

JULY 2019

Diary of Events for July - September

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|----------------------------|--|
| Weds 3rd - Sat 6th July | With a Song in My Heart (Phoenix Theatre Singers) 7.30pm |
| Sat 13th July | Colette (Screen at the Phoenix) 7.00pm |
| Weds 17th July | Reading of Night Must Fall by Emlyn Williams 7.30pm |
| Sat 27th July | Stan & Ollie (Screen at the Phoenix) 7.00pm |
| Tues 6th Aug | Auditions for Night Must Fall by Emlyn Williams 7.30pm |
| Sat 10th Aug | The Favourite (Screen at the Phoenix) 7.00pm |
| Sat 24th Aug | The Children Act (Screen at the Phoenix) 7.00pm |
| Mon 2nd Sept | Members Coffee Morning 10.30am |
| Sat 14th Sept | Phoenix Youth Theatre (PYT) 10.30am |
| Sat 21st Sept | PYT 10.30am & Melody a musical by Nia Williams (Three Chairs & a Hat) 7.30pm |
| Sat 28th Sept | Phoenix Youth Theatre 10.30am |

Screen at the Phoenix

The cinema is now up and running. The first film, Bohemian Rhapsody, was a sell-out. Our current programme runs until 24th August (see inside for details). Plans are in hand to continue showing films every fortnight.

Youth Group

It is planned that the Youth Group will re-start on 14th September. The group will continue as the Phoenix Youth Theatre and be run in collaboration with the Courtyard Community Theatre. More details inside.

Subscriptions

A reminder that subscriptions are due on **1st September**. There will be an option of paying by BACS as shown on the Renewal Form (at the end of the Newsletter). Please submit your membership forms, duly completed, to our Membership Secretary, Catriona Pearson (theatre address).

Graham Russell (Newsletter Editor)

Annual General Meeting

At the AGM on 12th June, the following committee members were elected:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Chairman | Alison Clarke |
| Secretary | Trevor Jones |
| Treasurer | Amanda Smith |
| Production Co-ordinator | Suzanne Hill |
| Publicity Officer | Michelle Cooper |
| Building Manager | Alan Smith |
| Members without portfolio | Mary Brigg |
| | Graham Russell |
| | Pat Fitzpatrick |

Trevor Jones (secretary)

Screen at the Phoenix



SCREEN AT THE PHOENIX

| | |
|---|--|
|  Bohemian Rhapsody 15th June 7pm |  King of Thieves 29th June 7pm |
|  Colette 13th July 7pm |  Stan and Ollie 27th July 7pm |
|  The Favourite 10th August 7pm |  The Children Act 24th August 7pm |

Films are priced at £5.

For more information on the films and to book tickets go to the cinema page on the Phoenix Theatre website: <http://www.phoenix-theatre.org.uk/cinema/>

Tickets can also be purchased from Rossiter Books 01989 564464

The cinema made a great start on the 15th June with the screening of Bohemian Rhapsody, all tickets being sold. The audience response was very positive saying how pleased they were that the cinema was re-opening at the Phoenix. Behind the scenes the cinema team included Trevor Jones as the projectionist with Alan and Lyn Smith behind the bar. The Screen at the Phoenix logo was projected onto the screen before the film started and a cinema banner was on display outside the theatre giving a very professional image. For future screenings the cinema team will be wearing blue polo shirts emblazoned with the cinema logo. Amanda Smith and David Pollard are also projectionists and will be running future screenings. If you would like to get involved with the cinema please get in touch with me or any of the above.

To see trailers of the films and book tickets go the cinema page on the Phoenix Theatre website:

<http://www.phoenix-theatre.org.uk/cinema/>

Graham Russell
(manchester.house@btinternet.com)

Production Co-ordinator's Column

Harvey

Harvey by Mary Chase, directed by David Pollard, was a great success. We achieved 75% seat occupancy and rave reviews, see elsewhere in this Newsletter. Congratulations to David, his cast and crew.

Charity Concert entitled 'Rhythm of Life' in aid of Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis

Mary Brigg, members of her family, and the Phoenix Theatre Singers performed two concerts in April in aid of Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis. The concerts were dedicated to the memory of Gordon Brigg who sadly passed away last November. The concerts together with donations raised £2025. Congratulations to all involved.

2018 NODA Awards

The Phoenix Theatre Company was awarded the prize for The Best Drama in Area 1 in the West Midlands Region of NODA for our production of 'Abigail's Party' by Mike Leigh and directed by Renee Field. Congratulations to all concerned. Our production of 'Lord Arthur Savile's Crime' by Oscar Wilde was also nominated for this award.

Visiting Companies

We welcome the following visiting companies to the Phoenix Theatre this autumn:

Saturday 21st September – Nia Williams presents her musical '**Melody**'.

Friday 11th & Sat 12th October – Our Star Theatre Company presents '**Rebecca**' by Daphne du Maurier.

Saturday 30th November – **Ukulele Concert** by Steven Sproat and his guest, Elias Sibley.

Night Must Fall

Our November production will now be 'Night Must Fall' by Emyln Williams and directed by Brian Jackson. Production dates are 16th – 23th November. A **reading** will take place on **Wednesday 17th July** and **auditions** on **Tuesday 6th August**. Do come along to see if you would like to be involved with this gripping psychological thriller. Rehearsals start on 16th September.

Phoenix Theatre Singers Annual Show

The show will take place from **3rd to 6th July** entitled '**With a Song in My Heart**'.

Performathon and Gala Concert

Mary Brigg and the Phoenix Theatre Singers will hold their annual **Performathon and Gala Concert** on **Saturday 19th October**.

Phoenix Theatre Singers Xmas Show

The Phoenix Theatre Singers Xmas Show will run for three nights on **5th, 6th & 7th December**.

Phoenix Theatre Xmas Party

Our annual Xmas Party will take place on **Friday 13th December**.

Suzanne Hill

Review of Harvey

Welcome to the whimsical world of Elwood P Dowd, a mild eccentric and head of the family whose behaviour is driving his staid sister, Veta Louise, mad. For Vita Louise aspires to shine in the women's Societies of American middle-class suburbia. But Elwood is a thorn in her side, with his clubs (in reality, bars and drinking dens) and transient friendships. Particularly his best friend and confidante Harvey, for Harvey is a rabbit. Not an ordinary rabbit you understand but a six-foot invisible rabbit. So Vita Louise decides Elwood must be committed permanently to Dr Chumley's Institution. But Dr Chumley decides Vita Louise should be incarcerated instead of Elwood and here the fun really starts.

This was a most delightful comedy in which a very strong cast playing to their strengths gave us an array of believable characters. Les Davis (below right) excelled as the eccentric Elwood. Benign and charming while the family raged around him, Les gave us a forerunner of Forrest Gump (will he ever return to reality after this?). Diana Tubb as Elwood's sister Veta Louise was outstandingly manic in the face of Elwood's unnerving calm. And Steve Banner – a Phoenix newcomer – played the fearsome Dr Chumley MD to perfection.



From the moment he burst from his office onto the stage we knew we were in safe hands and Elwood was in trouble. Other parts were played with equal strength, developing their own interwoven dramas; the playing of Lucy Davies (the institution's lovesick Nurse Kelly, above) against handsome Junior Doctor Sanderson (Tom Lee-Hynes, above); the sadistic Duane Wilson (Nathan Cole); I could name all the characters, all played to perfection in a beautifully balanced cast.

The set was challenging, requiring a re-set from the drawing room of the Elwood home to the offices of Dr Sanderson's clinic. It meant the comfortable furnishings of middle-class America had to be sacrificed for a sparse domestic setting, but the set changes and special effects were managed efficiently by the practiced crew supporting the production backstage and it's a small criticism. We were treated to a most enjoyable 'feel-good' evenings entertainment, and the cast were rewarded by shouts of acclaim at the final curtain.

Brian Jackson

NODA Review of Harvey

It is always a pleasure to take your seat in the auditorium and have time to appreciate the brilliant set that you know will become a great part of the production, and this was no exception. The living room with two sets of bookshelves and sideboards and chest which, became an office with the bookshelves turned round and moved over to become tall cabinets and the space they uncovered becoming two working doors, and the chest was just a shell, that when lifted away covered a two drawer filing cabinet; ingenious! However the opening of doors and drawers by unseen means stole the show, it was absolutely brilliant.

The costumes were divine as usual too, so true to the period and so, so glamorous and looked fabulous.

Penny Field played Myrtle May Simmons, the embarrassed and frustrated niece who wanted her life to be 'normal' without her uncle and his Pooka preventing her to lead a normal life. Penny had the right mixture of indignation and petulance that the situation was causing and at one time, all that was missing was her stamping her foot. Her frustration was tangible.

Diana Tubb (below) had the lovely role of Veta Louise Simmons who, as the sister, was torn between loyalty and love for her brother and the need to give her daughter the life she thought she deserved. Diana was very funny and threw herself into the role, quite literally, with her disheveled appearance after her experience in the sanitorium. I really did feel that she was torn between her brother and her daughter and her revelation that she too could see Harvey was brilliantly delivered.



Les Davis (above right) was quite simply Elwood P Dowd... his performance was so convincing, with a natural spacial awareness of where he thought Harvey was. Les was totally at ease in the role and played Elwood as a really 'nice' man who had made a conscious decision to be exactly that. So keen to make his sister happy that he would have allowed himself to be incarcerated into the sanitorium, although thankfully this didn't happen. His conviction that he had been blessed to be given the Pooka Harvey was tangible and quite normal and so was totally unembarrassed to introduce him around town. A lovely performance Les.

Lucy Davies played the lovelorn nurse Ruth Kelly in a manner of one who had seen it all before and wasn't fazed by the patients that were admitted. Nathan Cole, as Duane Wilson, had a few comical moments when he met Myrtle Mae. The audience enjoyed his antics. Tom Lee-Hynes played Dr Sanderson and gave a convincing confused performance. His feelings for Nurse Kelly were conveyed well and it was a relief when they both succumbed.

Steve Banner (above left) was the Sanatorium Director Dr Chumley who having spent time with Elwood and Harvey realizes that he too can see the Pooka and sets about trying to ensure that Elwood is admitted so that he too can benefit from Harvey's predictions. Steve's portrayal of this character was slightly more aggressive than I had remembered from the film version, but it worked. His wife, Betty, played by Jane Bovell used facial expressions that spoke volumes, and were extremely funny. Laurie Pegrum had the supporting role of E J Lofgren a taxi driver, who was determined to get his fare paid, in a very comical exchange between him and Veta Louise.

Alan Chacon was also very relaxed in his role of Judge Omar Gaffney who, as a family friend and lawyer, tried to unravel the situation, reminding everyone how kind Elwood was. The Judges interaction with Veta Louise was very natural and flowed nicely.

This production was well paced with fascinating and precisely executed set changes and affects, that made them a big part of the play. Thank you Phoenix for a most enjoyable performance.

Louise Hickey (NODA)

Set Building - Help Needed

We are looking for more members to get involved with set building. The team of myself, Trevor Jones, Catriona Pearson, Alan Smith and new member Roy Matthews would like some extra help so that we can share the load and continue to provide the best possible sets for our plays. We generally meet daytime during the week but would be flexible if new members could only make weekends.

Graham Russell (manchester.house@btinternet.com)

Coffee Mornings

Many thanks to all members who came to our June Coffee Morning; the foyer was alive with chatter and it was great to catch up with fellow members. Unfortunately this isn't always the case, so we have reluctantly decided to change to quarterly meetings, and the next Coffee Morning will be on **Monday 2nd September**. Wishing you all a great summer.

Lynn, Jenn, Marion, Margaret & Suzie

Phoenix Youth Theatre

Under the supervision of David Durant from the Courtyard Community Theatre, the first "taster" session will be on **Saturday 14th September at 10.30am - 12pm**. The taster session would be for anyone to come and try out and see if they enjoy it. The sessions will run weekly until 12th December. Initially the group will be for ages 8 – 11 with a charge of £39 a term. For more details, please get in touch with me.

Alison Clarke (alison@calendarlady.co.uk)

Night Must Fall Preview

‘Night Must Fall’ opens on an autumn morning in the early 1950s where two women live in a secluded bungalow on the edge of a wood; wheelchair bound invalid Mrs Bransom, wealthy and irascible, and her impoverished niece Olivia whom Mrs. Bransom employs as companion/housekeeper. Olivia is being wooed by Hubert but finds Hubert dull. And then Danny, Bell-boy at ‘Tallboys’, the flashy hotel beyond the wood, enters their lives. There is an uncaring brashness about him which Olivia finds distasteful, for Danny has had ‘a fling’ with their scullery-maid Dora and left her pregnant. Not that their cook, the worldly Mrs. Terence, is at all surprised! But they are all surprised when Mrs. Bransom engages Danny to be her odd-job man at the bungalow and soon Danny has wormed his way into Mrs. Bransom’s confidence. And then the police are seen searching the woods; a female guest at ‘Tallboys’ has disappeared, and Inspector Belsize arrives to ask if anyone has seen her. With the discovery of a body the tension mounts as we become aware that they now have a killer in their midst...

‘Night Must Fall’ is a classic thriller by Emlyn Williams. With a cast of 3M and 5F in addition to the above there is Mrs. Bransom’s Nurse and the spoken words of the Lord Chief Justice.

Initial reading of the play is **Wednesday 17th July** at 7.30pm in the theatre.

Auditions are being held **Tuesday 6th August** at 7.30pm also in the theatre..

The play runs from: Saturday November 16th to Saturday November 23rd.

Brian Jackson (director)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM 2019/2020

THE PHOENIX THEATRE COMPANY

Reg. Charity No: 508668

There are two types of membership as set out below. Memberships are renewable annually on 1st September. (Subscriptions for new members joining on or after 1st May are not renewable until the September of the following year).

Please ✓ the appropriate box: New Membership Application Renewal of Membership

FULL MEMBERSHIP £20

This form of membership enables you to fully participate in all activities within the theatre which include: acting, directing, backstage, the Singing Group, Front of House, Cinema and attend social events. With this membership you have full voting rights at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). You are also eligible to stand for election to any committee post at the AGM.

FULL JUNIOR OR STUDENT MEMBERSHIP £10

This membership is open to any persons under the age of 21 or full-time students above that age. You are able to fully participate in all productions and attend social events.

Name:

Address:

.....

Telephone:

E-mail:

I agree to my name, telephone number and e-mail address appearing in the Members Directory in the Members area of the theatre website accessible only by theatre members. This will enable you to look up contact details of other members.

Please tell us what your interests are by ✓ the appropriate boxes:

- Acting Directing Stage Management Set Construction Set painting
 Sound Lighting Wardrobe Props Cinema Singing General Backstage
 Front of House Bar (serving drinks) Box Office

(All the details that you enter on this form will be held on a secure database accessible only by the Membership Secretary and Committee Members using a dedicated password.)

Payment options:

BACS Sort Code: 30-94-14 & Account No: 02231108 (preferred payment option)

Cheque payable to The Phoenix Theatre

Standing order (see form below). Please tick if you already pay by standing order.

Please send this form, and cheque (if paying by cheque) to:

Membership Secretary
The Phoenix Theatre
St Mary's Street
Ross-on-Wye
Herefordshire
HR9 5HT

Tel: 01989 564570

E-mail: info@phoenix-theatre.org.uk

Date:

Signed:

STANDING ORDER FORM

The Manager _____ **Bank**

Address _____

Post Code _____

Please credit the account of The Phoenix Theatre at:

Lloyds Bank

Sort code: 30-94-14

Account no: 02231108

With the sum of £20.00 on 1st SEPTEMBER 2019 and every year until further notice

My name _____

My address _____

Post Code _____

My Sort Code _____

My Account No _____

Signed _____

Date _____

Members Calendars for July - September

| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | SUN |
|-----|-----|--|---|---|---|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 Phoenix Theatre Singers Annual Show 7:30 pm | 4 Phoenix Theatre Singers Annual Show 7:30 pm | 5 Phoenix Theatre Singers Annual Show 7:30 pm | 6 Phoenix Theatre Singers Annual Show 7:30 pm | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 Colette (Screen at the Phoenix) 7:00 pm | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 Reading of 'Night Must Fall' by Emyln Williams 7:30 pm | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 Stan & Ollie (Screen at the Phoenix) 7:00 pm | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

July 2019

| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | SUN |
|-----|--|-----|---|-----|---|-----|
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 Auditions for 'Night Must Fall' by Emyln Williams 7:30 pm | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 The Favourite (Screen at the Phoenix) 7:00 pm | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 The Children Act (Screen at the Phoenix) 7:00 pm | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 Committee Meeting in foyer 7:00 pm | 30 | 31 | 1 |

August 2019

| MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | SUN |
|-----|-----|-----|--|-----|--|-----|
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 Phoenix Theatre Singers 7:30 pm | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 Phoenix Theatre Singers 7:30 pm | 13 | 14 Phoenix Youth Theatre - taster session 10:00 am Phoenix Youth Theatre - taster session 10:00 am | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 Phoenix Theatre Singers 7:30 pm | 20 | 21 Phoenix Youth Theatre 10:00 am A musical entitled, 'Melody' by Nia Williams 7:30 pm | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 Phoenix Theatre Singers 7:30 pm | 27 | 28 Phoenix Youth Theatre 10:00 am | 29 |
| 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 Phoenix Theatre Singers 7:30 pm | 4 | 5 Phoenix Youth Theatre 10:00 am | 6 |

September 2019