigg will be directing 'Ruddigore', by Gilbert and Sullivan, from **Monday 27th March to Saturday 1st April**. The principal cast comprises Jane Bovell, Michelle Cooper, Andrew Doyle, Gareth Wigg, Sandy McNeill, Roger Williams, Gordon Brigg and Nigel Hughes. This will be a great show. Get your tickets early to avoid disappointment!

The Phoenix Youth Theatre will perform their Showcase on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th March.

Keith James will be performing his show 'Solid Air', the music of John Martyn and Nick Drake, on **Sunday 9th April at 7.30pm**. Tickets from Rossiter Books or on our website.



The 2017 Herefordshire One Act Drama Festival will take place at the Courtyard Theatre in Hereford from 9th to 11th March. Our entry will be 'Can Malone Die?' written and directed by David Pollard. We are holding a **members' evening on Wednesday 8th March at 7.30pm** when the cast of Phil Field, Hettie Guilding and Tim Betts will perform their dress rehearsal ready for the festival. They will be the middle entry on **Friday 10th March**. Tickets from the Courtyard Theatre box office. Please let me know if you plan to attend the members' evening to give us an idea of numbers, email: suzannefredericks@hotmail.com or phone 01989 770428.

There was a reading of 'All Things Considered' by Ben Brown on 28th November. There were 20 members present. Everyone thought it a very funny black comedy, and it will be our June 2017 production which will be directed by Renée Field, assisted by Tom Lee-Hynes. Production dates are **Saturday 24th June to Saturday 1st July**. The cast comprise Robin Haig, Phil Field, Gareth Wigg, Howard Owen, Michelle Cooper, Lucy Davies and new member, Lizzie Nicholson. Please contact Renée Field on 01600 750488 if you would like to help backstage.

Hand to Mouth Theatre will perform 'Billy Liar' on **Saturday 22nd July at 7.30pm**. This is a venture for our member, David Pollard. Do come and support David and his company.

This year **The Phoenix Theatre Singers Annual Show**, entitled 'Their Greatest Hits', will take place from **Wednesday 6th to Saturday 9th September**.

David Pollard is directing "Wife After Death" for the Rural Theatre Players at Malvern Coach House on **Friday 7th & Saturday 8th April**.

It would be great if you could come along.

Suzanne Hill

 **Rural Theatre Players**
Present a Comedy Drama 

**Wife
After
Death**
by
Eric Chappell


A comedy legend is dead
- its time to cash in

Fri 7th & Sat 8th April at 7.30pm
The Coach House Theatre. Grange Road, Malvern

Tickets: £12 Adults - £6 Students (includes 12% booking fee)
Box Office: 01684 892277 or www.malvern-theatres.co.uk

This amateur production of "Wife After Death"
is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD.

Ruddigore

The cast in rehearsal:



A **short video** of the cast in rehearsal (click on the link to view): <https://vimeo.com/204591655>

Synopsis

Act 1: Rederring, a Cornish fishing village

The village is under the Lordship of bad baronet Sir Despard Murgatroyd where Rose Maybud lives with old Dame Hannah. The village corps of Bridesmaids are anxious for Rose to marry but she has rejected every suitor, even Robin Oakapple, who is too bashful to declare his love. Now Old Adam, Robin's faithful retainer divulges the fateful secret; Robin is really the cursed baronet, not his brother Despard. When Robin's foster-brother Dick returns from sea Robin confesses his bashfulness and Dick promises to plead Robin's suit with Rose but Rose falls for Dick. Then Sir Despard appears and Rose declares her passion for him instead. The bridesmaids are overjoyed but in a fit of pique Dick betrays Robin's secret; he is the true Baronet Murgatroyd. Despard is overjoyed; free of the curse he spurns Rose in favour of his true love, Mad Margaret. Rose returns her affections to Dick leaving Robin broken hearted.

End of Act 1 – everybody with me so far?

Act 2: The ancestral picture gallery of Ruddigore castle

Robin is now Baronet Murgatroyd. When Dick and Rose ask Robin's consent to their marriage Robin attempts (and fails) to win back Rose's affection. Turning to the pictures he prays to have the curse lifted but – horror of horrors – the ancestral ghosts step from their frames and begin inflicting agonies on him. So

Robin orders Old Adam to go to the village and kidnap an innocent maiden. Old Adam returns with Dame Hannah! She recognizes the ancestor Roderick as her long lost love and they are reunited. Robin decides to deny his ancestors; by devious means the curse is lifted, he wins Rose and everyone lives happily ever after.

PHEW!

With Gilbert at his whimsical best and Sullivan's lyrical music this show is a corker!

Brian Jackson

Phoenix Youth Theatre News

The Phoenix Youth Theatre Group gets ready to hit the stage!

The 30 members of PYT have been very busy since before Christmas, preparing for their showcase event, due to be performed on Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th March for parents of the members. This season's performers, many of which are new and still learning their craft, will perform six short performance pieces on our theatre stage and we are very excited about this event.

Two of our directors are new to this role and have taken on the challenge of writing their own performance pieces and bringing them to life on the stage with a group of our PYT performers.... no mean feat and we are extremely proud of Julie Church and Katie Potheary for all their efforts and hard graft!

Sam Callen brings to the stage a fine array of performers who have assisted him in co-writing this piece of dynamic theatre and we are sure to be wowed as usual.

I have helped three groups to prepare their performance pieces and they are three of our younger and less experienced groups, but by no means any less talented or capable. Our pieces range from nostalgic to new and dynamic published drama writing at its best and we are particularly proud of the range and of our six pieces.... there is something on offer for everyone.... audience and cast members alike.

Once again this year, I will be trying my hand as stage manager for this showcase event.... my once a year offering at behind the scenes.... something I find more of a challenge than directing a whole show!!!BUT.... what I love about our youth theatre group is that we push boundaries....our own personal ones and that of others too.

As ever, we are confidently assisted by Chantal Poole and Hannah Callen in the tech box and although we are currently greatly missing the presence of Trevor Jones as our guide and mentor, we wish him a speedy recovery.

We look forward to sharing photos of our showcase event in the next Newsletter and a news update on how rehearsals are going for our main show later in the year.

Sarah O'Neill

A New Opportunity

At 14 years old, I walked through The Phoenix Theatre doors as a young acting enthusiast with a bubbling energy and probably far too much volume. Fuelled with expectation, it was four years later that I packed my bags and moved to Birmingham, far from everything I knew and into a life of independence I found more daunting than exciting. Yet now, just 3 months away from graduation, I am confident and very much looking forward to the future I have ahead of me. With a degree in Applied Performance (Community and Education), I am trained to make, write and deliver all kinds of arts based projects with all different areas of



the community. During my three years at the Birmingham School of Acting I have dipped my toes into all different sorts of work with even more a range of people. Most recently I have delivered a 10 week creative play and story making workshop to a group of 64 2-4 year olds at Goodway Nursery School, acted as Artistic Director for JuiceBox Theatre company and subsequently devised and performed in children's Theatre In Education piece 'Mr Mole and the Unexpected Guests', delivered a series of social media themed workshops to college age students around Birmingham, written my own Teachers Resource Pack and delivered a fully detailed project plan suitable for Arts Council funding called 'Playground Games'. All of this whilst figuring out where exactly the washing powder goes in the machine and whether staying in bed for an extra half an hour is really worth missing class for!

Yet now, it is time to take my first big step forward into the world of work and I am extremely proud to announce that from September this year, I will be taking on the role as a Freelance Workshop Facilitator for Sarah O'Neill's 'The Drama Company' by facilitating three weekend classes of my own. From silly songs to energy boosting games, Sarah has always given me full support to apply my work at university to the real world under the safety of The Phoenix's' roof and now, to do this as a qualified practitioner is a genuine dream come true. With many other strings to add to my bow in the coming years, I am eternally grateful to both Sarah and the Committee for this huge opportunity in getting started with such security and support behind me.

As a way of launching this new venture, an additional summer workshop will also be held where I will direct a 'Play in 5 Days', which will take place during the final week of the summer holidays. The three new classes will then begin in September and will run on Saturday mornings for 5-18 year olds, with the eldest group focusing on creating new, exciting performance based work for showcasing to parents and members on a regular basis. Keeping very much in touch with the fun and relaxed atmosphere The Drama Company sessions already provide, I can only hope to do my absolute best to bring a young, creative outlook to the new classes and help to guide the next set of young people in driving our fantastic theatre forwards. Please email myself or Sarah for further details - we would hugely appreciate your support in encouraging a strong start for our new venture!

Zoe Hutton

Members Calendar for March 2017

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
27	28	1	2	3	4	5
The Drama Company 4:00 pm – 5:45 pm Rehearsals for Can Malone Die in auditorium 7:30 pm	The Drama Company in auditorium 4:00 pm – 7:15 pm Rehearsal for Ruddigore in auditorium 7:30 pm	Herefordshire Carers in foyer 10:30 am – 12:30 pm Rehearsals for Can Malone Die in auditorium 7:30 pm	Chorus rehearsals for Ruddigore in auditorium 7:30 pm	Rehearsal for Ruddigore in auditorium 7:30 pm	Screen at the Phoenix showing of 'Bridget Jones's Baby' 7:00 pm	PYT in auditorium 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
The Drama Company 4:00 pm – 5:45 pm Rehearsal for Can Malone Die - Drama Festival entry in auditorium 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm	The Drama Company in auditorium 4:00 pm – 7:15 pm Rehearsal for Ruddigore in auditorium 7:30 pm	Members Evening-Dress Rehearsal of Can Malone Die - Drama Festival entry in auditorium 7:30 pm	Chorus rehearsals for Ruddigore in auditorium 7:30 pm	Rehearsal for Ruddigore in auditorium 7:30 pm	PYT in auditorium 11:00 am – 6:00 pm	PYT in auditorium 11:00 am – 6:00 pm
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
The Drama Company 4:00 pm – 5:45 pm Committee meeting in foyer 7:00 pm Setting lights for Ruddigore in auditorium 7:30 pm	The Drama Company in auditorium 4:00 pm – 7:15 pm Rehearsal for Ruddigore in auditorium 7:30 pm		Chorus rehearsals for Ruddigore in auditorium 7:30 pm	PYT Showcase Review dress rehearsal in auditorium 4:30 pm – 9:00 pm Rehearsal for Ruddigore - out of theatre 7:30 pm	PYT Showcase Review 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm	PYT Showcase Review 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
The Drama Company 4:00 pm – 5:45 pm Rehearsal for Ruddigore in auditorium 7:30 pm	The Drama Company in auditorium 4:00 pm – 7:15 pm Rehearsal for Ruddigore in auditorium 7:30 pm	Rehearsal for Ruddigore in auditorium 7:30 pm	Rehearsal for Ruddigore in auditorium 7:30 pm	Rehearsal for Ruddigore in auditorium 7:30 pm	Screen at the Phoenix showing of 'Sully' 7:00 pm	Ruddigore dress rehearsal in auditorium 7:30 pm
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
The Drama Company in foyer 4:00 pm – 5:45 pm Ruddigore - Gilbert and Sullivan performance 7:30 pm	The Drama Company in foyer 4:00 pm – 5:45 pm Ruddigore - Gilbert and Sullivan performance 7:30 pm	Ruddigore - Gilbert and Sullivan performance 7:30 pm	Ruddigore - Gilbert and Sullivan performance 7:30 pm	Ruddigore - Gilbert and Sullivan performance 7:30 pm	Ruddigore - Gilbert and Sullivan performance 7:30 pm	PYT in auditorium - launch of main show, all to attend. 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Members Calendar for April 2017

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
The Drama Company in foyer 4:00 pm – 5:45 pm	The Drama Company in foyer 4:00 pm – 5:45 pm	Ruddigore - Gilbert and Sullivan performance 7:30 pm	Ruddigore - Gilbert and Sullivan performance 7:30 pm	Ruddigore - Gilbert and Sullivan performance 7:30 pm	Ruddigore - Gilbert and Sullivan performance 7:30 pm	PYT in auditorium - launch of main show, all to attend. 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Ruddigore - Gilbert and Sullivan performance 7:30 pm	Ruddigore - Gilbert and Sullivan performance 7:30 pm					
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
The Drama Company in auditorium 4:00 pm – 5:45 pm	The Drama Company in auditorium 4:00 pm – 7:15 pm	Herefordshire Carers in foyer 10:30 am – 12:30 pm	Phoenix Theatre Singers in auditorium 7:30 pm	Rehearsal for 'All Things Considered' in auditorium 7:30 pm	Screen at the Phoenix in auditorium 7:00 pm	Keith James performs SOLID AIR The music of John Martyn and Nick Drake, in the auditorium 7:30 pm
	Rehearsal for 'All Things Considered' in auditorium 7:30 pm					
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Rehearsal for 'All Things Considered' in auditorium 7:30 pm		Phoenix Theatre Singers in auditorium 7:30 pm	Rehearsal for 'All Things Considered' in auditorium 7:30 pm		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Rehearsal for 'All Things Considered' in auditorium 7:30 pm	Setting up for The Drama Company Easter Workshops 10:00 am – 2:00 pm	The Drama Company Easter Workshops 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Phoenix Theatre Singers in auditorium 7:30 pm	The Drama Company Easter Workshops 9:00 am – 5:00 pm Rehearsal for 'All Things Considered' in auditorium 7:30 pm	Screen at the Phoenix in auditorium 7:00 pm	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
The Drama Company in auditorium 4:00 pm – 5:45 pm	The Drama Company in auditorium 4:00 pm – 7:15 pm		Phoenix Theatre Singers in auditorium 7:30 pm	Rehearsal for 'All Things Considered' in auditorium 7:30 pm		
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