

NANDA Newsletter



NANDA NEWSLETTER
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Volume 1, Issue 1
February 2004

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Dates for your diary

Youth Festival 15-17th April
Annual Dinner 18th June,
Cotgrave Golf Club (details to follow)

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For postal contributions, please forward to: Hayley Masom, 17 Towson Field, East Leake, Leics, LE12 6RY (all photos returned).

NANDA Dinner with Liza and Susan

Its been a long tradition with NANDA to have a celebrity luncheon for visiting theatre actors during their visit to the city. This year I had the pleasure of having Susan Penhaligon and Liza Goddard as special guests as they were appearing in "The Constant Wife" at the Theatre Royal—Nottingham.

They gave an interesting talk about their lives in theatre and TV and answered guests questions. All those who attended enjoyed the experience of meeting them both. Since finding guests over the last three years I've realised the whole theatre experience has changed in respect of finding appropriate guests and to continue in the future it is so important to find support from members to attend these events.

Mindful of this, my next function will be to invite John Godber to give a talk to us and share some of his valuable experiences.

This will be on a Saturday lunchtime so that more of you can attend and we're hoping to organise this for sometime during April/May 2004.

As you know John has recently produced his new play "Fly Me to the Moon" and at present this is being performed by groups around the country.

It is also his 64th play and he is one of the most profile play writers in the country. So do come along and remember to share this great opportunity with members in your groups.

By Douglas MacDonald



Editors Note.....

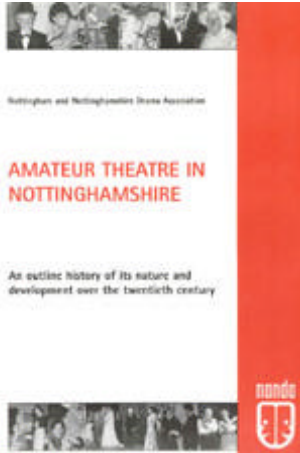
This is the first of our new-style bi-monthly newsletters. The decision to change comes as a result of remarks made at the special meeting of members held last autumn when we were made aware of the need for more frequent and more direct contact with members. Whereas the Bulletin was more of a magazine with articles and special features and was produced twice per year the intention is to replace it by a shorter more up-to-date information sheet to be issued every two months. We do hope you will react to this change by using the opportunity to provide and receive information over this shorter timescale and circulating copies amongst your members. It might be fitting at this point to record the contributions made by the Bulletin and its several editors over a period of fifty years. The first issue was not much different in content and aim from the

new newsletter except of course that it was not in colour and was duplicated on the old Banda machine using wax sheets wrapped round an ink drum. As time passed a more formal version was circulated three times per year with a pre-printed cover. This in turn was succeeded by an A5 style booklet produced twice per year and later by the A4 style magazine which has been used over the last decade. We pay tribute to those who contributed items for inclusion in the past and to those who have acted as editor. The next edition will be forwarded on the 1st April which provides an easily remembered, if not an auspicious, deadline. Your reactions and comments on this issue and items for inclusion in the next should be forwarded to Hayley at newsletter@nanda.co.uk.....**Ed!**



NANDA News from the County

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01159 373419**

The Storytellers of Nottingham

For those of you who are reading that title and wondering what kind of name is that for an amateur dramatics company I have a shocking confession to make. We are not involved in acting really. We do just what it says on the tin as that irritating bloke says on the telly, we tell stories.

Having done a little bit of acting I will explain the difference. Storytellers work in the oral tradition, that is they don't have a script, should I have said text. Rather they know the outline of their story and its components and they proceed to tell it without a set form of words. Literally they make their way through their work using pictures and images to remember the story. It is a comparison between classical music and jazz. Both have a melody but one is hopefully note perfect, acting, and the other is negotiable depending on the audience and the storytellers interpretation. It has been described as a journey of images.

In this way a storyteller may tell a complex story of maybe half an hour without a single word of text. The feeling is somewhat liberating and somewhat frightening to newcomers.

Our group is unusual in that we are also writers and two of our number are published authors. Although we work all over the county our spiritual home, no pun intended, is the Trip to Jerusalem. On the last Thursday each month we gather to try out latest stories and very popular they are. It is best to get there early if you want to get in. Throughout this year we will be busy around Nottingham organising a festival at the Trip, working at the Theatre Royal, and generally having fun. If you would like to see us perform or indeed to try storytelling then give me a call.

By Pete Davis

The storytellers of Nottingham 01159558054 or teapottwins@aol.com



Car on stage



Car as luggage



Computer ad to sell the car

Life of a Prop! - The Car for "Me and My Girl"

Knowing what I know now perhaps I would never have embarked on making the car. It appears for a small part of the opening number and is on stage for 2 minutes tops. If you hire it from a props company it's about £200 plus carriage and insurance for a weeks use. The car breaks down into smaller units representing luggage that is carried off by the cast. It seats four including the driver.

In addition the requirements are for ease of handling, reasonable weight load, safe edges and corners, stack ability for storing offstage or in the wings. Of course the script requires for it to be "made up of luggage" not obviously and literally "a car" but a pile of luggage evoking "car".

So there was a need for 13 boxes all shaped differently resembling a case or trunk with handles. I built these out of hardboard with wooden batten frames,

glued and pinned together. The corners and edges were all routered rounded over and sanded smooth. In addition the joints and corners were taped over with canvas and PVA glue for added strength and safety (there is nothing worse than a damaged ankle or torn leg, cut or bruised). Then the whole lot was painted cream, black and terracotta.

Also you will notice that to sell the car we prepared a presentation developed on the computer. All this work took weeks but the car went on stage as planned and did eight performances—appearing on stage for a total of twenty minutes in all. The effect—all agreed was stunning and worth the effort. The car was sold on to a group in Ramsgate who sold it on after their show.

By Mike Dowdeswell, Keyworth Dramatic Society

Youth Festival—2004

The Association's Nineteenth Annual Youth Theatre Festival will be held this year on Friday 16 and Saturday 17th April 2004.

Once again the venue will be the Dukeries Complex Theatre, New Ollerton.

We hope that your youth group will be able to enter, the admission is £20.00 for NANDA members and £25.00 for non-members. The rules of the festival and an application form are available on request.

The closing date for entries is 16th March 2004. Please enclose all scripts with the entry form.

I am delighted to report that Allen Tipton will be the adjudicator this year. Allen is a vice-president of NANDA and is a very experienced adjudicator.

Please feel free to contact me for any further details: Jean Lebeter-01623 863614 or email on

jeanelebeter@hotmail.com



Visit to Hercules in rural community

At our Executive committee meetings we sometimes discuss plays which each group hopes to perform during the coming season. With this in mind I travelled to East Leake to see the production of their pantomime—"Hercules". It was lovely to visit a rural venue as opposed to my normal theatre scene—The Lacemarket Theatre in the City Centre of Nottingham.

My main impression was the hard work that all the cast put into the production and their obvious enjoyment in performing for the audience—it was very funny and uplifting. Hearing all the stories of "village life" amateur theatre it makes you appreciate the effort and entertainment provided by the group. Hercules was written by Julia Banks and great praise should be given for creating such a funny, modern pantomime—great for amateur production.

In the future, my contacts in the evening post are keen to promote amateur theatre events through

the area and this will include rural areas such as East Leake.

It is important that such theatre is given rightful recognition—not just in terms of audience but also in the true sense of the importance of theatre as an integral part of community life.

By Douglas MacDonald

Your Plays Count!

We will be running in every issue a write-up and photo opportunity for one of your productions. To get that extra publicity your group deserves and let the NANDA world know about your performance, you can submit your review and photograph to newsletter@nanda.co.uk, or by sending them in the post to the address on the front page.

The next deadline date for publishing is 20th March 2004.



The finale from 'Hercules'

Your Newsletter Needs You!

This is the start of the NANDA Newsletter and we'll be after your stories and contributions. The Newsletter has been split into several sections and will be totally reliant on your input for its continuation.

There are sections that have been created for bringing information together.

Story of a Prop, is exactly what it says. I'm sure you've all had props that have been a real nightmare to create or have a great story to them, in every production there is always one nightmare prop. We can use this as a way of sharing our creative talents and giving an insight that could help others for similar productions.

We have a **sections classified**—No charge, but a great place to advertise for any items for sale, hire or wanted or even people if you're in need of a particu-

lar skill set!

We have a new feature—**NANDA Profile** which will enable us to get to know each other better. Each issue will profile one of our counties personalities as submitted by yourselves. If you contact the Newsletter we can provide you with a list of questions or if you feeling somewhat daring provide your own, a photograph in either digital or paper format will be necessary.

We need your suggestions, articles and input! Please also remember to email either Maggie or newsletter with your updated play lists and dates for the coming months.

Remember it's: newsletter@nanda.co.uk

By Hayley Masom

**Storm, tempest, flood, fire,
theft, act of god
and all that stuff**

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Memories of those we'll miss!

Colin White—Remembrance!

It was with great sadness that Colin, who was Theatre Manager at the Lacemarket Theatre for over 15 years died recently at the tender age of 54. Those of you who attended productions at the Lacemarket, I'm sure will remember Colin.

Indeed he was preparing to direct "Fly Me to the Moon" this month but sadly this was not realised. Hence the production was dedicated to his memory.

Nicci Dinni - A shining star!

Elaps lost a great member of their group and a good friend to many in East Leake with the loss in November of Nicci Dinni.

Nicci, (34) left us very quickly. When diagnosed with Cancer in September, she withdrew from the role of Gryphon in Hercules. Sadly after fighting so bravely she passed away in her sleep on November 23rd. A mum, wife and a great performer too, many will remember her for her puurrfect portrayal of the cat in Pinocchio.

Hercules was dedicated to her memory and over £300 was raised for cancer at the shows.



Nicci Dinni



Colin White



**Nottingham and Nottinghamshire
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Nigel Kenton Bonington Players
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Colin Fletcher Greasley Players
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!Stuff or People WANTED or Articles for sale, hire or loan!

For Hire Latex "Cyclops" Mask —01509 852364 (Elaps)

For Sale 2 Copies of "Hercules the Panto" by Julia Banks—01509 852364 (Elaps)

For Loan Chaise Lounge—01159 373419 (Keyworth Dramatic Society, Donations
appreciated)

NANDA PROFILE—Roy Ainscough



Introducing the first of our NANDA Profiles the NANDA resid-
ing President—Roy Ainscough. Roy is a very young 67 and is a
member of Keyworth Dramatic Society, Roy joined NANDA
council as a Keyworth representative in 1974, and spent 10 years
as secretary, 10 as chairman and 6 as president. So what do we
know about Roy?

**What age did you first enter the amateur stage and what
was your debut performance?**

In 1970 I played Danny a young welsh Psychopath in the play "Night Must Fall"

What would be your most memorable role? Don't ask me, ask those who
have to endure it. If pressed I did enjoy playing "Nico" in the one-act play "Albert"
and the waiter in "Between Mouthfuls". The former required me to be a young hot-
blooded, non-English speaking Sicilian so I wore a jet black wig (John Travolta style)
and tanning make-up. There were those in the audience who didn't recognise me.

Hmmm what a thought and your most memorable hiccup? I caused my wife
(real-life one) to make a hurried entrance with a dress held together at the back by a
human cleat (Geoff Allen) because I cut out two pages in "Red Velvet Goat" (I was
not playing the eponymous lead).

Aspirations? To live beyond ninety and complete another Robin Hood Half Mara-
thon (go for it Roy!)

Your biggest challenge in life—on and off the stage? Learning to live with my
own limitations. (I'll out humble anyone in the place).

*We want profiles of personalities from your groups, for a detailed list of prob-
ing questions please email—newsletter@nanda.co.uk*

Spring Calendar

February 2-7	A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum	The Lacemarket Theatre, Nottingham, 0115 9507201
February 5-7	It runs in the family By Ray Cooney	Arcade Players, St Johns Church Hall, Long Eaton 01159397059
February 11-14	Little Red Riding Hood	Muskham Players, North Muskham Village Hall, 01636 676596
February 18-21	Anorak of Fire By Stephen Dinsdale & Post Mortem by Brian Clark	The Lacemarket Theatre, Nottingham, 0115 9507201
February 19-21	Suddenly at Home By Francis Durbridge	Orchard Theatre Co, Fairfield Prim. School, Stapleford 0115 8547998
February 19-22	The Magic Pendant By Neil Beeching	Colwick Theatre Club, Colwick Community Centre, 0115 8451806
February 19-22	The Herbal Bed By Peter Whelan	Prospect Players, Bonington Theatre, Arnold, 0115 8590213
February 24-28	The Man Outside By Janet Allen	East Bridgford Drama Grp, East Bridgford Vill. Hall, 01949 20218
February 26	An Evening with Jack the Ripper	Storytellers of Nottingham, Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem, 0115 9558054
February 28	Divine Mountebank	Co-op Arts Theatre, The Lacemarket Theatre, 0115 9507201
March 4-6 & 11-13	Arabian Nights By Dominic Cooke	West Bridgford Players, The Studio, West Bridgford 07960 992196
March 5-7	Bugsy Malone By Alan Parker	All Hallows Dramatic Soc., Church Hall, Wst Bridgford, 0115 9140689
Mar 8-13	The Constant Wife By Somerset Maugham	Robin Hood Theatre, Averham, 01636 706097
Mar 8-13	View from the Bridge by Arthur Miller	The Lacemarket Theatre, Nottingham, 0115 9507201
Mar 11-13	Great Expectations By C Dickens & H Lennard	Kegworth Players, Village Hall, Kegworth, 01509 672886
Mar 24-27	Sweet Bird of Youth by Tennessee Williams	(Youth production) The Lacemarket Theatre, Nottingham, 0115 9507201
Mar 25	Urban Myths	Storytellers of Nottingham, Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem, 0115 9558054
Mar 31-Apr 3	Rumours By Neil Simon	Bonington Players, Bonington Theatre Arnold, 01159532807
April 1-3	An Inspector Calls by JB Priestley	Keyworth Dramatic Society, Stanford Hall 01159 372796