



 The Playhouse Company Cheltenham

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theplayhousecompany.org.uk

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

NEWSLETTER November 2016

COMING NOW



**PRODUCTION
DATES:
3rd – 11th
March 2017**

A Doll's House

by Henrik Ibsen

directed by **Gwenefer Roskilly**

A Doll's House, this classic play from Ibsen (first performed in 1879), chimes with the debt-laden times we are currently experiencing and poses still-pressing questions about male-female relations in marriage. Nora, a banker's wife is brought to the precipice of an impossible choice one crisis-wracked Christmas: does she stay stuck in a half-life of submission to her husband, or leave to "find herself", thereby abandoning her children?

We look forward to seeing you at the auditions:

AUDITIONS:

**Tues 22 & Wed 23 November 2016
7.30pm, Cheltenham Playhouse Green Room**

CHARACTERS:

Nora Helmer: wife of Torvald, mother of three children

Torvald: newly-promoted Bank Manager

Dr Rank: family friend, terminally ill, and secretly in love with Nora

Kristine Linde: old school-friend of Nora, widowed and looking for employment

Nils Krogstad: employee at Torvald's bank, single father, desperate

Anne: Maid to the Torvald family, and Nora's former nanny.

If you want any further information, please email Gwen: gwenefer@gmail.com



**Directed by
Lloyd Spencer**

**4th – 12th
November 2016**

Thank you to Lloyd and his wonderful cast and crew for their hard work in producing an intriguing and memorable show for the Company.

The show received a very good review, which is included at the end of this Newsletter.

The audiences for this production were small, but appreciative.

COMING NEXT

Calling all Directors for June 2017

**Actual Theatre Hire
dates: 11 – 23 June**

A number of our productions have been financial losses over the past year. To try and remedy this, your committee would like to identify a play for June 2017 which will have a broader audience appeal.

We would very much like to do a stage-play of a popular TV Comedy, such as The Vicar of Dibley or 'Allo 'Allo.

***Our Chair, John Morgan, would be delighted to hear from you, if this is the sort of show you would be interested in directing for us.
Please get in touch.***

Email: jpatersonm@googlemail.com

Mob: 07789 814486

Home Tel: 01242 245765

Your Committee

*We are sorry to be losing Lauren Barnes from the committee -
Lauren is stepping down due to work commitments.*

*Lauren has been an essential part of the Publicity Team for the past two years, organising the printing of programmes, posters and banners, and many other key tasks.
We will miss her very much, and would like to say a great big*



Chair & Production Admin John Morgan	Publicity Manager Lloyd Spencer	Newsletter & Communications Carol Meredith
Treasurer Cliff Cocks	Publicity Sophie Flowers	FOH Co-Ordinator Myra Billinghamurst
Secretary Phil Ward	Membership Jan Uzzell	Production Liaison Mary Peterson

Our next Committee Meeting is Wednesday 14 December 2016

MAURITIUS

**The Playhouse Company
The Playhouse Theatre, Cheltenham
Friday 4th November 2016**

“Greed is good” declared Gordon Gekko in the 1987 feature film *Wall Street*. I’m not altogether sure the protagonists of Theresa Rebeck’s 2008 dark comedy *Mauritius* would agree, though. The lengths to which people will go to make an instant fortune, regardless of the fallout, know no bounds. Family ties, however strong, count for nothing, either. Re-unite two estranged siblings after the death of a relative, inform them that two of the stamps in an album bequeathed to them are worth millions, and watch the pitiful squabbles explode as they fight over the album’s true ownership.

The stamps in question are two tiny scraps of orange and blue paper issued in Mauritius in 1847 and which rank among the rarest and most valuable in the world. The tremors are soon felt in the business sector, and, inevitably, more than a few con artists, determined to profit from the stamps’ reappearance, are drawn hungrily into this corrupt vortex. As half-sisters Jackie and Mary bicker incessantly, devious stamp-dealer Philip joins forces with straight-talking financier Sterling, while level-headed Dennis desperately tries to keep the peace, but biding his time until he can play the tale’s final trump card.

The first act is a classic scene-setter, gradually priming the volcano which will erupt in the second, which is, quite simply, riveting. The tension boils over, the sparks and the fists fly, and lives are suddenly at stake. It is unsettling and uncomfortable to behold at times, and be warned: the exchange rate of strong language to the dollar is very high. This play is not for the faint-hearted. It is, nonetheless, a sobering reminder of the ease with which any of us can adopt the get-rich-quick mentality. St. Paul was so right all those centuries ago when he claimed *“The love of money is the root of all evil”*. Somewhere, he must be nodding earnestly in agreement, and would no doubt join me in congratulating the capable, five-strong cast and director Lloyd Spencer on another piece of top-quality theatre from The Playhouse Company. The prolonged ovation from the small, but highly appreciative audience was entirely justified.

Simon Lewis

Glos Echo Review