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MONMOUTH'S LEADING THEATRE GROUP

Newsletter  
January/February 2018



edited by Jim Newcomb

First and foremost, apologies for the non-arrival of the January Newsletter but I've been unwell, suffering from depression! Many thanks for all the supportive messages/actions. So, a belated Happy New Year to all. If you have anything for the next edition, then please let me have it asap at: [jim.newcomb@btinternet.com](mailto:jim.newcomb@btinternet.com)  
Thanks to those who have contributed here. If you spot any errors, please let me know.

### **Now the latest news:**

There was no committee meeting in December, but here are some notes from the January meeting, and thank you to Paula Brady for sending me a copy of the minutes:

**Treasurers Report:** We continue to have a very sound bank balance supported, not surprisingly by a very healthy profit from the last year's successful productions. Well done everyone.

**Premises:** Stuart advised the committee that we need leave St. John's premises by the end of April 2018. So, discussions continue about new storage and rehearsal locations. It was considered if worth asking if we could continue to rehearse there but this was not encouraged.

### **Productions:**

- ❖ **3rd March 2018:** Three short plays and two short sketches for the Savoy Celebrations have been selected for presentation (Please see below). There was also some discussion about taking some of these to village halls. More in due course.
- ❖ **June 17th – 23<sup>rd</sup>:** **Blackadder** (Please see below).
- ❖ **September 9th – 16<sup>th</sup>:** No further details.
- ❖ **November 18th – 25<sup>th</sup>:** No further details.

Some early consideration was also given to the notion of the group developing its own unscripted (improvised) play. More in due course.

**Website/Facebook:** **Website:** Phil Davies advised the website is now mobile friendly. Website updated with current events. The web server renewal costs are due soon. **Facebook:** All events are up, new audition dates etc. Phil confirmed there is a link between Facebook and the website.

**Membership:** Tom Rigby confirmed there are currently 43 paid members now. He still has a query on some outstanding payments which, when paid, will increase the membership numbers. Stuart will check statements and confirm payments.

**Newsletter/Club Nights/Events:** I wasn't at the meeting so no comments here.

**Correspondence:** None.

**AOB:** Stuart reminded committee members that the course for Trustees is on 17th February at 10am until 12 noon at the Savoy. There are currently 8 attendees including Geoff, Jim and Judith from OCT. More room is available if anyone else would like to attend. OCT will pay the £20 per head. Stuart, Geoff and Barbara are the official Trustees, but all committee members should be Trustees.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday February 13th, 2018, at the Royal Oak Pub.**

## RECENT EVENTS

### BLACKADDER READING

Jane Bryant has kindly let me know that, despite it being a very cold night, the reading was well attended by members old and new. Two of the three episodes were read through with all enjoying the clever word play which is such a feature of the show. Thanks go to Anne and Stuart MacFarlane for the interval nibbles and drinks.

### ARE YOU BEING SERVED

This was in the December Newsletter, but just in case you missed that one I thought I ought to repeat our latest success, though I've taken out the photos on this occasion:

Congratulations are due to all those involved in OCT's latest offering – Are You Being Served.

Some 530 people came along to watch one of the three performances, including a very enthusiastic Friday night audience who, like those on other evenings, laughed loud and long at the many jokes and the visual humour.

As Tom Rigby noted, at the after show Misbah meal, this production required a real team effort and, rather than leaving anyone out, I'll just add that he, along with the many who supported him, not least the cast, managed to pull off a technically challenging production.

## UPCOMING PRODUCTION NEWS:

### SAVOY CELEBRATIONS (3rd March 2018)

Following the final auditions, held at St. John's, the sub-committee, overseeing the Savoy Celebrations, have chosen the following casts:

#### PEAS

Gerry – Scott Hazeldine  
Daisy– Judith Rossiter  
Director – Geoffrey Manning

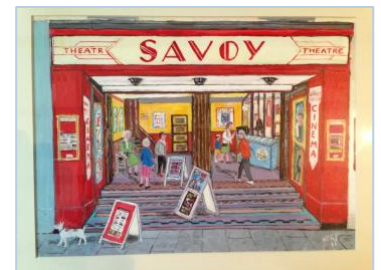
#### CARROT

Peter -Tom Rigby  
Brian – Tony Summers  
Director – Phil Davies

#### SHOPPERS

Angela – Eileen Summers  
Rosemary – Caroline Pearce  
Director – Anne MacFarlane

There will also be two short sketches – 'Medieval Helpdesk' and 'Blackberry' performed by Phil Davies and Les Davies



# HEREFORD COUNTY DRAMA FESTIVAL (10th March, 2018)



Judith Rossiter has sent the following email:

Hi everyone,

Very pleased to say that OCT are competing in the Market Theatre, Ledbury on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March, as part of the Hereford County Drama Festival. We are taking 'Secretarial Skills', from Duets, by Peter Quilter, that was performed in the Savoy in March last year. In case you don't know, its stars

are Phil Davies and Rita Rouse.

At the moment, Terry Cane has agreed to do lighting and Stuart MacFarlane will do sound.

We hope that a goodly number of us will be there to support Phil and Rita. There are three plays in the afternoon, so I hope we can get there to see those, and of the three in the evening, we are the last to perform. This means that we can stay for the announcement of the winners in the different categories.

Judith

## BLACKADDER (June 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018)



**Please note that auditions will be held during the week of 12<sup>th</sup> March** – a specific date and time will follow as these have to be decided at the next committee meeting.

Here are some support notes from Jane and Graham:

### Blackadder Goes Forth

Role descriptors:

**Blackadder:** Career soldier, in his 40s. Disenchanted and cynical.

**Baldrick:** A simple Tommy. In his 30s or early 40s.

**George:** Good-hearted, naive, keen and enthusiastic. In his 20s. Upper class public schoolboy.

**Darling:** Quite a young captain; in his 30s or early 40s. Has a pronounced 'twitch'. Enjoying his 'cushy number'. Makes sure he stays 'on the right side' of Melchett. Doesn't like Blackadder. (The feeling is mutual!)

**Melchett:** Upper class General. In the same mould as Haig. In his 50s or 60s.

**Perkins:** Jailer. In his 20s, 30s, or possibly 40s. Rather camp.

**Sgt Jones:** Working class sergeant. Leader of the firing squad. Late 30s or early 40s.

{There are also other roles for the members of the firing squad.}

The ages are a guide. We may have to vary them!

Audition pieces ([please see page numbers at the bottom of each page on the Word file that was also attached to this Newsletter](#)). I just couldn't find a way of inserting the script file successfully into the Newsletter. Each try led to a problem of limited pages, or missing page numbers etc. I just had to give up. If someone knows how to do this easily, please let me know.

Please note that in some cases there may be additional characters within a script but if not mentioned in the list below, they will not be an active part of that audition scene.

Pages 1-2 *Scene 1 the dug-out*: Blackadder/George/(Baldrick)  
Pages 3-4 *Scene 2 the dug-out a little later*: Blackadder/Melchett/Darling/(Baldrick)/(George)  
Pages 5-6 *A cell in a military prison*: Perkins/Blackadder/Baldrick/George  
Pages 7-9 *Melchett's HQ*: George/Blackadder/Darling/Melchett/(Baldrick)  
Pages 10 -11a *The Cell*: (Perkins)/Blackadder/Baldrick  
Pages 11b -12 *also The Cell*: (Perkins)/Blackadder/Sgt Jones  
Pages 13-14 *Not being used for the audition*  
Page 15 *The Courtyard*: Perkins/Blackadder/Sgt Jones  
Pages 16 -17 *Not being used for the audition*.

Jane and Graham Bryant.

## CLUB NIGHTS/EVENTS:

### FEBRUARY

## MONMOUTH MUSIC THEATRE MEAL and QUIZ



This is a reminder that MMT have invited members of OCT to their quiz night with an Italian theme. It will take place at **The Priory, in Monmouth on February 17<sup>th</sup> at 19.30.**

It includes a rather lovely 3 course Italian meal (please bring your own wine) and is a 'Bargain' at £12 per person. Why not make up a team and join our friends from MMT.

### MARCH

**BLACKADDER AUDITIONS**, please see above.

### APRIL SKITTLES at THE ROYAL OAK

The Skittles evening, Spring Club Night at The Royal Oak, has moved to April and we hope that you will be able to join us. A date and time will be provided in due course.



# WHO WANTS TO FIND / BUY / SELL / SWAP

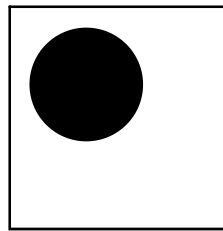


No takers.

You can make further links to OCT by clicking on any of the icons below:



Facebook



OCT web-site

Or get tickets directly from the Savoy Theatre

