

NANDA Newsletter



NANDA NEWSLETTER
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Extra! Extra! - Fame at last?!

Caught on Computer—"calling all Amateur Dramatic Societies".

"Wanted—Extras for Station shots at Loughborough, for a film about the life of Einstein. Ladies must have long hair (not dyed). If interested contact Production Manager providing vital statistics! Free Breakfast and Lunch, plus £60.

Loughborough Steam Train Station is often used in this way as well as housing Thomas the Tank Engine on special occasions. I applied and was accepted and told to report at 6 am on the appointed day wearing, as suggested thermals and two pairs of pants under my normal garb, of course!! I discovered that Roy Ainscough and Jim Shaw from Keyworth had also responded to the call—their hair apparently was also a suitable length!

On arrival I was pounced up by 'hair and make-up' and battle commenced. My hair was tweaked and rolled ready for combing out and arranging, around a hat, still to be chosen. These girls are all freelance and travel around with all their gear from film set to film set.

Costume then took over. My costume was waiting for me, neatly labelled with my name, and a dresser to help me fight my way into it—whalebones and all. My outfit was really splendid—grey and purple—with a lovely black lace cape.

That done, I was then escorted back to 'make-up' to be 'hatted-up' ready for the off. A black

Editors Note.....

What a busy action packed few months we have coming up. Thank god the days are much longer—else god knows how we'll fit all of this in. Oscars are on shelves, Bafta's are being polished and their owners still basking in the Press. Meanwhile, us at NANDA wait in anticipation for the outcome of our own awards. The suspense is killing! I'm off to my favourite high street designers to find that special girly number with something Red—very clever link to our favourite football club! We have to thank the members at West Bridgford

oval pillbox type hat with black veiling was perched at an angle on my head and my hair—now combed out—swept up at the sides around my hat. So securely was it all attached with pins and hairspray that I must have been the only one not to need touching-up so to speak! - during the long day.



Having been declared ready I realised that I had no handbag. I enquired of the Production Manager whether one was forthcoming. "Were you told by Costume, to carry one? No? - well then, no handbag!". Very strange, I thought privately, not one of the women 'extras' had been given a bag. At that moment the

Costume Manager appeared and demanded black bags! Good, I thought, someone is on the ball after all. Not a bit of it, - small plastic bin liners were produced—torn on three sides and placed around our necks as bibs. Thus arrayed, we all trailed across the train lines to breakfast. This was served using two double-decker buses as cafes and a third in which the food was prepared. Talk about the 'greasy spoon!' - Full English, if you could eat it!

We then re-assembled in the waiting room of the station, which had, as if by magic, become Berne (in Switzerland), with suitable posters and a new clock face.

The young Einstein was bidding a fond farewell to Mrs Einstein and son. We were split into

Dramatic Society for hosting this year's event and organising what looks to be a scrummy menu. Get your tables booked, your cheques in the Post and look forward to our own red carpet venue! May the best bask in the limelight and the others, cry in their tissues! ...Stop Press...Just back from the Youth Festival, what a fantastic weekend it was, brilliant performances and an electric atmosphere during the awards, they'll be more on that next issue! So much news and gossip for the next edition—Keep it all coming in, its great to share!

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <i>Extra! Extra!</i> | 1 |
| <i>Editors Note</i> | 1 |
| <i>Extra! Extra (cont)</i> | 2 |
| <i>Stanford Hall Update</i> | 2 |
| <i>Play of the Year Update</i> | 3 |
| <i>One Act Festival Update</i> | 3 |
| <i>Lacemarket Youth Grp</i> | 3 |
| <i>NANDA Profile</i> | 4 |
| <i>Spring Calendar</i> | 4 |

Dates for your diary

- Saturday 7th May 2005**
- One Act Festival**
- Robin Hood Theatre**
- Saturday 14th May 2005**
- Su Pollard Lunch**
- Comfort Hotel**
- Saturday 21st May 2005**
- One Act Play Area Final**
- Burton On Trent**
- Friday 24th June 2005**
- Play of the Year Dinner**
- Nottingham Forest**
- Football Club**

For postal contributions, please forward to:
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17 Towson Field, East Leake,
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newsletter@nanda.org.uk



NANDA News from the County

Extra! Extra! (cont. from page 1) By Francis Goodman Keyworth D.S.



groups and couples. My 'other half' and I were given some action! We had to push past Einstein as he was boarding the train, 'my husband' pushing me on first. How many ways are there to do this? You tell me. The first couple of times we completely upstaged the actors. It had to be re-arranged slightly in order for us not to become embroiled with Einstein's cases. "Wonderful" said the Assistant Director to us all. "Just one more time" and again, and again, eventually it was lunch time. I must say the food was excellent. Hot or cold, according to your needs.

The afternoon was much the same but moved on with the 'old' Einstein putting in an appearance. Different groupings of travellers and some individual work for those extras sent by an Agency. In particular, there were twin girls of about five or six who had travelled with their grandmother from Southport (or somewhere similar). They thoroughly enjoyed

their solo work with one of the other Agency extras. My afternoon consisted of emerging from the Stationmaster's office at a given signal from the Assistant Director and walking briskly along the platform. I was perished by this time and the fact that I had to walk away from a roaring fire in the office, did not help!

For me the lasting impression was one of admiration for the trouble taken with detail (apart from the missing handbags!). The infinite patience shown by cameramen and crew for clips that were about 5 minutes of actual film time. So if you blink, you may very well miss me!

This film about Einstein (to commemorate the 50th anniversary of this death) is I believe, appearing on TV around September or October. After Loughborough, the crew were travelling to Germany and America. I loved every minute of it and would do it all again!



Photographs by Jarrod Makin

Stanford Hall Theatre—Rempstone

You may perhaps know that this wonderful theatre is now closed - November 2004 - due to lapse in the electrical certificate (NICEIC) and consequently the theatre license. Extensive electrical work has been discovered amounting to £50k. The owner assures us that the work will be done. The theatre will reopen in due course. However we know that because the license was not renewed in February 2004 - any application should now be treated as entirely new to satisfy current standards. That will mean that all work on health and safety requirements will have to be done before the license can be granted.

I suppose someone should have told the owner not to overlook the license. But we were all assured that things were in hand and entirely in order. We were not certain of his position. We were glad to have the theatre at all. But with hindsight we now know that the license did expire in February 2004 and the electrical certificate in July 2003. Quite recently we have also discovered - with solicitor's advice - that the theatre hiring agreement is unworkable because the insurance conditions cannot be met by any of the users groups.

A previous application was withdrawn in the autumn. The latest news is that a new application for redevelopment of the estate with Hotel, Spa and choice residences is being prepared and is more likely to succeed. The theatre would be preserved in the new scheme and its use by local groups for public performances would continue. Under the new licensing regulations the theatre has to be properly run. The economics of running the theatre on present performance are problematic. It was only normally open for about ten weeks during the year on the then current level of bookings (£15K-£20K). It was better last

year - exceptional because of refurbishment of the Loughborough Theatre. Several more groups came to Stanford Hall on a temporary basis. But basically the theatre does not pay its way. A sound, convincing business plan is urgently needed. Thus a proper business could be created. The owners have said that they would favour the formation of a charitable trust body to run the theatre. Funding could gradually be found - providing that the right sort of trust body is to be formed.

A group of us has recently met and discussed the theatre with Rushcliffe Borough Council officers who are likely to deal with the new application. We are in touch with David Shaw - Conservation Officer and through him the Environmental Health and Building Control officers. We are told that a new application is likely to appear in about 2 months from now. So we must hope that English Heritage now view the application more favourably. The views of users and patrons of the theatre are welcomed by the Officers and if you have anything to say it is best done now during the preliminary stage. Of course you can write in to Rushcliffe now and also when the application is announced. Brian Woolley has recently been allowed to go in and play the organ; if not played it will suffer damage. Also the heating is being kept on sufficiently to heat the chambers and prevent condensation. This is good news because since November nobody has been allowed to enter the theatre- nor has communication with the owner been very good since Christmas due to his absences. Any one who is interested in this project for any reason is welcome to contact me - **Michael Dowdeswell. I am coordinating and distributing information. Telephone 0115 974 8666**

Don't forget all Newsletter profiles, letters and contributions should be sent to:
nanda@newsletter.org.uk

**Evening Post Contact:
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Play of the Year Update

by Joan Wildgust

Since my last report you have managed to double the number of entries to twelve. Not a bad start to my organising career! - but I'd like more next year.

The latest batch are as follows;

Scenes From a Separation by Andrew Bovell and Hannie Rayson
West Bridgford Dramatic Society

The Imaginary Invalid By Moliere
Keyworth Dramatic Society

Don't Dress For Dinner by Marc Camoletti
Burton Joyce Players

Play On by Rick Abbott
East Leake Amateur Players

September Tide by Daphne Du Maurier
West Bridgford Dramatic Society

Don't Dress For Dinner by Marc Camoletti
Bonnington Players

Please support them if you can. We welcome ELAPS for their debut in the competition and wish them well. I hope they will be joined by more new groups next year. I would also like to congratulate West Bridgford Dramatic Society for providing us with three entries. What a challenge to you all. If you have had the benefit of an adjudication please encourage others to have a go - it can be very enlightening and informative.

Unfortunately we had a second group who had to withdraw from the competition. In fact Solo Theatre Company had to cancel their April show due to ill health (see separate article).

Could I take this opportunity to remind all last years winners that trophies, cups, shields etc. should be returned to Joan at the latest by Friday 10th June.

Please ring 0115 9291077 to arrange a suitable time to deliver the trophy or to meet at a mutual venue.

I would like to say how much I have enjoyed being involved in the Play of The Year Competition and hope next year I will be more efficient and more available to meet more of you than I have this year. Thank you all and a big thank you to Pat Richards our adjudicator.

See you all at the dinner.

With Great Sadness

Nanda are sad to record the death of Jose Skinner a well known individual amongst us and a member of Solo Theatre Group. Our thoughts go to John and his family at this time. She will be greatly missed.

One Act Festival Update

To find our regional winner for the All England One Act Festival, we are holding our festival on May 7th. This will be held at Robin Hood Theatre, Newark.

Note for diaries for 2006!

Due to the dates of the All England One Act Area final next year, it is likely that our One Act Festival will be during March 2006. We'll keep you posted throughout the year!

A Grimm night at the Lacemarket by Douglas MacDonald

The title may have been Grimm but this was an extremely entertaining evening. Directed by Sarah Kerry this youth group production performed a selection of Grimm's tales with enthusiasm and feeling and reminded us all of childhood tales long forgotten. The key to the success was the simplicity of stage design together with imaginative lighting and realistic sound effects.

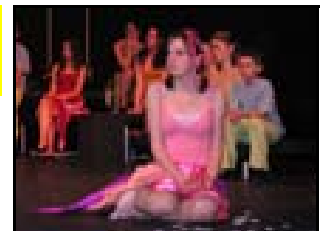
Grimm wrote stories rather than fairy tales based often on the darkest and deepest recesses of European culture with relevance to modern day society discussing such issues as vanity, greed and abuse. My own favourites were Hansel and Gretel,

Snow White and a clever adaptation of Cinderella.

This was Youth theatre at its best and with such fine actors as these the future looks bright for the Lacemarket.



The company from The Hare and The Hedgehog



Emily Shipman as Ashputtel



Ruth Walker & Tom Kendall as Hansel & Gretel



NANDA PROFILE—Joan Wildgust

Joan is currently a member of Nottingham Arts Theatre, having trained as a primary school teacher she taught in various schools until 1986 when she left and started a whole new career with Broxtowe Borough Council in Arts Museums and Tourism. It was the evening hobby turned into day job and for money too. Here Joan met lots of famous people and had “a wonderful time”.

What brought you into the field of amateur dramatics? I started in Sunday School pantomimes, then studied music at college. On leaving I then always belonged to a drama group or music society wherever I lived.

And from then to now what would be your most memorable part? Playing Solveig to Bobs Peer Gynt at the Co operative Arts Theatre as it was then. He died in my arms every night! We got engaged two months later and married the year after. A long time ago. **I love a great romance! what do you get up to during the day?** I am now retired and spend my time decorating, gardening (I have a greenhouse and grow tomatoes and bedding plants), DIY renovations both at home and at our caravan in Wales, sequence and ballroom dancing. I am

the Membership secretary for the Nottingham Arts Theatre and spend one day each week doing admin work at the Theatre. **Golly—and that’s retirement!** **Do you have a novel on the go at the moment?** I have just finished reading “Grumpy Old Women” by Holden, bought for Mothers Day by my daughter! What a funny book. I actually laughed out loud on occasions, although it was too close for comfort at times also. **Well, we just can’t believe you as a Grumpy Old Woman, you even write like you’re smiling all the time!** **What has been your biggest challenge?** Offstage I think it was completely re landscaping our garden when we retired. Onstage recently, it was learning all the complex music for Bernsteins Candide last year at the Arts Theatre. **And your happiest moment?** Getting married and having the girls (very ordinary). **And a rarity in this day and age! - Are you a true local?** I feel as if I belong to Nottingham as I have been here longer than anywhere else (I came in 1965) but I come from Stocksbridge 12 miles north of Sheffield in Yorkshire and spent 3 years at teacher training college at Bingley near Bradford. (Some people still recognise some familiar Yorkshire traits!!). **And what might they be I wonder?** **Back to am-dram —what part of theatre do you enjoy the most?** Of course I enjoy performing most although I don’t do much these days, but over the years I have done most backstage jobs as well. Not so good now with all this technology-----give me a reel to reel any day!! **What’s reel to reel?...What would be your aspirations?** To enjoy a long happy and useful retirement with the good health to keep doing all the interesting things we are doing and more. **Well, I’m certainly looking forward to my retirement it sounds great!** **What would be your advice to our NANDA readers?** Get involved in the theatre in any capacity. It is a safe club to join, you make many lifelong friends, have a lot of fun and sometimes find a husband (wife). **That’s great Joan, must put the bit about finding a husband or a wife on our audition posters (something tells me we’d get a lot more people auditioning...)**

You heard it hear first guys—“Amateur Theatre—beats Speed dating”!..If you’re single of course!

We’d all like to say a big Thank you Joan for all your hard work and encouragement you’ve put into Play of the Year 2005!

| | | |
|------------|--|---|
| May 11-14 | Straight and Narrow by Jimmy Chinn | Prospect Players, Bonington Theatre, 0115 9533523 |
| May 12-14 | Play On by Rick Abbott | Elaps, East Leake Village Hall, 01509 852364 |
| May 12-14 | September Tide by Daphne Du Maurier | West BridgfordDrm Soc., The Studio, W.Bridgford 0115 9813354 |
| May 16-21 | The Seagull by Anton Chekhov | Lace Market Theatre Trust Ltd, Lacemarket Theatre, 0115 9507201 |
| May 17-21 | Talking Heads by Alan Bennett | East Bridgford Drama Grp, East Bridgford Vill Hall, 01949 20682 |
| May 18-21 | Find the Lady by Michael Pertwee | Beeston Players, Roundhill School, Beeston, 01159 251515 |
| May 19-20 | Down on the Farm by Ivor Brown and A Night Out by Frank Vickery | Kegworth Players, Kegworth Village Hall, 01509 672886 |
| May 19-21 | September Tide by Daphne Du Maurier | West BridgfordDrm Soc., The Studio, W.Bridgford 0115 9813354 |
| May 22-23 | Evening of One Act Plays | People In Plays, Christchurch Vill. Hall, Nottm, 01623 882760 |
| May 23-28 | Funny about Love by Terence Frisby | Robin Hood Theatre, Averham, 01636 706097 |
| May 25-28 | Don’t Dress for Dinner by Marc Camoletti | Bonington Players, Bonington Theatre, Arnold, 0115 9531165 |
| June 7-11 | Dead of Night by Peter Whalley | Radcliffe on Trent Drama Grp, Grange Hall, R-O-T, 0115 9332568 |
| June 9-11 | Joseph and his Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat by Andrew Lloyd Webber | Dales Music and Drama Grp, Dales Church Hall, 0115 9401618 |
| June 13-15 | Happy Days at Puddle on Sea by Allen Tipton | Sunshine Theatre, Bonington Theatre, 0115 9267185 |
| June 20-25 | The York Realist by Peter Gill | Lace Market Theatre Trust Ltd, Lacemarket Theatre, 0115 9507201 |
| June 23-25 | Carpejugulum by Terry Pratchett adapted by Stephen Briggs | All Hallows D.S., All Hallows Church Hall, 0114 9140689 |
| July 4-9 | Hobsons Choice by Harold Brighouse | Robin Hood Theatre, Averham, 01636 706097 |
| July 7-9 | Couples by Bettine Mankelow | West BridgfordDrm Soc., The Studio, W.Bridgford 0115 9813354 |
| July 14-16 | Youth Group Beginners Please Showcase | Robin Hood Theatre, Averham, 01636 706097 |
| July 18-23 | Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are dead by Tom Stoppard | Lace Market Theatre Trust Ltd, Lacemarket Theatre, 0115 9507201 |
| Sept 1-3 | Hayfever by Noel Coward | Edwalton Church Drama Grp, Edwalton Vill. Hall 0115 9145535 |