

BACK STAGE

DIARY DATES

24th NOVEMBER TODS QUIZ

A fun evening at the Town Hall.

Includes Fish & Chip supper. Start getting your team of 6 organised.

Tuesday 11th DECEMBER & Thursday 13th DECEMBER DEATH MOUNTAIN AUDITIONS

See inside newsletter for details

Didn't have room in this issue for more Follies news but.....

21st - 23rd FEBRUARY FOLLIES

Sinden Theatre
Tenterden

More news in next newsletter, but NOTE there is now a matinee on Saturday 23rd

16th MARCH DEATH MOUNTAIN

In The Woolpack Barn
With "Tenterden Big Wrap"
Details inside

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Call us on 01580 241966 or write to The Secretary, TODS, Holly Cottage,
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TODS



TENTERDEN
OPERATIC AND
DRAMATIC SOCIETY

EMAILS

The TODS newsletter currently uses two email platforms, one is gmail the other is mailchimp. The latter is a professional facility used by many marketing companies because it allows hundreds of emails to be despatched at once. It also cuts out duplication and notifies us how many have landed and how many have been opened. When using the gmail account we can only send about 30 at a time, and we get no feedback. From the last two "campaigns" where we used mailchimp we know that fewer than 50% were opened. This suggests that around 50% are landing in junk folders and possibly being deleted automatically.

In order to ensure that we communicate efficiently and also to ensure you are kept up to date, it would help us if you could go to your spam folder and give permission for the following addresses to land in your inbox.

newsletter@tods.me.uk
todsnewsletter@gmail.com

Thank you.

NEWSLETTER

EDITION 1811

FRONT OF HOUSE

WELCOME

Welcome to the November edition of TODS Newsletter. You will find attached to the email a pre-booking form for Follies, please return ASAP, closing date is approaching.

I hope to see many of you at the TODS BIG QUIZ. I am busy checking the questions and answers. The interval music/artist rounds will prove interesting - might be worth you having a good cross section of ages in the team. To say my music taste is eclectic would be something of an understatement! I understand tickets are selling well. It seems there is some determination to knock the 3 "F"s off the podium. (That's Felps, Fenton, & Friends). Best of luck.

GET WELL SOON OLIVE NEAL

Our much loved prompt Olive Neal had a very bad fall from top to bottom of her stairs, she is rather poorly but luckily no bones broken as far as we know. She hit her stair lift at the bottom of the stairs. All your many friends in TODS wish you a speedy recovery Olive.

ACT ONE

SNIPPETS

A story about TODS dressing room?
Sir Robert Helpman (Dancer, Actor)

During a ballet tour, his company played a huge sports arena.

The management thinking they were doing the right thing, gave Sir Robert the umpires' dressing room. At the 'half-hour' the stage manager put his head round Sir Robert's door to give him his call only to discover the star standing on a chair, perched on a table, small mirror in hand under the one and only light bulb in the room applying intricate eye make-up.

"Are you alright Sir Robert?" the stage manager enquired. "Well yes, I suppose so, but heaven knows how the umpires cope."

DIRECTOR MARRIES STAGE MANAGER - WHO IS THE BOSS?

Steve Coles & Heather Leslie



TODS sends warmest good wishes to two people who are well known within the society. Of course Heather has been involved forever (or so it seems) but it is thanks to her meeting Steve that we gained a stage manager. Both are incredibly talented, committed and conscientious and the rest of us know that any production where either are involved, is in safe hands. Steve & Heather were blessed with beautiful weather at the Chilston

Park Hotel and everyone who attended had a wonderful day. We wish them endless love, continuous happiness, and long and healthy lives. But the question remains, "Who is in charge?" And is the presence of TODS treasurer, Michael Patrick, lurking in the background, at all significant?

Register

The warmest best wishes from TODS to the following folk who have birthdays in November.

Vern Reeve on 12th
Mark Perrian on 20th
Yours truly on 27th

If you would like a birthday or anniversary remembered, drop an email to the newsletter.

ACT TWO

OBITUARY

Dorothy Butcher.
1927 - 2018

The members and friends of TODS were very sad to hear of the death of Dorothy Butcher on September 18th 2018 at the age of 91. The Thanksgiving service was held at St. Mildred's Church on October 19th and was attended by her family and many friends.

Dorothy and her husband John moved here in 1983 from Beckenham and Dorothy lost no time in becoming an acting member of TODS when she played Brian Fagg's wife, Mrs Cap'n in the show Black Kate. For many years from this first in 1983 to 1995 when she played the formidable housekeeper in 'My Fair Lady' she and John were stalwart members of the society. As well as acting roles in several productions including Old Mother Hubbard, Ghost Train, Humpty Dumpty, Rashomon, Sleeping Beauty, Rebecca and Florence Nightingale, she also directed a very successful production of Cinderella. Dorothy frequently worked backstage helping with props or front of house selling programmes or anywhere help was needed.

For many years Dorothy was Production Assistant/Assistant Director to Tony Weare at The Barn Theatre, Smallhythe assisting with the Summer Theatre productions and also took an acting role in Tony's direction of 'Ladies in Retirement'

As a society we would like to send our deepest sympathy to all her family and feel very privileged to have known her as a friend and invaluable member of TODS.

Sally Klemen.

KDA

2019 Full-Length Play Festival

KDA has for many years run an adjudicated full-length play festival each Spring for amateur drama societies.

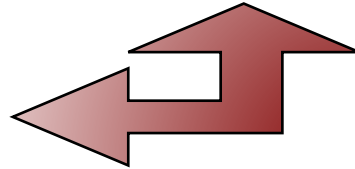
The Festival's professional adjudicator attends a performance of each society's production at its own venue, and gives a full public adjudication to the audience followed by an opportunity for private discussion with the cast and production team. The Festival ends with an awards ceremony evening - twenty two Awards, for all aspects of a production ranging from Best Overall Production to Best Actor in a Cameo Role.

The 2019 Full Length Play Festival runs from 7th February to 25th May, and is being adjudicated by Charles Evans, GoDA. Charles has adjudicated the festival several times, most recently in 2016, and is highly regarded for his adjudications and helpful comments about productions.

INTERVAL

COMMERCIALS

The talented Ciara Crossley-Roberts who was the MD for our "For King & Country" production is working with Egerton Players. Go along and show your support for what is sure to be a lovely show



Benenden Players The Legend of King Arthur

Show dates:
31st January 2019 -
3rd February 2019
Matinees 2nd February
& 3rd February 2019

Yet another World Famous Benenden Panto, The Legend of King Arthur

takes place in Kent (Camelot and all that Tintagel nonsense is merely shameless cultural appropriation by Cornwall). We see Arthur being brought up by his 2 Aunts (Nelly & Nora Knockers), with his friends Guin and Merlin, facing peril from the evil Major Bragalot. Bragalot is deeply envious of Arthur, particularly when he learns from the village crone that Arthur is destined to be king hereafter. But his evil plans are thwarted by 3 feisty witches, who ensure that Arthur grows up safely. As an adult Arthur manages to prove his rightful inheritance, but he still has to face up to Bragalot, his nemesis. Will he secure his crown and the lovely Guinevere? Will his Nelly & Nora get the men of their dreams?? Will anyone pay their taxes in full before the Tax Inspector (portrayed by our Angela Patrick) catches up with them???

DRESS CIRCLE

THIS IS THEIR LIFE

From this vantage point up in the Gods we are able to look down upon the TODS community. This month we take a look at our long serving, and long suffering treasurer, **Michael Patrick**.

I was born in East Dulwich, South London, some five months after the start of WWII before moving to Peckham in time to watch German fighter planes and bombers wreaking havoc on London.



Having survived the war I passed my 11+ and attended Wilson's Grammar School in Camberwell which celebrated its 400th foundation anniversary in 2015.

I moved to Tenterden with Angela, my wife of 2 years, in 1968 and commuted from Headcorn to the Stock Exchange in the City for many years.

I joined TODS in late 1980's to help with back stage work and set construction, which at that time was managed by John Butcher who showed a raw amateur like me how to put together sets which did not bend or wobble. From this I gradually progressed to walk-ons, stage management and even prompt which tests anybody's mettle.

My favourite part was playing the Dame in a Benenden Players pantomime, Goldilocks & the Three Bears which came about when I attended a workshop and was asked what type of part I would like and, on replying a villain was given the part of the Dame. Such is life!

My least favourite part is difficult but I suppose it would be General Haigh in Oh! What A Lovely War as I could not grasp the intricacies needed to do the part justice?

My hobbies are golf and, when required, looking after my grandchildren which I am delighted to do and is always a pleasure.

My first car was a black Ford Popular 100E, registration number XXP781.

An outstanding item on my bucket list is to see my eldest granddaughter marry but I may have to survive many more years in order to achieve it.

The only person of any note I have met was the Archbishop of Southwark when we passed each other at my dentist surgery in Peckham. The dentist remarked at the time, "A capitalist leaves as a Socialist arrives."

I would like to nominate Peter Huxley to provide his bio for the next newsletter.

STAGE RIGHT

For King & Country

We are now into November with thoughts turning to Christmas and have just completed the autumn production of 'For King and Country' last Saturday, November 3rd. This format proved to be very successful and judging by the audience feedback comments was much enjoyed by everyone.

We did two performances – a matinee with a lovely tea of sandwiches and cakes and an evening performance with bangers and mash. The format was a narration highlighting some of the important battles and events of the First World War interspersed with songs, readings, poems and a short play extract, all illustrating events and happenings of the time.

Sadly for health reasons Vernon Reeve had to relinquish the Director's role and so his Assistant Director, Peter Huxley, took on the role. I would just like to express my thanks to all those – committee members, TODS members, friends and family – who worked so hard and put in so much effort to make it the undoubted success it was. A huge thank you to all those backstage who helped prepare the hall and food, put up the bunting and set the tables – Michael Patrick, Ian Klemen, Colin Barnes, Carol Morrissey, Jackie Whiles, John Roberts and those in the kitchen preparing the food - Gillian Davis for doing much of the shopping and then helping make the sandwiches and teas along with Angela Patrick and Heather and Colin Barnes, Fiona Murch and Bev Moses-Mulroney for the mammoth task of cooking 180 sausages and keeping the mash piping hot! Jack Gillett for manning the bar assisted by Jackie Whiles who also oversaw Front of House, Julia Jessett who master minded ticket sales and allocating the audience to their tables. Many thanks to Carol Buckley, Jackie Whiles, Barbara Gray and all those who made the delicious cakes and to Lynne Andrews and everyone who trawled around various places to find the appropriate china. Thanks also to Brian Fagg for designing the poster, John Sewell for designing the beautiful programme and Susanne Buckley for publicity and social media.

Without the cast, musicians, technical aspects and director there would be no performance so again a huge thank you to Ciara Crossley-Roberts (Musical Director and piano), Ken Wellard (drums), John Sewell (lighting and backstage projections) and the cast – Gillian Davis, Joan Eade, Brian Fagg, Barbara Gray, Peter Huxley, Julia Jessett, Ian Klemen, Susannah Mayor, Matthew Meredith, Angela Patrick, Michael Patrick and John Roberts. A special thanks to the male members of the cast who served the teas in the interval so expertly!! Last but certainly not least our huge thanks and congratulations to Peter Huxley, who not only took over the director's role but also wrote the narration and performed, for producing such a wonderful and at times moving production.

Many, many thanks to you all and my most sincere apologies if I have overlooked anyone.

Sally Klemen.

STAGE LEFT

DEATH MOUNTAIN



We are delighted to announce that directors have been appointed for the spring production of Death Mountain, the murder mystery. They are: Director - Ashten Blades. (Pictured) Mentored by Heather Barnes.

Ashten is a Freelance Theatre Director and Theatre Practitioner who trained for 4 years at University. She has worked with such companies as the Finborough Theatre, the Southwark Playhouse, and the Marlowe Theatre, in such roles as Director, General Manager and Front of House Supervisor. She loves to create and direct immersive and interactive theatre for all age groups and genres.

AUDITIONS WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY 11th December at 7.45 & Thursday 13th December at 7.30 in the pavilion

Character Descriptions - Death Mountain

Men

Mikkel Shoemaker : 30's, German accent. Formula One champion. Engaged to Laurel Strep. Having an affair with Olga Pavlova. Comes across rather arrogant and self-centered. He has little understanding on how to treat Women.

Hiro Mukaru : 30's, Japanese accent. Famous author. Takes great pride in his novels. Very polite, clever and dramatic. A revelation in the play links him to being rather creepy towards another character. *The Nationality of this character may be changed pending auditions.*

Winston Burchill : 50's, British accent. British Politician. Diplomatic, conversational, witty, and secretive. Comes across very detective like throughout the play.

Vincent Van Vinci : 40's, French accent. Painter. Tense, sarcastic and blunt. Temperamental, and uninterested in the other characters, only his paintings.

Women

Laurel Strep : 40's, Australian accent. Actress. Engaged to Mikkel Shoemaker. Host for the dinner party. She is a rather excitable and friendly character.

Olga Pavlova : 20's, Russian accent. Ballerina. Infatuated with Mikkel Shoemaker. Youthful, manipulative and heartless in certain situations.

Ellen McCartney : 30's / 40's, Canadian accent. Explorer. Determined. Egotistical. Loud.

Theresa Mater : 40's, American accent. Humanitarian. Overly Compassionate, sensitive and pure. Or is she as pure as she makes out she is?

Audition pieces and the full script are available on request from Heather at productions@tods.me.uk