View From The Chair

Hello everyone and welcome to 2020 at the Herne Bay Little Theatre.

I think I can safely say we have had a very successful 2019 with excellent and varied plays to suit all audiences which manifested in record audience attendance numbers.

We must be doing something right! So a big thank you to all involved whether it has been on or off stage. Without the back room helpers the show just wouldn’t go on – we wouldn’t be able to function.

Since the last newsletter we have presented two productions. In October ‘Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell’ by Keith Waterhouse and directed by Jane Pottle (see drama report) and our pantomime ‘Aladdin’ by Ben Crocker which covered one preview and twelve performances – all sold out. A genuine big thank you to all involved – a lot of hard work. I’m well aware that Jane Pottle would be unable to ‘thank herself’ but she gave an enormous amount of time with Rosemary Jemmett producing wonderful costumes so, on behalf of the whole cast I extend grateful thanks.

All the audiences left having had a thoroughly good evening or afternoon! We had a Bucket Collection after most performances raising well over £400 which will be going to our nominated charity Demelza.

We finished the year with our popular Mulled Wine Evening with film and was certainly enjoyed by the many who attended.

The general film nights continue to be extremely popular so once again, many thanks to Philip and Win Robinson for all they do organising these evenings.

We have a very full and exciting programme for 2020 which starts with ‘Blue Remembered Hills’ a drama by Dennis Potter directed by Mick Bennell in February. All productions and other events for 2020 can now be booked online which since starting has become very popular. Needless to say you can still book through the Box office 01227 366004.

Finally, may I wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Tony Jose
Drama News

Although I had not selected “Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell” by Keith Waterhouse to direct, I actually thoroughly enjoyed the experience, it was a challenging play, almost a monologue, however, David Kemp was superb as the renegade Jeffrey Bernard.

He smoked, drank and swore his way through the play like a trouper, creating the perfect depiction of the man himself, believable and truthful to the end. The other actors, Kes Hewitt, Shelagh Scarborough, Nik Waller and Graham Jackson had to play a myriad of other characters the majority of them real life people.

I had wanted sensitive actors, I got that and more as they created their own personas with amazing detailed understanding of acting at its very best. Thank you to all the set builders for creating the “Coach and Horses”, true to the Soho Pub and thanks Rose for costumes only a few, 36 different characters. Thank you.
Drama News

Thank you, Tony, for the terrific production of Aladdin. Audiences, young and old, really enjoyed the performances. The director for the pantomime had several tasks, directing the cast, teaching singing and dancing, playing for every performance as well as filling in for box office and helping with the Bar.

So once again Tony, a huge thank you from everyone involved in the production. Great set (thanks Lads), beautifully painted (thanks Shelagh, Nick and Lara), colourful costumes (thanks Rose and Jenny) and wonderful lighting and sound (thanks Andy and Philip) and last but not least thank you cast especially Mollie Fruin, who gallantly stepped into the role of the Panda due to Pat being unwell.

“Blue Remembered Hills” by Dennis Potter and directed by Mick Bennell has just started rehearsal, so it’s time to book your tickets.

The Cast:
Angela: Mar Cressey, Audrey: Sue Bailey
Peter: Nick Kelly, John: Nik Waller
Willie: Derek Brown, Donald: Sam Wall
Raymond: Barry Simmons.
**Drama Date**

**Script Reading:**
“Lord Arthur Savile’s Crime”

Wednesday 15th January at 7.30pm
This play is based on an 1890’s story by Oscar Wilde about Lord Arthur Savile who is engaged to lovely Sybil Merton. Her pet chiromantist Podgers has read Lord Arthur’s palm and foretold he would commit a murder. Lord Arthur desires a blissful married life and therefore feels duty bound to get the murder over and done with first.

**The Cast:**
Lord Arthur Savile, Miss Sybil Merton,
The Dean of Paddington, Lady Windermere,
Lady Beauchamp, Lady Julia Merton,
Mr Podgers, Nellie, Herr Winkelkopf,
Baines the Butler.

**Production**
“Blue Remembered Hills” 24th - 29th Feb
“Just the Ticket” 20th – 25th April
Friday 17th January

**Blinded by the Light**

2019 comedy drama, starring Billy Barratt, Ronak Singh Chadha Berges and Viveik Kalra.

Javed is a Pakistani teenager who experiences racial and economic turmoil while living in Luton, England, in 1987. He writes poetry as a way to escape the intolerance of his hometown and the stubborn views of his traditional father. When a classmate introduces him to the music of Bruce Springsteen, Javed sees parallels between the singer’s powerful lyrics and his own working-class environment. Springsteen’s melodies soon inspire Javed to find his own voice and follow his dreams.

**Cert 12A running time 1hr 58min**
Friday 24th January

**The Zookeeper’s Wife**

2017 historical drama, starring Jessica Chastain, Johan Heldenbergh and Daniel Bruhl.

The time is 1939 and the place is Poland, homeland of Antonina Zabinski and her husband, Dr. Jan Zabinski. The Warsaw Zoo flourishes under Jan’s stewardship and Antonina’s care. When their country is invaded by the Nazis, Jan and Antonina are forced to report to the Reich’s newly appointed chief zoologist, Lutz Heck. The Zabinskis covertly begin working with the Resistance and put into action plans to save the lives of hundreds from what has become the Warsaw Ghetto.

**Cert 12A running time 2hr 7min**
Films at the Theatre

Friday 31st January

Mrs Lowrey and Son

2019 biographical drama, starring Vanessa Redgrave, Timothy Spall and Stephen Lord.

A portrait of the artist LS Lowry and the relationship with his mother, who tries to dissuade him from pursuing his passion.

Cert PG running time 1hr 31min
Friday 7th February

**Downton Abbey**

2019 Drama, romance, starring Maggie Smith, Michelle Dockery and Matthew Goode.

The beloved Crawleys and their intrepid staff prepare for the most important moment of their lives. A royal visit from the king and queen of England soon unleashes scandal, romance and intrigue -- leaving the future of Downton hanging in the balance.

**Cert PG running time 2hr 02min**
Films at the Theatre

Friday 14th February

**Judy**

2019 Biographical drama, starring Renée Zellweger, Jessie Buckley and Finn Wittrock.

Thirty years after starring in “The Wizard of Oz,” beloved actress and singer Judy Garland arrives in London to perform sold-out shows at the Talk of the Town nightclub. While there, she reminisces with friends and fans and begins a whirlwind romance with musician Mickey Deans, her soon-to-be fifth husband.

**Cert 12A running time 1hr 58min**

Doors open at 6:45pm – ‘Look at Life’ 7:15pm and the main film will commence at 7:30pm.

A huge selection of ice creams will be on sale before the film!
Saturday 4th April 2020 two performances
3:30pm matinee & 7:30pm evening. Not to be missed!

With
Jimmy Dean as Mr. Pummel
Caroline Emes as Mrs. Boone

Written by
Floyd Toulet
Directed by
Jan Drew

The Terribly Disappointing Mr Pummel
An everyday story of love, loss and a turtle called Thelma
Twenty years ago, celebrated author and recluse, Samuel Pummel unexpectedly met the love of his life. Now they must both face the unthinkable.

"One word - fantastic!"
"Unmissable"

Tickets can be purchased online at www.hernebaylittletheatre.com or by phoning the theatre box office on 01227 366004 – Tickets £10
2020 Programme

24th - 29th February
Blue Remembered Hills
A drama by Dennis Potter
Directed by Mick Bennell

20th - 25th April
Just the Ticket
A comedy by Peter Quilter
Directed by Shelagh Scarborough

Friday 1st & Saturday 2nd May
An Evening with Martin Farbrother & Hollie Firman
7.30pm Tickets £10

15th - 20th June
Lord Arthur Saville’s Crime
A melodrama by Oscar Wilde
Directed by Tony Jose

10th - 15th August
The Chalk Garden
A drama by Enid Bagnold
Directed by Marc Hamilton

Friday 4th & Saturday 5th September
An Evening with Chris Field
60’s Music and Elvis Tribute
7.30pm Tickets £10

5th - 10th October
Glorious
A comedy by Peter Quilter
Directed by Christine Ramsay

Friday 23rd October
Herne Bay’s Changing Seafront
250 years of progress
By Mike Bundock

3rd – 12th December
Snow White
Directed by Luke Courtney

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