

NANDA Newsletter



NANDA NEWSLETTER
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Nanda Youth Festival—Lacemarket steals the show!

The Lacemarket Youth Theatre Group certainly stole the show at the Youth Festival this year, picking up 5 out of the 8 awards on offer. A stunning performance for the cast of Midsummer Nights Dream who were truly deserving of their awards. Well done to everyone who took part, once again it was a high energy event with oodles of excitement the air was high on adrenalin and certainly quite warm inside Ollerton Theatre as the outside basked in sunshine. It was another successful festival and is certainly going from strength to strength. To facilitate the interest from other groups and to bring this event to a more convenient location in the centre of the county, Nanda are currently seeking

additional funding to hire a larger venue. There are many groups amongst us, who have been suffering with dwindling members and some have been forced to close their doors due to lack of new blood. By promoting and championing more Youth Theatre in our county we are investing in the future of our own theatre groups. The quality and standard of the plays and actors in our Youth Festival is superb and where some may go on to bigger and better things, we must be optimistic that many of these youngsters will become the backbone of our current societies, and open our arms to their development.

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Reg Drury Cup—Best Overall Play
Lacemarket Youth Theatre—A Midsummer Nights Dream
Arcade Drama Cup—Festival Runner Up
Lacemarket Youth Theatre—Ruckus in the Garden
Fox Trophy—Best Actor
Michael Radford (Lacemarket Theatre)—Demetrius in A Midsummer Nights Dream
Fox Trophy—Best Actress
Sammy Schofield (Lacemarket Theatre) - Helena in A Midsummer Nights Dream
June Barker Trophy for Entertainment
Upstage—Harry Rings Lord of the Potters
Dan Shaw Award—Adjudicators Discretion
Tom Kendall (Lacemarket Theatre) - Bottom in a Midsummer Nights Dream
Junior Shield—Best Actor Under 12
Gethin Williams (Ravenshead Theatre Grp) - Cowherd in The Spiring of Burd Ellen
Junior Shield—Best Actress Under 12
Ellie Thomas (Ravenshead Theatre Grp) - Childe Rowland in The Spiring of Burd Ellen

Ellie Thomas



Sammy Schofield



Michael Radford



Tom Kendall



Upstage win Best Entertainment



Cast of Ruckus In The Garden



Cast of Midsummer Nights Dream

Dates for the diary

NANDA AGM

January 18th 2009

LaceMarket Theatre

**NANDA Youth Festival
FESTIVAL 2009**

Dates TBC

**NANDA PLAY OF THE
YEAR DINNER 2009**

Friday 19 June 2009

Cotgrave Place Golf Club



NANDA News from the County

Nanda One Act Open Festival 2008

...Stop Press...
After careful consideration and, on feedback of your views at the Open Forum Meeting. The Nanda One Act Festival will not be in the calendar for 2009. A sub-committee of nanda members has been employed to look at this in more detail for the 2010 NANDA calendar.

Friday 6th and Saturday 7th June 2008 saw the battle of the two non-member groups in the NANDA One-Act Festival, held as last year in the Devonshire Studio, Chatsworth Centre, Long Eaton. Dronfield Players and Avesbury Crickets from Leicester were the two who did the honours—for Dronfield it was the first time they had come to the Festival. Malcolm



James Clarke, Gita Bhatt, David Manning & Carol Mullins

Wilson, our adjudicator, was his usual ebullient self, and everyone absorbed his comments. I thank them all, as I do, also,

John Griffiths and Mike Stewart for providing Technical Stage Management, and especially our chairman Joan Wildgust who presented the awards. Oh Yes! The author of the winning play "The Fox" Tim Kenny, was in the audience—it was the first time that he had seen it performed.

Blaby Group Shield for Best Use of Stage
 Avesbury Crickets set of "The Macbeth Interview"
Leslie Orton Trophy for Adjudicators Special Award
 Dronfield Players Youth Section for "Bad Reception"
John Barker Trophy for Best Supporting Actor/Actress
 David Manning (Dronfield Players) as the Policeman in "The Fox"
Gladys Brookes Award for Achievement for Best Newcomer
 Stephanie Waddoups (Dronfield Players, Youth Section) as Kayleigh in "Bad Reception"
Muriel Radford Barnes Trophy for Best Actress
 Gita Bhatt (Avesbury Crickets) for Evan in "The Macbeth Interview" and Mother in "Bitter Cold"
William Marrow Rosebowl for Best Actor
 Paul Black (Dronfield Players) as Old Man in "The Fox"
Constance Radford Casket for Best Director
 Carol Mullins (Dronfield Players) for "The Fox"
Margaret Guildford Trophy for Best Overall Play
 Dronfield Players "The Fox"

A Special 70th Birthday!

It is with great pleasure and a fair amount of pride, that the Arcade Players (Long Eaton) announce the celebration of the group's 70th birthday.

The manner in which the group was founded, and its history is a matter of general knowledge, as it was fully covered in our 50th and 60th celebration publications and also NANDA newsletters.

We are aware that there are groups who were formed prior to 1938, but for one reason or another (perhaps the war years) have had a break in their performing years. This didn't happen with Arcade Players and we are extremely fortunate in that the last 70 years have been a **continuously** performing period. To date over 210 productions have been mounted plus active involvement in the popular Drama Festivals of the late 40's and 50's.

Like many groups we have had our share of ups and downs; fluctuating audiences : finding alternative performance venues : not enough men ('what's new' I hear) etc.

Our biggest down, was the loss of the Duchess Theatre in Long Eaton. Not only had the Duchess been our home for 18 years (and 53 productions), but a lot of the continued improvements to the facilities, had been carried out by Arcade Player members. Only groups such as Robin Hood can really appreciate how we felt.

The move to St. Johns Church Hall, about a mile and half away from The Duchess, brought a new set of concerns. The main one being

would our audience be prepared to cross the town centre to see us ? We find that we now have a new mix of audience, many of our traditionally loyal patrons plus new visitors, and local residents. Our productions are now limited to a 3 night run, but still manage an audience of over 450.

The hall of the Chatsworth Centre, is known as the Devonshire Studio, (Nandas' one act festival venue) and delightfully equipped, particularly for 'in the round'.

So perhaps one of the groups 'ups' was performing 'Anyone for Murder' in the Studio, and 'in the round', a first time experience for the Arcade Players. We loved it! and the capacity audiences loved the intimacy. So.. we repeated the experience later by performing 'Summer End'. Regrettably due to illness Mr. Eric Chappel the author, wasn't able to attend.

The Arcade Players are performing 2 more productions in the Studio during our celebration season. It will mean a 5 night run each to accommodate our audience, but as any actor knows, 'it's always over too quickly'.

Whilst we finalise our plans to celebrate our past, we are always aware of the small, but constant trickle of talent which continue to swell our ranks. It is this which gives us the confidence to invest: plan; and look forward to the future.

So ! Happy Birthday Arcade Players and here's looking to the next 70 years



The Good, The Bad and the Ugly By Ian Carr

The 2007-08 NANDA season was both diverse in the talents it provided yet wanting in the talents it failed to provide i.e. those who chose not to enter thus diluting the competition.

What was clearly evident is that Nottinghamshire has a depth of talent in every department; unfortunately not all talents were always on display at the same time and the same place, to some concern. The Good would be the acting talent on display. Every group visited had acting talent of some worth on stage and the majority of groups had a goodly share of talented stock on display, The Memory of Water positively shone with talent and it was duly recognised as such with the most coveted award.

The Bad would be the attention to detail that let the acting down. There were badly dressed sets, poorly finished sets, some incredibly bad make up and some pretty iffy costumes. If the acting is sublime in every department then you can forgive some minor attention to detail but if the acting is not as good then everything else comes under the microscope and can be found wanting.

The Ugly would be the decisions made many months before when choosing the play. The

golden rule of choosing should be a business decision and not ruled by the heart, does the play meet the needs of (a) the audience (b) the stock of actors (c) the facilities in which it is to be played. If the play can't meet those criteria then you should reconsider. Failure to meet those needs will alienate your audience and your cast and put a large hole in your bank balance.

My four recommendations would be:

1. Choose your play against the criteria and if you can't cast it, don't do it.
2. Consider the complexity of your set, if you don't have the talent to design and build then either buy it in or keep it simple.
3. Look at the age/era the play is set and costume it accordingly. If you don't have members who can design and sew then don't take chances, hire it.
4. Make up is a skill and modern lighting systems can be very unforgiving. Avoid overkill, check as early as possible or at least at dress and tone it down.



Dave Cochran & Michelene Harris from West Bridgford Dramatic Society



Keyworth Dramatic Society for Best Set Design



Greasley Players for Best Presentation



Joanna Fussey (Burton Joyce)



Keith Benedict (Elaps)

Play of the Year Results

Newark Advertising Shield—Best All Round Play

West Bridgford Dramatic Society for The Memory of Water

Pat Johnson Trophy—Producer of the Year

Beryl Hoyle (West Bridgford Dramatic Society) for The Memory of Water

Harry Penson Trophy—Actor of the Year

Dave Cochran (West Bridgford Dramatic Society) for Mike in Dinner

Jose Cooke Award—Actress of the Year

Michelene Harris (West Bridgford Dramatic Society) for Teresa in The Memory of Water

Dan Shaw Trophy—Actor/Actress in a Supporting Role

Keith Benedict (East Leake Amateur Players) for Dr Bonney in It Runs in the Family

Sidney Hopkin Trophy—Best Newcomer to Adult Stage

Joanna Fussey (Burton Joyce Players) for Eve in Holiday Snap

Belper Cup—Adjudicators Special Award

West Bridgford Dramatic Society—For a Body of Work in One Season

Lallie McLaughlan Trophy—Best Presentation

Greasley Players for No Sex Please We're British

Oxley Trophy - Best Costumes

Bonington Players for Jekyll and Hyde

Huthwaite Stafford Leese Award—Set Design

Keyworth Dramatic Society for Blythe Spirit

Peter & Joan Martin Award for Front of House

Ravenshead Theatre Group for Murdered to Death

Well Done to West Bridgford for the stunning results this year!



Kath Ready, President of the Radcliffe-On-Trent Drama Group, died peacefully on Friday 25th April. Kath was a remarkable, lovely lady who remained incredibly active until shortly before her death. She had been involved in another drama group in the village in 1938 and was actively involved in our group since the day she joined in 1957 until earlier this year. She only stepped down from the role of Secretary in May 2001 and at the AGM that year the whole group supported the proposal to honour Kath with the title of President. Kath was an ever-present figure in the group's activities, initially in performance, behind the scenes, as secretary, then taking charge of front of house before becoming president—a total span of 70 years involvement with drama in Radcliffe-On-Trent.. In recent years, she was the driving force behind the planning and construction of Grange Hall at Radcliffe. A large congregation attended a very moving Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's Church where many people paid tribute to Kath's qualities and all that she achieved in 93 years, she will be sadly missed.

Autumn/Winter Calendar

| | | |
|------------|---|---|
| Sept 17-20 | Judith by Howard Barker | Lace Market Theatre, Halifax Place, Nottingham, 0115 9507201 |
| Oct 6-11 | Improbable Fiction by Alan Ayckbourn | Lace Market Theatre, Halifax Place, Nottingham, 0115 9507201 |
| Oct 17-19 | Escape to Ragnarok Mountain by David Baret | All Hallows Dramatic Soc., All Hallows Church Hall, 0115 9140689 |
| Oct 15-18 | Witness by Prosecution by Agatha Christie | Bonington Players, Bonington Theatre, Arnold, 01159 208006 |
| Nov 1-8 | A Midsummer Nights Dream by William Shakespeare | Nottingham Arts Theatre, Nottingham City Centre, 0115 9476096 |
| Nov 3-8 | The Rover by Aphra Behn | Lace Market Theatre, Halifax Place, Nottingham, 0115 9507201 |
| Nov 11-15 | Separate Tables by Terence Rattigan | Radcliffe on Trent Drama Group, Grange Hall, R-O-T, 0115 9332906 |
| Nov 13-15 | Breath of Spring by Peter Cope | Arcade Players, St Johns Church Hall, Long Eaton, 0115 9460489 |
| Nov 13-15 | 2 One Act Plays by Alan Ayckbourn | Kegworth Players, Kegworth Village Hall, 01509 672886 |
| Nov 19-22 | Miss Julie by August Strindberg | Lace Market Theatre, Halifax Place, Nottingham, 0115 9507201 |
| Nov 20-22 | The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde | Greasley Players, Greasley Parish Hall, 01159 389705 |
| Nov 25-29 | Night Must Fall by Emyln Williams | West Bridgford D.S., The Studio, Stamford Rd, W.Bridgford 07832 108443 |
| Nov 26-29 | Role Play by Alan Ayckbourn | Kegworth Players, Grange Hall, Radcliffe-On-Trent, 0115 9372796 |
| Dec 4-6 | Jack & The Beanstalk by Gill Bowness | East Leake Amateur Players, East Leake Village Hall, 01509 852364 |
| Dec 6-14 | Jack and The Beanstalk by Peter Denyer | Nottingham Arts Theatre, Nottingham City Centre, 0115 9476096 |
| Dec 8-13 | A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens | Lace Market Theatre, Halifax Place, Nottingham, 0115 9507201 |
| Jan 12-17 | Arsenic and Old Lace by Joseph Kesseling | Nottingham Arts Theatre, Nottingham City Centre, 0115 9476096 |
| Jan 14-17 | The Shape of Things by Neil Labute | Lace Market Theatre, Halifax Place, Nottingham, 0115 9507201 |
| Jan 18-24 | The Government Inspector by Nicolai Gogol | Bonington Players, Bonington Theatre, Arnold, 0115 9208006 |

Nanda Profile—Valerie Christian



Meet Valerie Christian one of our Vice-Presidents and a major contributor to the Nanda Council and festivals of the years past. Its good to know a little more about our past leaders, after all, experience makes us the wisest of all! So, we sent Valerie our finest list of "getting to know you" interview questions :

"My first ventures onto the stage were in school and church plays. I went on to become a Local Government Officer and in the County Education Office, met Dan Shaw, one of the founders of NANDA, then County Drama Advisor. On marriage we moved to Bramcote and helped to found the Bramcote Hills Drama Group, mainly doing props but gradually undertaking other tasks, finally becoming wardrobe mistress. Acting was a favourite activity, but in a small group one has to tackle any job from producing to making the interval coffee. I enjoyed playing Maria in "When We Are Married" and produced "Hayfever" amongst others. A highlight of 1984 was winning the Actress of the Year Award. Another memorable moment was portraying Queen Victoria in the NANDA 50th Anniversary Celebrations

Music Hall at Nottingham Playhouse.

I became Secretary of NANDA in 1985 and served for 13 years until ill health intervened. I then took on the local group which finally evolved into Orchard Theatre Company performing at the Duchess Theatre in Long Eaton until it was destroyed by fire. Despite difficulties, principally lack of women and young members, the group has kept going and our last play "Neville's Island" (men only) goes on in November. Half a dozen of us "oldies" still meet for readings. I have christened us "The Windfalls".

A little Advice! Remember a cast is a team. Everyone is equally important. And DICTION "Don't forget the deaf old man in the back row" (words of wisdom from kitty scopes).

And those favourites, well, my favourite play is always the last one I've seen. Favourite Actors would be Su Pollard (who I met at a NANDA luncheon) for being the friendliest and most natural in the flesh. I admire Prunella Scales for her versatility and recommend Peter Barkworth's Book "About Acting". My favourite film is "On Golden Pond" with Katherine Hepburn and Henry Fonda.

I never wanted to be a professional. I always thought amateur had the best of both worlds. **Oh absolutely Valerie, absolutely.**