



NANDA Newsletter



NANDA NEWSLETTER
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Ex-Bill star Colin Tarrant Invites you to lunch!!

It's not very often we get the chance to meet up with a star of every day TV, but ex-soapstar of the Bill, Colin Tarrant is donating his time and inviting you, our Nanda members to lunch!

Colin is starting his tour of "Old big 'Ead in the Spirit of the Man" by Stephen Lowe at the Nottingham Playhouse. The show dates are from the 17th May to the 10th June, with a charity gala performance on May 16th.

Colin has found time in his busy performance schedule to join us at the Comfort Hotel on Saturday 27th May from 12-2pm.

Colin studied English and Drama at Exeter University before joining the community theatre group Medium Fair, which was formed out of the drama department there. His most famous role was Inspector Monroe in The Bill; he's also appeared in The Rainbow (a BBC production). Recent theatre credits include: Through a Cloud (Arcola Theatre), The Man Who (Orange Tree Theatre), The Glee Club (Bush Theatre National Tour) Serjeant Musgrave's Dance (Oxford Stage National Tour) and Jack and the Beanstalk (Northcott, Exeter).



"Old big 'Ead in The Spirit of the Man" was a massive summer box office hit and starts off from the Playhouse as the beginning of a national tour.

Even after a transfer to the Other Side you can't keep a good manager down. So when playwright Jimmy is struggling to pull his new Robin Hood drama together, who better to step in but the late, great Brian Clough? In Stephen Lowe's heavenly hit comedy, Old Big 'Ead is back from beyond and larger than life. He's got advice for Jimmy and he's not slow to share it. The last thing Jimmy wants is a phantom football manager edging his way into the limelight. But in the afterlife of Brian, he's out to prove he's not just the greatest manager England never had, but the greatest stand-up comic too.

What a great double bill (!), watch Colin in action then join this great talent and interrogate him for once! All the details and pricing of this great date, will be coming your way. Be sure to book early to avoid any disappointments.

Welcome to the silly season for NANDA. It's that mad time of the year when loads of activities keep us really busy over the coming months. All of the hard work and efforts put in by directors, actors and stage hands come to fruition with the concluding awards and ceremonies for both seniors and juniors. It's a shame we didn't manage to put any groups forward for the All England Theatre Festival this Year, the dates will remain at similar times for 2007. So if you're planning next year's activity and wanting to include being part of the Festival let us know. If the dates don't suit, see the Nanda Festival that will continue in July! Don't forget that we are presenting

the Gurd Award for any person who has given outstanding contributions to local theatre. This can only be presented with your recommendations so get writing if you've someone in mind. Send us your nomination and the reasons why. This award will be presented at the next annual awards ceremony. On a sad note, we say goodbye to Solo Theatre who have had to disband. John Skinner still has some lighting and stage effects available, call him on 01623 629781. The Summer Calendar looks a little leaner this year—what are you all up to? Hope the amateur productions aren't dwindling and that you're not all "acted out"! Have a great summer!. Ed!

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Dates for the diary

May 5/6th

Youth Festival

Dukeries Theatre

May 27th

Nanda Luncheon

Comfort Hotel

Nottingham

June 16th 2006

NANDA Dinner

Cotgrave Golf Club

July 7th 2006

Nanda One Act Festival

Grange Hall

Radcliffe On Trent



NANDA News from the County

Strictly the last tango in Little Grimley

Whilst trawling the websites for useful material I found the following publication for all you budding playwrights!

Getting It On

By **Tim Fountain**

How to write a play and get it staged

A practical manual for playwrights, tracing the journey from the first idea to the first night.

Tim Fountain both teaches playwriting and is a playwright himself as well as being the literary manager at the Bush Theatre in London.

Available from **Nick Hern Books**

www.nickhernbooks.co.uk

The venue for this comedy by David Tristram was the splendid new Grange Hall in Radcliffe on Trent and our hosts were Radcliffe on Trent Drama Group. The plot concerns a struggling amateur dramatic group playing to dwindling audiences so the chairman suggest that "sex sells tickets" and hence we have a fast moving farce with rapid costume changes and fairly racy lines.

This creates plays within the play providing the actors with even more challenging roles. Finally the group are confronted by a rival group arriving in the same location and they do their best to sabotage this groups first performance. The play is light and frothy and judging by audience reaction was enjoyed by the entire capacity of the theatre. The



actors did fantastically well in their roles. David Darby as the bossy frustrated chairman/director Gordon was excellent and equally Stan Harbidge as sceptical set builder Bernard provided hilarious moments—I wonder if he is still eating his bananas? Joyce whose dream was

to star in a musical was played by Pam Thompson while Tina Warrington portrayed the prim snobbish Margaret with just a hint of naughtiness. Lucy Glynn played the overtly sexy Kylie and Kourosh Eliyon was the mischievous alert teenager who enjoyed teasing the "wrinklies". The part of Mrs Pimm was ably played by Carole Stafford. The play was produced by Christine Harbidge and excellently directed by John Jones .

Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony

This year's dinner is being held at the very attractive venue of Cotgrave Place Golf Club, on Friday 16th June, 7pm for 7:30 start. Part of the traditional fun of this annual event lies in accessorising to a theme, and this year you are invited to present your own interpretation of "Musicals". The price is £20 per person which covers the usual three-course dinner,

entertainment, and the annual excitement of the awards presentation. And a gentle reminder that, under Rule 10, every group entering for the competition must have at least one representative attending the dinner.

Letters of invitation will be sent out within the next few weeks and a good turnout is anticipated.

Nanda One Act Play Festival

July 7th 2006

(not to be confused with Nanda's 9th Playwriting Competition which is also 7th BUT in 2007)

The venue is booked, the adjudicator is waiting and all we need are your entries. Closing date is May 31st 2006.

This is to be held at Grange Hall, Radcliffe On Trent on Friday 7th July 2006 from 6pm onwards. Details of this event have been recently received by your secretaries.

This year our adjudicator will be Gordon Parsons—many of you may know him! He adjudicated our Play of the Year Competition a couple of years ago.

All England One Act Festival

Failure to secure entries for the All England One Act Play Festival scheduled in March meant that this event was cancelled at the last minute and we feel that after feedback gained it is clear that many of you would still like to participate with our local festival reverting back to the June/July dates.

We hope your group will make this event successful. So "come on down" and join in the fun!! Gordon is waiting to be impressed!

Please contact Peter Stimson on 01623 882 760 or email newsletter@nanda.org.uk. Just to keep you informed the remaining All England Festival Dates are:

Area Final—May 13th—Mill Theatre Sedgely
English Final—June 10th—The Courtyard Theatre, Hereford
British Final—June 30th/July 1st—Perth, Scotland

9th Playwriting Competition

07.07.07

**The Grange Hall
Radcliffe On Trent**

One Act Plays and sketches

All enquiries to
Maggie Andrew on
0115 8590507

Or
maggie.andrew@ntlworld.com

Adjudicator Barry Heath
(Me Mam Sez)

Closing Date 31.12.06
Full details out soon



Play of the Year—Adjudication Discussions

It has been brought to the attention of the NANDA committee from one of our groups to have a re-think on the current adjudication process employed within the Play of the Year Competition.

This competition originated in the early 1960's as a result of a proposal made by Albert Hunter who had recently been appointed Honorary secretary of NANDA. His proposal envisaged a panel of adjudicators visiting the venues of member groups and selecting a winning play which was then to be performed centrally in Nottingham. This was a very ambitious scheme but it did operate albeit with problems for a couple of years. There were difficulties in bringing together the same panel members to witness all of the entries.

What is involved in adjudication? Well, amongst other things

- I) Choice of Play: writers aim and why did ABC Players put this play on?
 - II) The setting, scenery used, lighting effects.
 - III) Interpretation and style of production.
 - IV) Placing of props and furniture and movement of characters, creation of pictures, mood atmosphere, relationships
 - V) The performance of individual actors their movement, line delivery, character portrayal
 - VI) The effect the play has had on the audience and the impact of the whole piece on those who have paid to see it.
- Having identified one or more people to deliver

all this we then require them to:

Read the play. Know the playwright. Attend a performance. Write an appraisal which will be honest but must not undermine the confidence and aspirations of those subjecting themselves to adjudication. Allocate marks. Attend the award giving ceremony. Make a speech. Award Prizes.

It's a daunting list of duties particularly since there might be 12 or more entries. Using a panel of adjudicators requires that they shall agree common assessment criteria, be discreet (no disclosing of disagreements amongst the team).

This is not a decision that is to be taken lightly it's a very important decision that involves input from all of our NANDA members and most importantly those involved in Play of the Year. We have to remind ourselves that the Play of the Year competition also aims to improve the standards of performance in competing groups. Without this feature it's nothing more than a "pot hunting" exercise.

After an initial discussion the council has agreed to consider how it might get feedback from participating groups on the adjudicators comments. The council also proposes to invite one or more adjudicators to the next AGM to exchange views with competing groups on the principal features of adjudication. More details to follow soon...

Play of the Year Update...

This is your very last chance to enter this year. You have about 2 or 3 days to enter the Play of the Year Competition. Shows being performed up to the 3rd June are eligible so if you have not already done so get in touch and send in your entry form. We have 11 entries so far from 9 societies. Can I remind all trophy winners from last year that they must return the trophies to me (Joan) by Monday 29th May. If you have any difficulties please get in touch so that we can make some arrangements rather than leave it too late. Looking forward to seeing you all at the dinner in June, so until then, best wishes and best of luck to you all.....Joan

Storytellers of Nottingham

Imagine being in England's oldest pub surrounded by caves and caverns with the cosy ambience of candlelight and listening to many tales about the characters who had lived there in the past and indeed still come alive in the midnight darkness of night. The setting was the upper small room of "The trip to Jerusalem" which was filled to capacity.

The group under the inspiration of Pete Davis was formed five years ago and the storytellers were Pete Davis, David Brailsford, Rob Braisby, Gabriella Stenson, Brian Coates, Allison Davis and Trina Fitzwilliam-Howard.

A Storytelling Workshop on May 20th is being run at Queens Walk Community Centre from 10.00 to 16.00 at a cost of £10, which includes lunch. The workshop is a chance for anyone who wishes to try their hand at storytelling. The course aims to give you the confidence to speak in public and increase your assertiveness. It will

teach all elements of storytelling including performance techniques, memorising stories, speaking clearly and how to handle nerves. The group are going from strength to strength so go along and have an enjoyable evening, ring Pete Davis on 0115 9558054.

For Newsletter articles, thoughts and contributions, please forward to:
Hayley Masom,
17 Towson Field,
East Leake, Leics,
LE12 6RY
(all photos returned)
Or email articles to:
newsletter@nanda.org.





NANDA PROFILE—Neil Makintosh

You may recognise the name and maybe the face, Neil is the NANDA treasurer and has the pretty awesome task of not just balancing the books but explaining our each and every financial move to a very interested committee. Neil is not just treasurer for NANDA but also The Orchard Theatre Company which he joined in 1990! Whilst Orchard is his main group, he has just finished playing Jackie Jackson in Terence Rattigan's "The Deep Blue Sea" for Greasley Players. Here's a little more about our favourite numbers man!

What brought you into the world of amateur dramatics? I made my debut as writer/actor/director playing a doctor in a hospital comedy at Beechdale Primary School in 1960. Following further childhood performances, recording radio style programmes and amateur film and video making I finally arrived on the adult amateur stage in 1987 with Stapleford Players in the role of Earnest Jowett in Duncan Greenwood's "Cat among the Pigeons". **Wow so much done so early on what was your most memorable role?** I'd like to say roles, I love playing well known characters. The best known would be Jacob Marley in A Christmas Carol which I played him as a ghost and then again 8 minutes later at the Fezziwig party, I still have memories of the Brillo pad used to remove the green makeup! I also enjoyed Algernon Moncrieff in The Importance of Being Earnest which I have done twice, particularly in view of the fact that certain people doubted my ability to do it. **Hmm I think the Brillo Pad incident would have put me off for life! And your most memorable disaster?** The Duchess Theatre burning down! **Yes a disaster shared by many others. OK, lets have some positive thinking now, if you had a massive budget to produce anything, with any actors what would it be?** Definitely Alan Ayckbourn's "Just Between Ourselves" though I would want to play the lead as well as produce/direct. Professional casting would be Jane Horrocks as my stage wife "Vera" quite apart from believing that she would be superb in the part, I have followed her career all along and having seen her for real in the programme "who do you think you are", I know what a lovely person she is. (Besides, Lancashire people are my favourite!), To complete, I'd have Stephen Tompkinson, Sian Reeves and Patricia Routledge. **And if you could have lunch with any celebrity would it be Jane Horrocks?** No, I'd go for Victoria Wood, because we think alike! **Another Lancashire lass then, what would you say has been your happiest moment?** In 2002 my self-written play "Words of love" won the adjudicators special award for achievements in writing/acting/producing. I also had an admirable leading lady. My finest hour—well, 40 minutes, anyway. **You refer to acting/writing/producing and directing but which part of the theatre do you enjoy the most?** I have done just about every job you can do, and although I enjoy the writing, there is no thrill like that of acting, creating characters and communicating them to the audience. **And what would you enjoy least?** Auditioning for a part and not getting it... **At least you're honest, if you could give us some advice what would it be?** Do any job in drama that you are asked to do. It is important to understand the needs of the other people around you. From a group point of view, attempt anything that takes your fancy, however limited your resources might be. You will find that there is an answer to every problem!! **Great advice! Readers take note!! So, if you were elected Prime Minister what would you do?** Having played the Prime Minister (The right honorable George Venables, PM) in "Pardon me, Prime Minister", I discovered how easy the job seemed to be! Actually owing to my major interest in railways, my views on politics head towards the transport policies. The government are trying to rid our roads of cars and not lorries, when we have had a purpose made network of transport for freight via the railways and canals. Incidentally it has always been a source of amusement to me that for a little time Glenda Jackson (Actress turned MP) was put in charge of shipping! **What do you do for a living?** I drive a van around the county. **I'm sure you'd much rather be driving a train eh Neil? With all that travelling do you have a favourite part of the country?** Sheringham in Norfolk. It has everything that I need; Railways (both Heritage & National) a large bookshop, traditional board game shop, chip shop used by Hugh Grant (!) and the Little Theatre used by the amateur company out of season and a touring rep company in the summer. **Well, thanks for that top tip for our UK breaks Neil, very informative, Hugh Grant gets everywhere doesn't he?!**

Summer Calendar

May 5-6	Nanda Youth Festival	Dukeries in Ollerton, Jean Lebeter, 01623 863614
May 11-13	Rumours by Neil Simon	East Leake Amateur Players, East Leake Village Hall, 01509 852364
May 11-13	One Act Plays—Café Style	Kegworth Players, Kegworth Village Hall, 01509 672886
May 13-14	Charlie & the Chocolate Factory by R Dahl	Dales Music & Drama Grp, Dales Church Hall, 0115 9401618
May 15-20	Knight of the Burning Pestle by Beaumont and Fletcher	Lace Market Theatre Trust Ltd, Lacemarket Theatre, 0115 9507201
May 15-20	Dead Reckoning by Eric Chappell	Robin Hood Theatre, Averham, 01636 706097
May 17-20	The Curious Savage by John Patrick	Beeston Players, Roundhill School, Beeston, 0115 9251515
May 18-20, 25-27	Marking Time by Michael Snelgrove	West Bridgford Dramatic Soc, The Studio, W. Bridgford, 01159813354
May 23-27	Dangerous Corner by JB Priestley	Radcliffe on Trent Drama Grp, Grange Hall, R-O-T, 0115 9332568
June 1-3	Pygmalion by GB Shaw	Edwalton Church Drama Grp, Edwalton Village Hall, 0115 9145535
June 12-17	Evening of One Act Plays	Keyworth Dramatic Soc., Keyworth Village Hall, 0115 9372796
June 16	Nanda End of Season Dinner & Awards	Cotgrave Golf Club,
June 19-24	Lulu by Frank Wedekind	Lace Market Theatre Trust Ltd, Lacemarket Theatre, 0115 9507201
June 21-24	High Hopes by J Beavis & A Haw	Dales Music & Drama Grp, Dales Church Hall, 0115 9401618
June	TBC	Wollaton Drama Group, Sheila Russell Comm. Centre, 0115 9280189
July 3-8	Fathers Day by Eric Chappell	Robin Hood Theatre, Averham, 01636 706097
July 7th	Nanda One Act Festival	Grange Hall, Radcliffe on Trent, Peter Stimson, 01623 882 760
July 14-16	The Voyage of the Dawn Treader by CS Lewis	All Hallows Drama Group, All Hallows Church Hall, 0115 9140689
July 17-22	Power by Nick Dear	Lace Market Theatre Trust Ltd, Lacemarket Theatre, 0115 9507201
July 19-21	Encore	Robin Hood Theatre Youth Theatre, Averham, 01636 706097
July 25-29	Who Killed Agatha Christie by Tudor Gates	East Bridgford Village Hall, 01949 20682