

NANDA Newsletter



NANDA NEWSLETTER
Http://www.nanda.org.uk

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September 2004

Nanda 2004—Play of the Year

NANDA's Annual Dinner took place this year on Friday 18th June at Cotgrave Place Golf Club, a beautiful venue, kindly arranged by Keyworth Dramatic Society. The theme was Masks; nearly all the 100 diners wore one, from the "simplest", to the "featheriest", to the "over the head and complete with ears". A prize was given for the best. After a fantastic meal, Keyworth provided some great entertainment, which was a good interlude to the awards ceremony for Play of the Year. Adjudicated this year by Bob

Wildgust, and, as always, he gave a hilarious speech to precede the handing out of awards (winners are listed overleaf). This was Margot Anderson's last year as organiser, and during the evening it was announced that Joan Wildgust will take over next year. I would like to thank both of them for volunteering, Margot for all those years of hard work, and Joan, for all those years of hard work (to come!) My thanks, too, to Keyworth Dramatic Society for a very enjoyable evening in superb surroundings, and I would also like to

thank all those members who made an extra donation. Well done to all the winners and nominations, it was a great night!

By Peter Stimson

(Pictured are Bonington Players and the Newark Advertiser Shield for best all round play)



Editors Note.....

Welcome to a new season of activity in the amateur theatre sector. A glance at the calendar shows you have been busy and, as always shown variety in your choice of play. May you enjoy them and may your audiences continue to enthuse about your presentations.

One significant omission from NANDA programme last year was the one act open festival. The tragic burning down of the Chatsworth Centre Theatre at Long Eaton left us, and several individual groups bereft of a venue. It will be two years in the rebuilding.

Meanwhile your council has been reviewing alternative venues and formats. It is pursuing its aim of linking our own festival into the prestigious All England Theatre Festival in 2005. Subject to discussions to be held with the AETF in October we are planning to bring forward our own festival to late April or early May so that the local NANDA winner might be able to progress to the

next round of the national festival. Fuller details will be available by the time of the next newsletter and we hope that you will consider the opportunities open to you from participating in these new arrangements. The one-act play offers groups, producers, set designers and actors challenges which differ from those in the two and three act plays. As the short story relates to the full novel so the one act relates to the longer plays. Plot and characterisation need to be established more quickly and efficiently and there is scope for introducing new talent within your group and giving them experience before they venture into the major works. There are some splendid plays available and the one act festivals have always been friendly occasions and great fun. So build in rehearsals for a one act play into the early months of your 2005 programme.

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Useful Website addresses

www.jasperpublishing.com

A site just for amateur dramatic groups offering pantos/plays and musicals
www.foxplays.co.uk

Playscripts, musicals, games aimed at schools and amateur groups.

www.spotlightspublications.com
Offers traditional panto's and some different ideas for that Xmas show

www.funscripts.com
Funscripts offer a deal whereby you pay for one copy of a script and are then given permission to photocopy all the other copies needed. CD's are provided with all the music needed to stage the show.

www.stageright.biz
Hire or sale of stage lighting, sound or special effects.

For postal contributions, please forward to:

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newsletter@nanda.org.uk



NANDA News from the County

What a gem! Nanda Luncheon with Gwen Taylor



Gwen taking home some bedtime reading after the NANDA luncheon

What an incredibly, warm, funny and witty lady. "Make 'em laugh and the time will go shorter" was the advice to Gwen from our chairman Peter Stimson. Well the time went really quickly and she had us all mesmerised with her presence and stories. Well done to Douglas MacDonald for persevering with booking agents and PA's in persuading Mrs Taylor to join Nanda members for a luncheon at the Comfort Hotel. 36 people attended—an admirable number of NANDA members as well as some folk who were looking forward to lunch with a celebrity. Gwen proceeded to take all our questions from the floor, remembering the face of one of the diners who played a mummified corpse some years back in a previous play. The current play "All about Alice" will sadly soon be coming to an end. However, Gwen has plans a-foot to join a cult Sunday night series for a few episodes. Playing an absolutely charming character that would give the great Greengrass a run for his money in etiquette! Gwen herself speaks very well, not a trace of the

Derbyshire accent from her birthplace and where she lives today. She attended a grammar school but speaks more like her Aunty Gladys who was educated at the more grandiose establishment -Cheltenham ladies school.

She lives with her Irish play writer husband Graham Reid, who tours with her and assists in choosing forthcoming scripts, Gwen concentrating on the character, and Graham the plot and script. Gwen is a great supporter of local amateur theatre still finding time to present the Eagle award for best actress at a local awards ceremony in Derby. It was in local theatre that Gwen started herself, many moons prior and she remembers in her early 20's aspiring to all the ladies who walked away with the title of Best Actress. A change in her life led her on to pursue her hobby as her career and from there she hasn't looked back.

A lovely lady with such a warm personality. She came with a smile and she left us with smiles and it was all over far too quickly.

By Hayley Masom

2004 Winners for Play of the Year

Newark Advertiser Shield for Best all round Play

Bonington Players, The Owl and the Pussycat

Pat Johnson Trophy for Producer of the year

Brian Poulson of West Bridgford Dramatic Society

Harry Penson Trophy for Actor of the Year

Chad Barnsley from Blaby Drama Group

Arthur Poultney Trophy for Best Actress of the Year

Nicola Ellis from Edwinstowe Theatre Group

Dan Shaw Trophy for Best Actor/Actress in supporting role

Dave Cochrain from West Bridgford Dramatic Society

Sidney Hopkin Trophy for Best Inexperienced Actor/Actress

Tom Bradshaw from Solo Theatre Co.

Lallie McLaughlan Trophy for Best Presentation

Bonington Players for All My Sons

Oxley Trophy for Best Costumes

Bonington Players for The Owl and the Pussycat

Belper Cup for Adjudicators Special Award

Burton Joyce Players for taking risks to support a local playwright

Peter & Joan Martin for Front of House Award

Ravenshead Theatre Group for Come Fly with Me

Nanda Insurance Offer

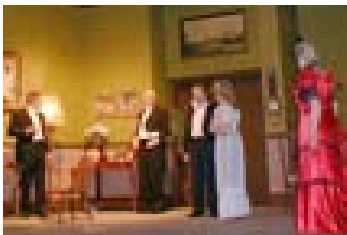
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Inspector Calls performed by Keyworth Dramatic Society By Douglas MacDonald



Pictured are Keyworth Dramatic Society

Stanford Hall was the rural setting for this production and it was a peaceful spring evening as I drove through the lovely grounds. As I listened to the organ strains I thought this could be the setting for the wealthy Birling family featured in the play. All the performances were good and our president Roy Ainscough gave a sterling performance as head of the family - Arthur Birling. The play is set in 1912 and written by JB Priestly renowned for his social comment. This is true in this play when the

family is broken down by the external force of an Inspector calling to investigate the suicide of an employee known to each member. The inspector is symbolic of the internal conscience of each member and to the extent they share the corporate guilt. A very enjoyable evening with the audience quite hushed by the final curtain. Did the Inspector really call or did he in fact ever exist above the subconscious level? Such a perfect venue would be a great loss to all of us in the near future.



NANDA News from the County

NANDA's 19th Youth Festival 2004 *By Allen Tipton*

Argent Theatre Newark opened the festival with "Singing in the Wilderness", by David Campton. Mary Timms handled her 8 strong cast with skill drawing out characterisation, reaction, excellent vocal projection, very relaxed stance and movement plus a goodly number of laughs. **Under 11 Dominic O'Connell** as Cobweb thoroughly deserved his **Best Actor Shield**. Sam Rickett & Alice Williams certainly earned Highly Commended certificates. The production did exceedingly well and won the **Arcade Cup for runner up**.

Robin Hood Youth Theatre's eerie "Is there Anybody There?" by Lee Flewit was an atmospheric play which was approached with great confidence pulling much of it off with adult teamwork. Voice projection was excellent and they certainly knew the effectiveness of stillness. **Helen Undy's** mature acting carried off the **Fox Trophy for Best Actress**. Martin Stretch earned his highly commended certificate. **Marli and Alex Bailey's** production earned them the **Dan Shaw Adjudicator's Discretionary Award** for sheer teamwork.

Touchwood Theatre had chosen a very difficult play in Tony Horitz's "You, Me & Mrs Jones". It was based on an improvised scenario, then scripted by Bournemouth Youth Theatre. Mark Lebeter handled his cast of 10 very varied age actors playing 40 roles with his skill of humour and they worked extremely hard to justify his faith in them. Touchwood pulled it off with tremendous enthusiasm and rattling, energetic attack. Corinne Marrows, Joe Foster (a future leading man), Syan Hall, Daniel Hibbard all deserved their highly commended and tiny **Jessica Cranmer** won the hearts of the audience and **the Shield for Best under 11 actress**.

Robin Hood's second production would have

Playwriting Competition Results and winners

By Maggie Andrew

I owe a huge thanks to all groups and individuals from NANDA's association who helped produce and stage the plays and sketches which were shown on the day of the finals on June 19th 2004 at The Robin Hood Theatre, Averham. The feedback from authors and actors was extremely encouraging and it made the whole year of preparation worthwhile.

Our adjudicator, Arthur Aldrich was extremely knowledgeable and pleasant throughout the whole 12 months and everyone had a great time. It was like having your first night, times ten!! - sometimes the pressure and nerves helped us all along.

The winning play was "The Man with the Christmas Socks" by Audrey Ringrose from London and the winning sketch "The Visitor" by Judith Fox of Manchester. Congratulations to both authors. On the day 8 out of the 9 authors came along. Three authors came up from London and I shoved 6 of them together in the same hotel in Newark—they had a ball!

made a great comedy impact in an Adult festival. This was "Parent craft" by Stephen Smith, again directed by Marli & Alex Bailey. The group again played with an adult teamwork approach and the roles brought out several of the afternoons cast; in particular Rob Tomlinson. Again **Helen Undy's** great pretender, Sharon made me think she was a different actress and thoroughly cemented her **Best Actress of the Festival Award**.

The Final play of the Festival was **Argent Theatre Newark's** "The Lady Bicycle" by David Stant. It is worth a look by adult groups as it's a great light comedy and similar to TV Sitcom. Each of the roles were played to perfection in Steph Hopkinson's very polished production. All 4 actors were matched in talent and the brilliant pace, sense of comedic timing of the dialogue and its situations bought many well deserved, big laughs from the audience.

Rebecca Ladds and Michael Bond had to be content with Highly Commended Certificates as there was only one more individual aware left; **The Fox Trophy for Actor of the Festival**. This simply had to be shared between **Jamie Burgess** and **Chris Baumber**, who both carried everything off with such professional aplomb and polish. There was also a very funny curtain call to cap it all and the team won the **Reg Dury Cup for the Best Overall Play**.

It was, as usual a festival thronged with everything one expects from Youth Theaters: Teamwork, Ensemble Playing, Imagination all bound up with sheer friendliness. Well done to Jean Lebeter for co-ordinating the event and Mark Lebeter who handled the backstage organisation and front of house with Mike Stewart (whom also presented our trophies) and a final thanks to Neil Mackintosh

It was really good to be able to give the authors "meaty" performances of their work and once again my thanks to West Bridgford Drama Group, Orchard Theatre, Nottingham Arts Theatre, Clever Theatre, Theatre Arts Workshop, Roy A's team from Keyworth, Burton Joyce, Macintosh Productions, PIP and the Robin Hood Theatre Staff.

Pictured below is Audrey Ringrose with the winning play trophy.



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For pricing and details of how to advertise in this newsletter, contact newsletter@nanda.org.uk

In Memory It is with great sadness that we regret to inform our readers that member Connie Drake has passed away. Connie Drake had been a devoted supporter to NANDA and amateur theatre for many years. We last saw Connie at the Theatre Luncheon with Susan and Lisa, she'll be sadly missed.

Pictured below is Judith Fox winner of the best sketch.





NANDA PROFILE—Peter Stimson

Peter is our newly elected chairman for NANDA, so to understand the past and future of our committee members what does the boss get up to?

What brought you into the world of amateur dramatics?

I was 14 and helped a friend learn his lines as Miranda in our school play, I joined the group and stage managed such plays as Our Town and Admirable Crichton. **What was your debut part and play?** A walk on in the Apollo de Bellac in a local one act festival (I was slated). **At least you're honest and that was some time ago...what would be your most memorable part and play?**

The Latest one! As long as it was successful!! **If you could direct any play in the world what would it be and why?**

Barefoot in the park because it is a wonderful play I never tire of seeing and would find horrendous to actually stage.

So you like a challenge huh? What do you get up to during the day? I'm a librarian I thought you seemed the quiet type!

What's your biggest amateur dramatic nightmare? Aside from finding myself naked stage front, I think its really drying, I

sometimes think I'm going to, and I never hear the prompt. **What has been the happiest moment of your life—on or off stage?** The birth of my new granddaughter Eloise. **Are you a local?** I'm afraid not, I'm from Berkhamsted, Herts originally so that makes me a Southerner, although three quarters of my forbearers came from Lincolnshire **If you were stranded on a desert island who would you pick to take with you?** My wife because she is also my best friend and sternest critic (Yes I know but it happens to be true).

What would be your best advice to NANDA readers?

Give it a go! You never know what your group can do till you try. (One day I'll cast and direct Barefoot complete with roof !!!!!)

Have your profile person ready the next issue could be you!!!

Autumn Calendar

Sept 15-18	Sadly Yet Madly Steve Wallis & Richard Smith	Devil MayCare Productions , Nottingham Arts Theatre 0115 8590507
Sept 20-25	Play it Again Sam Woody Allen	The Lace Market Theatre Trust Ltd 0115 9507201
Sept 23-25	Catherine Howard William Nicholson	Ravenshead Theatre Grp , Ravenshead Village Hall, 01623 794359
Sept 30	Bloody Murder- Storytellers of Nottingham ,	Old Trip to Jerusalem, Nottingham 0115 9558054
Oct 8-9	Oct Play Evening	Edwalton Church Drama Grp Edwalton Church Hall, Edwalton 0115 9145535
Oct 8-10	Out of Order Ray Cooney	Solo Theatre Co. , Lisa Gail Dance Studio, Toothill Lane, Mansfield 01623 629781
Oct 11-16	Death of a Salesman Arthur Miller	Robin Hood Theatre , Averham 01636 892101
Oct 13-16	Pack of Lies Hugh Whitmore	Bonington Players , Bonington Theatre, Arnold, Nottm 0115 9531165
Oct 13-16	Summit Conference Robert David MacDonald	The Lace Market Theatre Trust Ltd 0115 9507201
Oct 21-23	Music Hall to Musical	Burton Joyce Players , Burton Joyce Village Hall 0115 9312399
Oct 28-30	The Cemetery Club Ivan Menchell	Blaby Drama Grp , Blaby Social Centre, Leicester Road, Blaby, 0116 2771157
Oct 28-30	The Same Old Song Jo Ann Massiy	Colwick Theatre Grp , Colwick Community Centre, 07891 288670
Oct 28-30	Caught in the Net Ray Cooney	Edwinstowe Theatre Grp , The Dukeries Compx, Ollerton, 01623 490793
Oct 28 & 31	Halloween Stories Storytellers of Nottingham	Old Trip to Jerusalem, Nottingham 0115 9558054
Nov 1-6	Measure for Measure William Shakespeare	The Lace Market Theatre Trust Ltd 0115 9507201
Nov 9-13	When We Are Married J B Priestley	Radcliffe on Trent Drama Grp , St Mary's Church Hall, Radcliffe on Trent 0115 9332906
Nov 10-13	Sing For Your Supper Hart & Rodgers	Prospect Players , Bonington Theatre, Arnold, 0115 9609400
Nov 11-13	Ghost Train Arnold Ridley	Arcade Players , St John's Church Hall, Canal St, Long Eaton 0115 9397059
Nov 11-13	Dead Ringer Charles Ross	Kegworth Players , Village Hall, Kegworth 01509 672886
Nov 11-13	On a Night Like This John Godber	Wollaton Drama Grp , Sheila Russell Centre, Bilborough 0115 9131789
Nov 15-20	Accrington Pals Peter Whelan	Robin Hood Theatre , Robin Hood Theatre, Averham 01636 892101
Nov 16-20	Off the Hook Derek Benfield	East Bridgford Drama Grp , Village Hall, East Bridgford 01949 20218
Nov 17-19	Play On Rick Abbot	Beeston Players , Round Hill School, Foster Ave, Beeston 0115 9398417
Nov 17-20	Riding the Rollercoaster Andrea Weatherston	The Lace Market Theatre Trust Ltd 0115 9507201
Nov 18-20	When We Are Married J B Priestley	Greasley Players , St Mary's Church Hall, Greasley 01773 717069
Nov 18-20	Outside Edge Richard Harris	Keyworth Dramatic Society , Grange Hall, Radcliffe on Trent, Nottingham 0115 9748666
Nov 18-20, 25-27	Night on the Tiles Frank Vickery	West Bridgford Dramatic Soc , The Studio Theatre, Stamford Road, West Bridgford 07960 992196
Nov 22-28	Improvisation Workshop	The Lace Market Theatre Trust Ltd 0115 9507201
Nov 24 26-27	Hercules the Panto Julia Banks	People in Plays , Christchurch Vill Hall, Nuthall Road, Nottm 01623 882760
Nov 25	World's Greatest Liar Storytellers of Nottingham	Old Trip to Jerusalem, Nottingham 0115 9558054
Dec 1-4	Tom the Piper Norman Robins	Dales Music & Drama Group , Dales Church, Bakersfield 0115 9401618
Dec 2-4	Babes in the Wood John Cocker	East Leake Amateur Players , East Leake Village Hall, 01509 852364
Dec 2-5	Christmas Carol Charles Dickens	Solo Theatre Co. , Lisa Gail Dance Studio, Toothill Lane, Mansfield, 01623 629781
Dec 3-5	Comedy of Errors William Shakespeare	All Hallows Drama Society All Hallows Church Hall, Trent Boulevard, Nottingham 0115 9140689
Dec 8-11	Christmas Pantomime	Robin Hood Theatre , Averham 01636 892101
Dec 13-18	Vanity Fair Declan Donnellan	The Lace Market Theatre Trust Ltd 0115 9507201
Dec 16	Christmas Winter Tales Storytellers of Nottingham	Old Trip to Jerusalem, Nottingham 0115 9558054