

# NANDA Newsletter



NANDA NEWSLETTER  
[Http://www.nanda.org.uk](http://www.nanda.org.uk)

Volume 6, Issue 1

January 2009

## Nanda Workshops

At the Open Forum run for NANDA members in July those who attended said they would like to have workshops organised to help individuals learn new skills or hone those they already had. The committee began working on the plans to make this happen at the very next meeting and following on from this we now have two workshops planned for the early part of this year. All the workshops will be 'hands on' and interactive in nature lead by volunteers, with particular expertise in the chosen topic, from a NANDA group. By the time you read this all individual members of NANDA groups should have received a copy of a letter giving you the chance to take part in the first workshop (the invitations are being sent to Chairmen and Secretaries of each group to be forwarded to all members).

We will try out two approaches and seek your views on which you prefer for the future; one option is to hold a single topic workshop on one evening and the other idea is to run a twin topic workshop on a Sunday. In the latter approach, the delegates would be split into two groups and each workshop would consist of 2 one hour sessions in the morning with a coffee break then after lunch, the two groups would swap over for the afternoon and cover the alternate topic.

The first workshop will cover one topic, 'Voice Coaching' e.g. voice projection, how to breathe properly, protecting your voice, etc. This will be held at The Studio Theatre, Stamford Road, West Bridgford on the evening of the 20th January 2009 starting at 7.30pm and will last approximately 1½ hours. The charge for this is £5.00 per person.

The second will be a twin topic workshop with one topic being Make-up and the other Costume. The 'Make-up' topic would cover the whole spectrum of make-up from the

basics, through specific needs such as ageing up an actor and special effects such as creation of animal faces or monsters etc., etc. The costume workshop aims to involve participants in considering the entire process of costuming a specific play. Starting with the working relationship with director/producer the group will then discuss, and engage in practical exercises in areas such as research/inspiration in designing original costumes, hiring/borrowing/scavenging materials and costumes, and the practical problems of making and fitting within a limited time frame and fixed budget. This 'twin topic' workshop will be on Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup> 2009 at the Lace Market Theatre and will run from 10.00am to 3.00pm to cover both topics. A small charge will be made for attendance at these workshops to cover expenses.

We have selected experienced workshop leaders for all three topics and are confident that all who choose to attend will gain from the experience.

### Next Steps:

All groups will be sent correspondence, including application forms to enable those who are interested to apply. Because of the nature of these workshops numbers will be limited so we urge group chairmen and secretaries to look out for this correspondence and ensure that it is communicated to their individual members promptly. We look forward to seeing you at the first workshop in January.

We plan to run more of these workshops later in the year and would be delighted to hear from any member who has a suggestion for a future workshop and of course from anyone who would be keen to lead such a workshop.

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### Dates for the diary

#### NANDA AGM

January 18th 2009

LaceMarket Theatre

7pm

#### NANDA Youth Festival FESTIVAL 2009

Dates TBC

#### NANDA PLAY OF THE YEAR DINNER 2009

Friday 19 June 2009

Cotgrave Place Golf Club

## Editors Notes...

When I have small column space its great—not because I don't write anything but it means the tool of the newsletter is doing its job. This is a bumper edition with lots of news and the committee is certainly making it happen for us. Our apologies if

its not out at the start of the year, we held back for valuable copy to be circulated. It would be great to have any more of your ideas and feedback, we look forward to seeing you all at the AGM.....ED x



## NANDA News from the County

### NANDA Website—An Update [www.nanda.org.uk](http://www.nanda.org.uk)

*Thanks for your feedback to our website questionnaire. You may wonder what we are doing with the website, well here's the news so far from our webmaster Mike Stewart...*

The Website used to live in my free Tiscali web space but that was a bit limited (and small) as, for the techies, it didn't allow SSLs or CGI's., these are bits of programming that let you read from a list of winners or performances/ calendar and duplicate repetitive output, like the menu on every page. It's still free where I have moved it to, apart from a tenner every two years to register the website name which was still required with Tiscali.

However, we are limited by overall traffic, by how much everybody downloads. Currently, while many people don't know about it, we are running at nearly half our limit, the next stage being twenty or thirty pounds a year. Pictures and Newsletters are the significant downloads and if we wish to put many more of these on

the site, or a high usage item like a notice board or blog, we will have to move up a stage.

Jon Jones and myself are looking at where the website goes from here.

It is by intent that you will not find personal postal or email addresses on the site (unless I make a mistake copying the minutes), these are available, to members only, on the annual printout, or from circulated emails. There are, on the Contact Us page, email redirects to Secretary, Newsletter, Calendar and Web secretary, others could be added.

The Members, Relationships and Links pages give access to our members' websites (where I know of them), local and national amateur and theatrical websites, and other useful connections like publishers, play writing advice and theatrical history.

If you know of other websites that would be of interest to our members let me know. If there are ideas you have then please forward them directly to me.

### Youth Festival Update

We are still awaiting confirmation of the NANDA Youth Festival Dates. We had delayed booking due to trying to obtain sponsorship and funding. However, having sent out numerous letters to Nottinghamshire based companies we haven't had much success. I guess this shouldn't surprise us at a time when a lot of businesses are reporting reduced profits, redundancies and major pulling in of belts I guess our timing was bad. If we gained sponsorship we could have booked a bigger venue, maybe more central to Nottingham and created a larger festival. This is a hot topic right now so keep tuned to your emails we'll send you the dates and venue as soon as we have them.

### We've a new Member in Town

Scott Taylor is a 'Nottingham born and bred' type of writer with a penchant for tangential dialogue. His short comedy – 'Sticks and Stones' – was shown at Clerkenwell Theatre, London in May this year. It received excellent feedback and garnered a lot of laughs, which was great for his ego. It's set entirely on London Underground trains and turns random, off-the-wall thoughts into conversations.

As well as writing comedy sketches, Scott has a full length script minutes from completion which he'd love to see staged in his native Nottingham. It's a traditional romantic comedy of prostitution and cyberstalking, and he's more than willing to share and discuss with interested groups or directors.

After graduating down south in 1998, Scott wrote (but mainly made tea for the more experienced staff) at Fortean Times and Bizarre magazines. He also managed at Starbucks, but

was sacked for two counts of storing and selling out-of-date chocolate brownies (a shameful and unforgivable act in the coffee retail world).

Disgraced, he then traveled around the global block, teaching English in Siberia, Kurdish Turkey and Italy, but is now based full-time in Nottingham.

Scott hates bigotry, violence and weak cordial. His favorite possession is a rejection letter from Fiesta, a soft porn magazine. He loves all types of cinema and TV (Peep Show, Seinfeld, Heroes, Spaced, Curb Your Enthusiasm, Alan Partridge, Ideal, The Smoking Room) and is currently doing a course in cinematic scriptwriting. Scott's interested in writing for all media, and is waiting to hear about a very short film script he's pitched.

You can get hold of Scott by emailing [scotttaylor@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:scotttaylor@hotmail.co.uk). He's always looking for projects (particularly comedic) to get involved with, so don't be shy.



Willmore (left) makes plans with his fellow cavaliers

### The Rover performed by Lace Market Theatre

The Rover was written by Aphra Behn in 1667 and it is a popular Restoration Comedy with some serious undertones. It has all the elements of such a period play - witty dialogue mistaken identity and sexual intrigue. The women are to some extent sexually exploited but have a remarkable portrayal of assertiveness and good humour and some are in essence very feisty.

The production has a large cast of sixteen players and is set among the Cavalier exiles in Naples in 1655. Initially it takes time to grasp all the identities of the characters and the plots are fairly complex. The "rover" of the play is Willmore a rake and naval captain and may be based on Charles II who was a friend of Behn and who also enjoyed a private showing of the first production.

Basically there are three major plots. Willmore falls in love with Hellena who is being threatened by her brother to be sent to a convent unless she marries the man of his choosing. Complications arise when Angellica a famous courtesan

falls in love with Willmore and consequently seeks revenge on him for his betrayal. In another plot Hellena's sister Florinda attempts to marry her true love Belvile rather than the man her brother has selected.

The third major plot concerns the provincial Blunt who is convinced that he is in love with a woman who later humiliates him by being both a prostitute and a thief. The play ably directed by Jane Herring moves on at a fair pace throughout and it was thoroughly enjoyed by a packed audience.

Good performances from all the cast and particularly from some of the major characters - Oliver Hewett as Willmore, Rowena Croston as Hellena, Holly Gillanders as Florinda and Stephanie Collyer as the rejected but feisty Angellica.

Phil McGough induced comedy by his portrayal of the hapless Blunt.



## What's to become of the One Act Festival?

In light of our poorly attended One Act Festival in 2008, a separate sub committee was asked to look into the future of this as a festival for NANDA. The following is the first set of findings from the newly formed One Act Committee. The One Act Play provides a rich source of entertainment and a valuable learning ground particularly for member Societies to experiment both in terms of the types of performance and the development of new and younger talent. Given recognition of these factors alone it was thought NANDA should continue to maintain the One Act Festival as part of its portfolio.

It is believed that NANDA as well as looking for support for the One Act Festival from existing Societies should also extend its reach to embrace the large number of Societies in Nottinghamshire and the neighbouring Counties. Moreover it is thought that the catchments could also be extended to engage local adult education colleges.

It's felt that there is a need for a substantial marketing programme to be formulated and delivered in early 2009. Key targets were defined as promotions to **all** Societies in Nottinghamshire, the release of a series of articles for press, radio and television and individual presentations to a range of interested parties and supporters. The development of a new dynamic marketing campaign is thought essential as the absence of a substantive campaign in recent years maybe partly the cause of current problems. There appeared consensus that there was a need for a new venue to be sought with extensive facilities and status to deliver a major Festival. Several potential venues have already been explored with costings and

dates/booking representing an early priority. These early soundings have revealed every possibility of an attractive new venue being located at reasonable cost. There was need to recognise that if an event of the scale envisaged were to take place together with an associated marketing and administrative plan it is felt unlikely that the Budget would be under £1000, the recovery of which would in the first instance be by way of application for available grants and secondly by reference to ticket sales.

(E.g. if 8 groups took part; the final awards evening would be packed as is the usual practice achieved by the Youth Festival.) It was also thought desirable that the event should be linked to the All England Theatre Festival which in 2010 is to celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with the National Finals being held at nearby Burton on Trent. In the past such linkage has proved difficult to achieve but NANDA lack of involvement is considered regrettable particularly given the very high standards achieved and the major All England Festival planned for 2010.

Given the above consultations we remain convinced that NANDA should continue with the One Act Play Festival and that Bob Wildgust be authorised to proceed with the convening of an early meeting in the New Year of the Sub Committee to define the full details of a proposed working plan for the delivery of the 2010 Festival for presentation to the Executive Committee.

## Sponsorship East Midlands Airport

We all at times need help buying new curtains, Stage Extension, Lights and other equipment. So, its worth everyone knowing that there is a method of sponsorship for capital acquisitions via East Midlands Airport. Nanda couldn't obtain Youth Festival funding as they operate a policy of assisting finance of a tangible item and not an event. But if you wish to pursue this with them you'll find their forms downloadable from their website under the community section.

**Best of luck**

## 'The Pocket Guide to Musicals' by Maureen Hughes

If you are in love with plays, musicals and theatre as a whole, or if you love literature then these three books, the first of which is now on the shelves, are just for you.

Maureen is currently Head of Musical Theatre at Laine Theatre Arts and has herself written eight musicals which have played both here, including one at The Dominion Theatre in the West End of London, and in the United States.

***The Pocket Guide to Musicals – August 2008*** (foreword: Richard Jordan)

***The Pocket Guide to Plays and Playwrights – Feb 2009*** (foreword: Michael Billington)



### ***The Pocket Guide to Classical Literature – Summer 2009***

A handy book with lots of fascinating facts about musicals ranging from who wrote what to short synopses of musicals and short biogs on the writers; want to know where a song came from, or from what source the musical originated, then look no further than this useful book. Find out which musical later became a film and vice versa and discover the history of musicals too. Lots of information for everyone from amateur to professional, student to tutor – this book is for you.



Spring Calendar

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 21-24	Government Inspector by Nikolai Gogol	Bonington Players, Bonington Theatre, Arnold, 01159 208006
Jan 28-31	Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs	Burton Joyce Players, Village Hall, Burton Joyce, 0115 9312399
Feb 9-14	Lady Winderemere's Fan by Oscar Wilde	Lace Market Theatre, Halifax Place, Nottingham, 0115 9507201
Feb 9-14	Les Miserables School Edition Youth Production	Nottingham Arts Theatre, Nottingham City Centre, 0115 9476096
Feb 11-14	Taking Sides by Ronald Harwood	Prospect Players, Bonington Theatre, Arnold, 01159 560733
Feb 24-28	Flatspin by Alan Ayckbourn	West Bridgford D.S., The Studio, Stamford Rd, W.Bridgford 07960992196
Feb 26-28	Abigail's Party by Mike Leigh	Blaby Players, Blaby Social Centre, Blaby, 01162 771157
Mar 3-7	Busybody by Jack Popplewell	Radcliffe on Trent Drama Group, Grange Hall, R-O-T, 0115 9332906
Mar 4-7	Three One Act Comedies Albert by Richard Harris, After Magritte by Tom Stoppard and Bride or Groom? By Bill Cashmore and Andy Powrie	Lace Market Theatre, Halifax Place, Nottingham, 0115 9507201
Mar 26-28	House Guest by Francis Durbridge	Keyworth Players, Grange Hall, Radcliffe-On-Trent, 0115 9372796
April 1-4	Much Ado About Nothing by William Shakespeare	Lace Market Youth Theatre, Halifax Place, Nottingham, 0115 9507201
April 20-25	The Graduate adapted by Terry Johnson	Nottingham Arts Theatre, Nottingham City Centre, 0115 9476096
April 22-25	Popcorn by Ben Elton	Bonington Players, Bonington Theatre, Arnold, 0115 9208006
April 23-25	Slaughterhouse by Norman Robbins	Burton Joyce Players, Village Hall, Burton Joyce, 0115 9312399
May 4-9	M Butterfly by David Henry Hwang	Lace Market Theatre, Halifax Place, Nottingham, 0115 9507201
May 11-16	Bare Foot In The Park by Neil Simon	Nottingham Arts Theatre, Nottingham City Centre, 0115 9476096
May 14-16	Blinded By The Light by Gill Bowness	East Leake Amateur Players, East Leake Village Hall, 01509 852364
May 19-23	The Master Builder by Henrik Ibsen	West Bridgford D.S., The Studio, Stamford Rd, W.Bridgford 07960992196

Nanda Profile—Hayley Masom



*It pays to go to the Nanda committee meetings, because if don't you get volunteered for all sorts, I missed the October meeting and find myself being profiled this quarter.*

Hayley Masom, chairman of East Leake Amateur Players (ELAPs) joined NANDA in 2004 after attending the Forum of that year, and undertook the editorship of the NANDA newsletter in 2005. Since then, as a result of her enthusiastic work as a member of the Council she has become widely known, respected and loved within the Association (*no I didn't write this bit!*). Her bubbly, outgoing personality hides a formidable determination to "get things done" and she is relentless at chasing deadlines, as contributors to this newsletter will readily verify! Hayley first showed an interest in acting when, as a small child, she wrote and performed plays to entertain her own family. Her first leading role (age 10ish) was as Joseph in a Sunday School nativity play, as there was a lack of boys then too. Her first major role at school was Ratty in Toad of Toad Hall. And last season, Hayley was slapping the thigh and climbing the beanstalk in the ELAPs production of Jack and the Beanstalk.

**So what do you most enjoy about amateur theatre, Hayley?** A passion for entertaining and giving people that Feel Good factor, whether it's treading the boards or directing. It really boosted my confidence early on in life and I believe that it can do this for other people too (and not necessarily just the actors). It's a fun, fab club which can develop the greatest of friendships. It's also a great place to socialise with different people from different backgrounds and different ages. In what other club do 12 year olds mix and work together with 60 year olds? **And how would you like to see it develop?** It's not a case of development - more like continue to keep it going. With so many groups folding, it would be a great shame if generations beyond us didn't have the pleasure of being part of, or watching, local shows. So we have to continue our family trees (so to speak) by breeding new blood and keeping people interested, our youngsters interest and involvement should be promoted as much as possible. **What was your most interesting part?** Probably Pinocchio—hang on aren't all these roles boys roles so far? I have a tendency to bring out my characters at home in the run up to any show. So, for a couple of weeks my husband Steve lived with a squeaky-voiced boy who walked around the house like a very stiff puppet. He is now trying to find me a part as a nubile maiden apparently!!! **And your most embarrassing moment?** : Playing Violet Imbry in Play On. We had Edwardian costumes and, being smaller in the upper regions, I had to pad out the top. I'd popped a couple of jelly fillets down my bra (that's why I get a lot of boys parts). At the point where I had a little snuggle on a sofa with the character Billy I felt one of the fillets slip out of my bra. I spent the next five minutes on stage willing this thing to stay in my dress and not fall on the floor. Thankfully it stayed. **Where are your roots?** Newport Pagnell, not the service station, there is a town that resides behind it and that's not Milton Keynes either (I am in fact older than Milton Keynes). I came up to the Midlands to be with my hubby Steve, he is from Arnold originally. **How did you get involved in Elaps?** When I first moved up I missed everything about home, my family, friends, it felt like I didn't belong. About nine months after moving up I joined the newly formed group—Elaps! Now I have loads of friends and have no intention of moving down South and Elaps really is a great family to be part of.

*That's very good news for all of us, Hayley!...article penned by my good friend (I'll get you later) Madeline Lord!*

**For contributions contact Hayley at 17 Towson Field, East Leake, Leics, LE12 6RY or newsletter@nanda.org.uk**