

Little Theatre News



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July - September 2019



Herne Bay Little Theatre - 44 Bullers Avenue, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 8UH

Company Reg No. 1798525 Reg Charity No. 289287

View From The Chair

Hello everyone,

Well, we are halfway through the year and with three very successful productions behind us and with record audience numbers, we must be doing something right!

Our recent production of ‘Deadly Nightcap’ by Francis Durbridge proved to be extremely popular, so much so that we could have filled the theatre again with requests for tickets that we were unable to satisfy. On a personal note, I would like to thank all those involved in its success, the brilliant cast, the stage crew and supporting volunteers. The audiences were constantly on the edge of their seats wondering after each end scene cliff hanger – who did it?

It would be wise to book your tickets for ‘The Haunting of Hill House’ a suspense drama by F. Andrew Leslie. Perhaps our large banners outside Morrisons are having an impact! Film nights continue to be well attended and you may have noticed a much better picture definition. Philip advised us that the original projector was now really passed its best but must be said that it has done us well over recent years. To correct this, we have now purchased a new projector and DVD player which should see us enjoying high definition films for some time to come.

Just to mention that although you can book your tickets on line, which gives Philip some indication of numbers, for those who are unable or don’t wish to, you can still just arrive and sign in as usual.

Beach Boards Drama

As many of you will now know Beach Boards Drama is run by Natasha Williams and her business partner. It is supported by Social Enterprises Kent (SEK) and is partnering with Herne Bay Little Theatre which will, I’m sure be beneficial to all concerned and is open to Teenagers and Adults alike. You can contact Natasha on 07504 660180 or visit the website beachboardsdrama@gmail.com

To make life easier for stage managers, you may notice at the next production how smoothly the main curtain opens and closes. We are installing a wall mounted hand winding system which will certainly remove the stress of heaving that rope!

With best wishes,

Tony Jose

**Don’t Forget Afternoon tea at Tony’s
Saturday 20th July at 3pm.**

**13, Herneville Gardens,
Herne Bay CT6 6EE**

**Must be pre-booked by Wednesday 17th
July at the latest.**

Drama News

“Deadly Nightcap” was a very successful production, well done Tony! From a personal viewpoint as a member of the cast, I had a wonderful time, a very supportive cast and a real diversity of characters. Even though the play was quite long our audiences loved the play and quite often they were heard to be working out the plot. Not sure if any of them solved the mystery especially with so many red herrings. Thank you to all who were part of the production and especially to Erica Underwood, a new member and thrown in at the deep end as prompt.

The 2020 programme is coming together nicely and I hope to have this ready shortly. I will also put in place a number of play reading evenings for the selected plays to give all members a chance to really appreciate the plays and therefore the roles.

We have two plays left this year and the panto Aladdin. “The Haunting of Hill House” by F. Andrew Leslie directed by Marc Hamilton is in rehearsal as we go to print. Another great cast and a fascinating play, book your tickets now.



“Jeffery Barnard is Unwell” by Keith Waterhouse and directed by myself has been cast, listings included in the newsletter. A controversial play with adult themes but a challenge to direct, more in the next newsletter.

A big thank you to all members who replied to my request for chaperones, we had got a bit thin on the ground (just me actually) so I am very grateful for such wonderful support.

Jane Pottle



Production Banners

Surprisingly we still receive comments from members of the public such as “we didn’t know there was a theatre in Herne Bay”, or “where is it”. So our mission is to keep raising the profile of the theatre by using innovative ideas. We now have a 6 x 2 ft banner on the railings opposite the entrance of Morrisons supermarket promoting our next production. This has already caught the eye of the many frequent shoppers in town and has contributed towards the sell-out of our last play.

Tune in to Radio Cabin 94.6FM



Our continued thanks to Radio Cabin who support and promote our events.

Laina Freeman

lainafr@gmail.com

The 39 Steps

Review by Jane Pottle

Herne Bay Little Theatre is tiny in comparison to most theatres, however, it has big ambitions and none more so than our latest production of *The 39 Steps* by Patrick Barlow from an original production by NobbyDimon and Simon Corble. The play is based on the story by John Buchan and the film interpretation by Alfred Hitchcock. The play calls for multiple scene changes, characters and costume changes as the play speeds its way from London to Scotland. It also calls for great stamina and versatility from the four actors who play all the roles. These actors were, Dan Coles (Richard Hannay) Natasha Williams (Anabella Schmidt/Pamela/Margaret) Nick Kelly (Clown One) Frank Foley (Clown Two) ...and, a wonderful-scene stealing-dog!

All the actors were superb in their roles, with delicious and hilarious facial expressions, gravity defying moves and mastery of Scottish accents. It was an excellent display of ensemble acting and comic timing.

The director, Shelagh Scarborough, should be proud of her work which brought all these elements together in a comedy play which delighted our audiences. Enormous thanks must equally go to the backstage team who helped to create the play; costume, sound, lighting, visual effects and stage settings - all were characters in their own right, as were the scene-changing team, Alan Ralphs, Kes Hewitt and Kat Handley.

Well done all and "Thankoo!"



Online Booking

We are pleased to announce that we will be using 'Ticketsource' as an online booking option. You will be able to book tickets online for 'Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell'.

The system should be up and running within the next month. There will be a booking link on the HBLT website, as well as booking links on publicity emails, like we are currently doing for the films.

You will still be able to book by telephone, on 01227 333004, and in person at coffee mornings and film nights. There is presently no online booking fee and your tickets can be downloaded to your phone or printed out. If you haven't got a phone or a printer, then just make a note of your ticket numbers as we will have confirmation of your ticket purchase.

When booking online please try to remember not to book seats in the middle of an empty row when the seat either side of you is still empty. This is a problem unique to our theatre due to the limited amount of seats. If you have any special needs or are a wheelchair user, then please phone the box office as before.

This is a trial run for the next few shows. We will be encouraging feedback from you! Email info@hernebaylittletheatre.co.uk

Films at the Theatre

The forthcoming films at the theatre are:

Friday 5th July

Murder on the Orient Express

2017 Agatha Christie crime drama starring just about everybody! Kenneth Branagh, Penelope Cruz and Willem Dafoe.

‘When a murder occurs on the train on which he’s travelling, celebrated detective Hercule Poirot is recruited to solve the case.’

This film is being shown in 4K
(because we can!)

Running time 1hr 54 mins



Friday 12th July

Accident

1967 drama with the screenplay by Harold Pinter, starring Dirk Borarde, Stanley Baker and Jacqueline Sassard.

‘At Oxford, Austrian student Anna von Graz (Jacqueline Sassard) is dating fellow student William (Michael York), whom she plans to marry, but she ends up sleeping with two unhappily married Oxford professors instead.’

Running time 1hr 45 mins



Friday 19th July

Fisherman's Friends

2019 comedy, drama, musical starring
Tuppence Middleton, James Purefoy and
Daniel Mays.

'Based on a true story. Ten fisherman from
Cornwall are signed by Universal Records and
achieve a top ten hit with their debut album of
Sea Shanties.'

Running time 1hr 52 mins



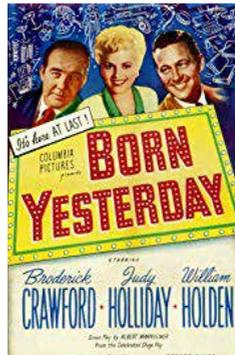
Friday 26th July

Born Yesterday

1950 comedy romance, starring Judy Holliday,
William Holden and Broderick Crawford.

'A tycoon hires a tutor to teach his lover proper
etiquette, with unexpected results'. Judy
Holliday won an Oscar for her performance.

Running time 1hr 43 mins



Friday 2nd August

Gaslight

1940 thriller, starring Anton Walbrook and Diana Wynyard.

‘Twenty years after the murder of Alice Barlow, her house is finally occupied again. However, the husband of the couple who have moved in has a secret which he will do anything to keep hidden.’

Encouraged by the success of the play and film, MGM bought the remake rights, but with a clause insisting that all existing prints of Dickinson’s version (the one we’re showing) be destroyed, even to the point of trying to destroy the negative, so that it would not compete with their more highly publicised 1944 remake starring Charles Boyer, Ingrid Bergman, and Joseph Cotten. Fortunately they failed, and now the British film has been restored by the BFI and issued in the UK on Blu-ray in a pristine print.

Running time 1hr 24 mins



2019 Programme

1st - 6th April

The 39 Steps

By Patrick Barlow

Director Shelagh Scarborough

A wonderful romp through John

Buchan's thriller.

26th & 27th April

An Evening With Martin Farbrother & Hollie Firmin

10th - 15th June

Deadly Nightcap

By Francis Durbridge

Director Tony Jose

A murder mystery by the master of
murder mysteries.

12th - 17th August

The Haunting of Hill House

By F. Andrew Leslie

Director Marc Hamilton

A dalliance with the supernatural
and paranormal.

6th & 7th September

Chris Field

With his special guest Johnny Reel

Return of this popular Elvis Tribute Show.

7th - 12th October

Jeffrey Bernard Is Unwell

By Keith Waterhouse

Director Jane Pottle

The biographical comedy that was the life
of the notorious journalist.

5th - 14th December

Aladdin

By Ben Crocker

Director Tony Jose

A classic pantomime with all the fun
and frolics you expect!

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Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell

A poignant comedy
by Keith Waterhouse



Contains
strong
language

7-12 October 2019 7.30 pm - £9

This amateur production of "Jeffrey Bernard Is Unwell" is being presented
by special arrangement with Samuel French Ltd.

Booking line: 01227 366004 (Open 10am - 6pm Mon - Sat)
www.hernebaylittletheatre.com



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