



NANDA Newsletter

March 2013

Editor *Howard Whitehurst*

www.nanda.org.uk

Email newsletter@nanda.org.uk



Time flies and everybody will be over half way through their season by now. Amateur theatre continues to thrive in the county despite the challenges facing us.

This Newsletter updates you on the state of the Bonington and Stanford Hall theatres and reports on NANDA's festivals along with notes about child protection and theatre archives, amongst other items. The question is also posed as to why so few groups are availing themselves of NANDA's Facebook page.

Bonington Theatre, Arnold

Work begins this month on a £250,000 investment in the Bonington Theatre to enhance the theatre experience for patrons. New seating is being installed and there will be some improvements to the sound and lighting systems. Additionally, the theatre lobby and bar are being completely refurbished with new seating, carpets, lighting and wall decoration. For performers there is going to be some minor refurbishment of the dressing rooms. A second phase, details of which have not yet been finalised, is likely to include improvements at reception for theatre access and possibly some additional dressing room facilities.

Stanford Hall Theatre

The Stanford Hall Users Group has recorded its objections to the appropriate planning authorities, regarding the current proposals to convert Stanford Hall to a services rehabilitation unit, as it believes that not enough is being done to protect the art deco theatre within the building and that access to users would be restricted. A petition has already attracted over 1300 signatures to save the Stanford Hall Theatre in its entirety and there have been articles in the local and national press. Should you wish to sign the petition, you will find a link on the NANDA Facebook page.

Play of the Year Competition 2012-2013 and Annual Awards Dinner

So far nine entries have been received, from eight groups, and at least four more are in the pipeline.

If you would like to know a little more about the competition, and what you need to do to enter, then please contact the competition organiser, Joan Wildgust, on 0115 9291077. Rules of the competition can be found on our website.

The adjudicator this season is Stephen Godward, a character actor, semi-professional singer and former Head of Drama at a Derbyshire school. He is very much enjoying the season so far.

The Annual Awards Dinner this year will be held at the Welbeck Hotel in Nottingham on 21st June.

NANDA One Act Play Festival

Regrettably this year's festival, due to be held on Friday and Saturday 1st and 2nd March at the Bonington Theatre, had to be cancelled because of a lack of entries. Although Bob Wildgust, the organiser, had indications that five or six groups would enter, these entries did not materialise. The one group which did enter, Keyworth Dramatic Society, will now be entering the Leicestershire competition and will go through to the regional quarter final in May as the Nottinghamshire representative.

NANDA Youth Festival

Invitations have now been sent out for entries into the Youth Festival which Sonya Oates and Jean Lebeter are again organising.

The Festival will again be held at the Chilwell Olympia Theatre at Chilwell School, Nottingham, on the evening of Friday 10th May and the afternoon and evening of Saturday 11th May. Should there be insufficient entries for three sessions, all performances will take place on the Saturday so please make sure your cast is available for both dates.

The adjudicator will be Gordon Parsons, a well known local director and drama practitioner. He has directed for the Robin Hood Theatre Company, the Lace Market Theatre and for the Arts Theatre Nottingham. Gordon has twice before been adjudicator for the NANDA 'Play of the Year', and is very much looking forward to being involved with the Youth Theatre Festival.

Child Protection

Does your group work with children or young people?

Do you want to make sure that the children you work with are safe from harm?

Are you confused about the recent changes in safeguarding laws?

We all want to make sure that the young people who get involved in our groups enjoy what they do and are kept safe from harm and inappropriate behaviour from adults. Voluntary Arts England has prepared a very helpful five page briefing on the changes to the safeguarding law and how this might impact on your group. For more information click on the link below or copy and paste it into your browser address bar.

http://cdn.e2ma.net/userdata/36994/assets/docs/child_ptotection_briefing.pdf

Theatre Luncheon

Last week NANDA hosted a theatre luncheon at the Cast Restaurant, Nottingham Playhouse, when the Playhouse artistic director, Giles Croft, was our guest of honour. Giles started his career as a playwright and then worked as literary manager at the National. In 1985 he was appointed Artistic Director of the Gate Theatre, London, and after a spell at the Palace Theatre, Watford, he was appointed to Nottingham in 1999.

Giles gave an entertaining and enlightening talk about his career and about his work at the Playhouse and his philosophy on directing. This was followed by a lively and interactive discussion covering many aspects of the theatre and the arts in general.



The Gurd Award

Mention was made of this in the last newsletter. Pat and Maurice Gurd established a fund in 1990 to make a monetary award each year to someone who the Council recognises for their contribution to the theatre as a true amateur, someone who genuinely contributes out of a love of the theatre, seeking to attract no personal glory nor public acclamation, but taking satisfaction from a personal sense of achievement. Groups are reminded that nominations are invited for the Council to consider making the award this year and which would be presented at the Annual Awards Dinner.

Facebook

Our new Facebook page has been up and running for about six months. There are now four member groups using it on a regular basis. The more groups and individual members who sign up will mean that news is posted to a much wider audience. We hope that this will become a major medium for groups to post news, photographs, and notices and posters about forthcoming productions. FB has accepted that NANDA is an official acronym so all you need to do to sign up, as a group or individual, is to enter **NANDA** in the search box and up we will come. We already have a number of groups and individuals who have joined so please make sure that you are not missing out.

In order for groups and their individual members to receive our newsfeed they simply need to click the "Like" button. Please feel free to post photos of your productions from time to time.

If your group is not making use of this valuable promotional medium, why not?

The Dan Shaw Theatre Archive

Recent negotiations with the Nottinghamshire Archives have opened up the opportunity for member groups to lodge files of their group's photographs in the Dan Shaw Archive.

The erstwhile County Drama Adviser, Dan Shaw, funded the establishment of a dedicated archive in the Nottinghamshire County Archive Offices in Canal Street, in order to preserve the records of community theatre groups within the County. Some groups and NANDA itself have already lodged their records and these can be viewed by interested parties. With the increased use of electronic communication, the Council hopes that groups will, from time to time, present their operational records for inclusion in this archive file rather than storing them all in lofts and garages until they are forgotten.

The Archive Office will be pleased to receive and catalogue minutes, programmes, financial statements, constitutions and photographs and provide your group with a list of what is submitted. Everything deposited still remains the property of the lodging group and will be available for reference if needed. Please do not wait until some former secretary leaves and all records are lost. Please parcel up these records and offer them for retention in this unique archive file.

Dates for Your Diary

For details of venues, times and ticket purchase please visit each individual group's website.

March	11-16	"The Winslow Boy"	Lace Market Theatre
April	11-13	"Silly Cow"	Dukeries Theatre Company
April	17-20	"Habeas Corpus"	Robin Hood Theatre at the Grove School, Newark

April	24-27	“Hi De Hi”	Bonington Players, Arnold
May	24-27	“The Taming of the Shrew”	Lace Market Theatre
	13-18	“Women of Troy”	Lace Market Theatre
	14-18	“Ghost Writer”	West Bridgford Dramatic Society
	15-18	“Neville's Island”	Prospect Players, Arnold
	15-18	“Bedroom Farce”	Beeston Players
	16-18	An Evening of One Act Plays	ELAPS
May 29 - June 1		“Five Kinds of Silence”	Lace Market Theatre
May 30 - June 1		“Ladies’ Day”	Orchard Theatre Company, Long Eaton
June	24-29	“The Female of the Species”	Lace Market Theatre
July	2-6	“Confusions”	West Bridgford Dramatic Society
	22-27	“Kiss Me Kate”	Lace Market Theatre
Nov	7-9	“An Inspector Calls”	Orchard Theatre Company, Long Eaton

Next Newsletter *Contributions and diary dates by the end of April for the May Newsletter please.*



**FOLLOW US
ON FACEBOOK**

Type in “NANDA” in the Facebook searchbox.