



Talisman

Theatre & Arts Centre

DOPSCOL – MARCH 2010

Our Country's Good, James Harris' third outing as a director, was hard-hitting drama and ignited some lively debate amongst our members and patrons, partly due to its' sometimes controversial content! Its inclusion in the season illustrates that the theatre remains committed to delivering a varied and diverse programme. Long may this continue, irrespective of where we lay our hat! A simple, but effective set was complemented by the vivid hues of the wardrobe and lighting plots, and it was a joy to see a mainly young cast – notwithstanding the overdue and very welcome return of John Scampion - delivering this powerful piece, although the 42% audience figure, including some schools groups, was admittedly disappointing.

As I write, Matthew Salisbury's self-penned and self-directed Bare Bones production of *Montmartre Stories* (which also features Matthew!) is well into rehearsal in preparation for its short run at the beginning of the month, with the Talisman Youth Theatre, led once again by the indefatigable Corrina Jacob, next up with *Young Scarlett Hood* at the end of the month. Please do come along and support this talented bunch of young people – they are our future!

Following on, rehearsals for Sam Harris' second Main House production – Wilde's timeless classic *The Importance of Being Earnest* - will soon be under way, with the *RENT* cast also getting some early rehearsals in, and the first read-through of Wendy Anderson's production of *Are You Being Served?* also in this month's diary!

7 March will see the audition for Chris Ward's August production of Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None*, with 25 April now confirmed for the double header of Chris Carpenter's production of *The Canterbury Tales*, and Ann Brooks' production of *Bedroom Farce*. Further details can either be found elsewhere on the website or will be posted shortly, so please do contact the directors if you are interested in being part of the team for any of these shows.

In closing, I can also confirm we have had good news with regard to this years' NODA awards ceremony on 11 April, with both Wendy Anderson's production of *Fawlty Towers* and Stephen Duckham's production of *The Full Monty* receiving award nominations. Congratulations to all involved, both on and off stage and out front!

Last, but not least, why not come along and bid winter a fond farewell as we welcome back the Cool Dudes Jazz Orchestra on Saturday 27 February!

Best wishes

Tim Willis

Tel. 07786 171437, E-mail. timwillis@warwickshire.gov.uk

CASTING POLICY

1) At an Artistic Meeting held on 6th December 2009 members voted to agree the following Audition and Casting Policy. At a meeting on January 17th 2010 the Executive Committee determined that this be recorded in a Bye-Law as follows:

The Main House programme and any Talisman Theatre Company small-scale production which attracts a paying audience will be subject to open audition, with any casting agreed between the show's director and DoP.

Studio productions are to be cast at the director's discretion. The director of any production which is cast at open audition is required to notify all those who attended the audition(s) of casting decisions at the earliest opportunity and to provide feedback if requested to do so. In exceptional cases, it will be necessary to pre-cast a role, however, any pre-casting must be done openly and must be approved by the DoP in advance, who will be required to report this to the Executive Committee at its next meeting. If a director is unable to successfully cast a production from open audition to their satisfaction, it is not unreasonable for that director to consider further casting options, subject to DoP approval and subsequent report to the Executive Committee.

Directors are appointed on the understanding that they consent to the requirements of this bye-law.

2) At an Artistic Meeting held on 6th December 2009 members voted to agree the following Membership Policy for Actors. At a meeting on January 17th 2010 the Executive Committee determined that this be recorded in a Bye-Law as follows:

Any individual cast at an open audition will be required to become a member of the theatre prior to commencement of rehearsal. In the event that a director cannot cast a role to their satisfaction at open audition and is required to formally approach a non-member to play the role, a one-off waiver of this requirement for membership may be issued to that individual, subject to DoP and subsequent Executive Committee approval.