



theplayhousecompany.org.uk

Based at CHELTENHAM PLAYHOUSE, BATH ROAD, CHELTENHAM, GL53 7HG



## **NEWSLETTER** **December 2015**

# Merry Christmas

### **COMING NOW**

## **Extraordinary General Meeting** **Thursday 7 January 2016, 7.30pm** **Joan Cross Lounge**

The Playhouse Company Committee have arranged this EGM in order to gain agreement from the membership, in principle, to the following proposals:

1. To change the wording of Playhouse Company Constitution:

**From** "OBJECTS 2. The objects of the Society shall be the study and performance of dramatic works and musical and theatre productions, and for charitable and philanthropic purposes generally. The Society shall also actively support the Playhouse Theatre by encouraging its membership to become members of the Playhouse Theatre Cheltenham (PTC).

**To** "OBJECTIVES 2. The objectives of the **Company** shall be the study and performance of dramatic works and musical and theatre productions, and for charitable and philanthropic purposes generally. The **Company** shall also actively support the **Cheltenham Playhouse** by ensuring that its members are also members of the **Cheltenham Playhouse**.

And where the word 'Society' appears, to change to the word to '**Company**', throughout the document.

2. That the Playhouse Company amalgamate with The Deep End Theatre Company, to form one Resident Amateur Company of the Cheltenham Playhouse, thereafter named 'The Playhouse Company'.

**You will need to be a member of the Playhouse Company in order to attend this meeting.**

By merging with Deep End, we will be pooling resources instead of competing for an ever-decreasing number of members, and skilled people. As well as continuing to put on Main Stage productions, we have always been keen to promote experimental performances in the Green Room, allowing members to 'cut their teeth' so to speak, in various areas; but, we are struggling to achieve this due to lack of capacity; by merging with Deep End, we essentially get the best of both worlds.

## **THE DEEP BLUE SEA** **11 to 14 November 2015**

**Huge thanks to Mike Charlton and his talented Cast and Crew for bringing to the stage a production which was both sensitive and powerful.**

*The Echo Review is on the last page of this Newsletter.*

## COMING NEXT

# THE FINAL TEST

by Chris Paling Directed by Elizabeth Maisey

Production Dates: 17 – 25 June 2016



Reading: Thursday 4 February 2016, 7.30pm

Auditions: Tues 9 & Thurs 11 February 2016 7.30pm

Rehearsals will start after Easter 2016

### Characters:

Peter (60s/70s) Ruth, his wife (55/65)

Ray (up to mid-30s) Susan, his wife (up to mid-30s)

Minor male roles: Policeman & Man

*More details to come in our January 2016 Newsletter*

If you need further information, please email the Director:

[liz.maisey@gmail.com](mailto:liz.maisey@gmail.com)

## COMING SOON

# Old Time Music Hall

4 -12 March 2016 Devised by Dave Wheeler

Rehearsals are progressing very well, though Dave could still do with a **Production Secretary**; so please, if there is anyone who would be prepared to help Dave out, email

[davidwheeler7@virginmedia.com](mailto:davidwheeler7@virginmedia.com)

## FUTURE PRODUCTIONS

# THE CRUCIBLE



By Arthur Miller

Directed by Simon Young

November 2016

and announcing... **WE WILL ROCK YOU**



The Musical by Queen & Ben Elton

Directed by Ann Wessen-Munn

March 2017

## Membership update

Welcome to returning members: **Adam Wright, Glenn Burns & Gary Lines**

## Committee update

*Marie Jagers and Lee Chappell will be leaving Cheltenham in the New Year to move to London. We will be really sorry to lose them from our committee – they have been extremely hard working and a real asset to our Company.*

***We thank them both very much, and wish them all the best in their new venture***

## DEEP BLUE SEA ECHO REVIEW – November 2015

Terence Rattigan's sombre play is a tale of early 1950s folk suffering from psychological meltdown in post-war Britain, an era of re-adjustment, disillusionment and desperation, and when attitudes towards divorce and suicide differed markedly from those of today.

In suburban London, beleaguered artist Hester Collyer tries unsuccessfully to take her own life. As her marriage to a high court judge crumbles irretrievably, she seeks solace in the arms of a fractious ex-Spitfire pilot, whose initial infatuation has long since cooled, and she is never going to make a decent living from her paltry paintings. Her world grows ever darker, but she forms an unlikely kinship with an affable, but discredited, doctor, a German refugee whose concern for her is genuine.

Under the sensitive direction of Mike Charlton, Terrence Rattigan's powerful period play is absorbing. It is carried off impressively by the eight-strong cast whose skills were compounded by the kind of splendid lounge set that has become a hallmark of many Playhouse productions over recent years. Shirley Burgess captured all the unpretentious charm of homely housemaid Mrs. Elton, Adam Wright and Sophie Flowers provided stability as supportive neighbours Mr. & Mrs. Welch, and it is a pity we didn't see more of Toby Shergold as punchbag counsellor Jackie Jackson. Glenn Burns afforded Sir William Collyer considerable warmth and dignity, still hopeful of rekindling his relationship with Hester, and I particularly enjoyed Phil Ward's endearing performance of compassionate former medic Mr. Miller. All rise, however, for Gary Lines, who brilliantly ran the full gamut of emotions as the troubled RAF veteran Freddie Page, and for leading lady Jo Price, who played anguished Hester with such tremendous conviction, it was easy to forget that she was working from a script. Her cut-glass diction was especially commendable.

The sum total was a thoroughly engaging and very English piece of theatre, appropriately topped and tailed on this Remembrance Day by the National Anthem and Elgar's *Nimrod*, with the mournful theme from *Schindler's List* also granted an airing. In the greater scheme of things, it was also further indisputable evidence of the top quality entertainment regularly on display at Cheltenham Playhouse.

**Simon Lewis**