



APRIL 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Hi Everyone

I am sure like me the warmer weather cannot come fast enough for you. So much wind and rain this Winter, I have never known it so bad. My heart goes out to all those people whose homes have been flooded. It must be really devastating.

Bearing in mind how the weather affects us all, we tried to bring a little light relief with our 24 Hour Musical, "Pirates of Penzance" in February. How amazing they all were! Just 24 hours to put on this tremendous show. Well done to everyone involved especially the director, Kate Bennett.

April brought us "Stones in his Pockets" - just two actors playing a total of 15 characters. Harry Rippon and Jamie Potts worked extremely hard to achieve this and I know from the feedback I received it was well worth the effort. Many congratulations to them both.

In rehearsal at the moment is another two hander "Trestle" (27th May/ 1st June) - see below for further details of this and all our other forthcoming productions this year.

Hope to see you all at our next production.

Best wishes
Dawn

FORTHCOMING PLAYS & EVENTS

TRESTLE	27th to 1st June 2024
SURPLUS WOMEN	17th to 24th August 2024 (Sat - Sat) @ 12 noon
CIDER WITH ROSIE	17th to 24th August 2024 (Sat - Sat)
THE SUSPICIONS OF MR WHICHER	21st to 26th October 2024

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

'An actor without techies is a naked person standing in the dark trying to emote. A techie without actors is a person with marketable skills.'- Mark Leslie

FOR BOOKINGS VISIT OUR WEBSITE arundelplayers.co.uk or RING THE BOX OFFICE 07523 417926



FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

Hot on the heels of *'Stones in his Pockets'*, rehearsals have just started for our May production, *'Trestle'* by Stewart Pringle, winner of the 2017 Papatango New Writing Prize. This is a bittersweet comic drama about later life, love and community. Harry and Denise meet by chance at the village hall. They are both of a certain age. For Harry, life is beginning to tick down, his autumn years spent quietly caring for the community he loves. Denise thinks life begins in retirement and she's dancing like she's still at high school. The play is directed by Richard Greenhorn, a long-standing member of the Players.

Our Festival 2024 production is the much loved *'Cider with Rosie'* by Laurie Lee. This charming autobiographical play with music charts Lee's early years growing up in a Gloucestershire village after the First World War. This is an ensemble piece and we welcome to the stage no fewer than 14 actors, many of them new to the Players. Following her very successful production of *'Kindertransport'* last year, Gill Lambourn is very much looking forward to directing this beautiful and very challenging play in the Arundel Festival at the end of August.

Continuing the series, *'Short Cuts at the Priory'*, our one act play in the Arundel Festival this year will be *'Surplus Women'*, written by Stuart Smithers and directed by Helen Harries-Rees. The play is a 'shared monologue' and follows the trials and tribulations of a First World War widow. This is once again presented in collaboration with Drip Action's Theatre Trail.

Next up we have our October production, *'The Suspicions of Mr Whicher'* adapted for the stage by Alexandra Wood, from the book by Kate Summerscale. Auditions will be held on 15th May and full details appear in the Audition Notice set out below. For this her debut production with the Players, we welcome a very experienced director, Yasmin Nixon, who will be looking for eight or more actors to bring this intriguing Victorian murder mystery to life. The available parts vary in size and complexity so why not come along and try your hand. Yasmin is keen to nurture new talent!

CALLING ALL DIRECTORS...

We are now inviting submissions for our 2025 season. If you have a play or plays you would like to put forward for consideration, please contact our Artistic Director, Stuart Smithers - sws57@hotmail.co.uk

STOP PRESS ...

... for the first time in many a long year, we have a pantomime planned for December. Still in the planning stage, further details will follow, so WATCH THIS SPACE!

UP IN NEON ...

...Difficult to miss, but in case you haven't noticed we have a new sign adjacent to the box office and highly visible through the windows of the theatre. How many times have we heard people say 'I didn't even know the theatre was there'? Well now the word

THEATRE

is emblazoned in red neon lights for all to see, so we're making our presence felt and no mistake!

FOR BOOKINGS VISIT OUR WEBSITE arundelplayers.co.uk or RING THE BOX OFFICE 07523 417926



AUDITION NOTICE

THE SUSPICIONS OF MR WHICHER

(adapted for the stage by Alexandra Wood)

Directed by Yasmin Nixon

Audition Date: **WEDNESDAY 15th MAY AT 7.00 PM.**

Performance Dates: **21st – 26th October 2024**

It is the Summer of 1860 and in the outside privy of an elegant country house the dead body of a small boy is found, strangled and stabbed. Shockingly, clues point to the murderer being a member of his well to do family.

Celebrated detective Jonathan Whicher from Scotland Yard is called to investigate but this case challenges him in ways he never expected.

20 years later, still haunted by the case and on the eve of his retirement, Whicher visits the murderer and as they replay the past the terrible truth is revealed.

The Suspicions of Mr Whicher is an adaptation of the 2008 novel by Kate Summerscale; it was also made into a TV mini-series, airing in 2013/14.

There is a cast of 20 plus characters: Maids, a cook, a Policeman, a Governess, a Vicar and even a nun!

Rehearsals will begin in late August / September 2024 and rehearsal evenings will vary according to cast availability.

In the original stage production of 2023, eight actors (4m and 4f) told this intriguing story, many playing different age ranges – from 15 to 60. There are some lovely character parts with plenty of opportunity for drama and intrigue. Parts are also adaptable to accommodate a smaller or larger cast and there are opportunities for anyone new to acting who would like a small part.

Two characters, one male (Jonathan Whicher) - approximately 50-60) and one female (Constance who is in her late 30s but reenacts scenes as a young girl and a young woman), remain the same throughout the play.

If you would like to see a script, or are unable to come to the audition, please email yasmin.nixon@me.com.

Yasmin will let you have a script/arrange an alternative date for audition.

Yasmin looks forward to seeing you all at the audition which is open to all whether or not you are an existing member of the Players.

FOR BOOKINGS VISIT OUR WEBSITE arundelplayers.co.uk or RING THE BOX OFFICE 07523 417926