

Stage Whispers

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February 2023

www.whipstheatre.org



EDITORIAL

Well, surprise surprise! the Whips had a successful play with good audiences thanks to all involved however due to our very low active membership, we are always going to struggle to cast a play with folk not wanting leading roles entailing all those lines to learn and our lack of younger 20-40 year olds which restrict the selection of suitable plays, but at least we are active again as a society

THE WHIPS QUIZ

SOLD OUT!

Quiz is 7pm with doors opening 6.45pm on 11th February.
1st course will be served at 7pm, with table round being on tables from the start.
Then 4 rounds of quiz, followed by a break for dessert, with a further 4 rounds of Quiz after dessert. The last round will count double points, so if joker played with be quadruple!



Table of 8 in a team....BYO drinks & brain!



WHIPS AGM 2022

The AGM was attended in early December by about a dozen members with the committee standing again under Tony Thompson's chairmanship. Awards were given out by our president, Jeremy Miles to both Whippets & Whips





Review of My Friend Miss Flint

The WHIPS at West Horsley Village Hall 12-14 January 2023

The curtain opened on a lovely set, designed by Peter Davies and constructed by WHIPS members, light and spacious with a good backdrop, seen through the windows, which placed us in a luxury flat. A trellis on the back wall, with greenery climbing it was a nice touch, as the owner, Tom, who was identified by Lucy, entering in a dressing gown, was a botanist and TV gardening personality. However, his huffing and puffing as he returned from a morning jog, after entertaining Lucy for the night, demonstrated his lack of fitness.

Ian Creese, playing Tom, gave us much anguish as the plot unfolded and it was difficult to see why Lucy (delightfully portrayed by Kate MacDonald) would have been attracted to him until we learnt that she was after his Picasso painting. Phil Embury, as Tom's cleaner, Albert, gave us a lively performance as a witty rogue, while delivering his lines and gestures with his usual fine timing.

The arrival of Tom's ex-wife, Sarah, now working as his accountant, marked the start of Tom's problems, as she explained that in dealing with his tax returns, she had invented a Public Relations Consultant, named Miss Flint, as a tax deduction, who she included in the returns for Tom, herself and other clients. The Tax Authorities were now making enquiries as they could not find anything to prove she existed! Miffy Rivolta, playing Sarah, brilliantly carried off a tough part with conviction and charm. A phone call from a Mr. Dodds was soon followed by his arrival, as the Tax Inspector, seeking Miss Flint. From his first lines, delivered in a cringingly slimy tone, Stuart Smith captivated the audience and fully deserved the ovation he received on his first exit.

The twists and turns of the plot as Sarah and Tom devised ways of trying to create Miss Flint for the Tax man, with Lucy offering herself as the incarnation of this non-existent person delighted the audience. They planned to ask a friend to impersonate her. We were taken to another level of complexity when C P Lens entered as the Senior Tax Inspector, seeking Miss Flint. Albert, misunderstanding the situation and believing Ms Lens to be Tom's friend, revealed in detail the lies, fabricated by Tom and Sarah, and, indeed, his own fraudulent tax activities, which episode was a highlight of the evening. Jan Hudson as C P Lens showed good authority, which enabled her to carry off well the switch from attacking Tax Inspector to former wife of Mr. Dodds, from whom she had separated and competed with in swindling the tax payers who they had caught, defrauding the Inland Revenue.

At times the pace dropped when prompts were needed by Tom, but overall, this was a production that carried the audience, who thoroughly enjoyed their evening with much laughter. Jack Griffith as director, can be proud of extracting so many good performances, while overcoming the problems of cast and backstage members taking holidays, or being afflicted with broken kneecaps and dog bites. Jack was ably assisted by Fran King as Stage Manager, Assistant Director and many other roles. Well done The WHIPS for an entertaining show!



AUTUMN PRODUCTION

The Stranger by Agatha Christie directed by Fran King 16-18th Nov 2023

The Stranger is the 1932 adaptation of by Agatha Christie of her 1924 short story *Philomel Cottage* however it was not published at the time. In 1936 a different adaptation by Christie and Frank Vosper entitled *Love From A Stranger* was produced for the London stage opening at the New Theatre (now Noel Coward); it was also on Broadway for a short run.

It was reworked twice as a film; in 1937 starring Ann Harding and Basil Rathbone and a remake in 1947 released in the UK as *A Stranger Walked In*. The play has also been televised twice by the BBC, on 23rd November 1938 and 25th May 1947, both as live performances. Most recently it was broadcast as a radio play in 2002 and an adaptation by Louise Page was produced at *The Mill at Sonning* as part of their 2010 season. A 30 minute radio version of the short story *Philomel Cottage* can be listened to on Youtube starring Orson Welles.

The play *The Stranger* has a cast of 6, 4f and 2m as follows:

Doris West mid 30's

Mrs Huggins middle aged

Enid Bradshaw mid 30's

Gerald Strange could be mid 40's

Dick Lane could be mid 40's

Mrs Birch mid 30's to middle aged

It does say that Doris West or Mrs Huggins may double with Mrs Birch so ages are a bit flexible.

Hopefully when Fran gets scripts, we can read this at the next play reading

PLAY READINGS

- ***We are, at last resuming our play reading events! The first one will take place at Jan Hudson's house at 7.30. Monday 20th Feb at 96 woodlands Rd Little Bookham. Kt23 4hh***



If anyone has a suitable set of plays that could be read for future play-readings, or have a willingness to host such events please contact jackgriffith6@gmail.com

It really would be great to resurrect this popular arm of the Whips especially as, according to NewSPAL, we can look at a catalogue, & order play sets now thro' the post. The Whips will sub the postage costs with perhaps a charge of £1 per play
Any Volunteers to run this with different hosts or venues?.

COMMITTEE NOTES

- The recent play 'Finding Miss Flint' was a successful production playing to very good audiences each night
- The Whips Chair has spoken to the Chair of Nomads to discuss areas of cooperation between the two groups. They agreed to exchange the dates of their productions and in all ways will support each other
- Fran is willing to direct 'The Stranger' by Agatha Christie for the Autumn production. Possibly to be staged in early to mid November. This is available to be heard on BBC sounds
- The quiz night on 11th Feb is sold out of tables. The quiz setter will be Iain McFarlane and Tony Thompson will be the question master,
- Play readings will commence again after the long Covid break. The first one will take place at Jan Hudson's house at 7.30. 96 woodlands Rd, Little Bookham. Kt23 4hh
- The Whippets production of 'Shrek the Musical jnr' will be staged on 22-25 March. Tickets £11.00 per adult. £8.00 per child
- The AGM will be held at the West Horsley Village Hall on Wednesday 21st June at 7.30



WHIPPETS

BOX OFFICE

Shrek The Musical JR.

22-25 March '23

Our on-line box office will open for priority ticket sales for cast, crew and Whips members at 10am on Sunday 12th February. Tickets will then go on sale to the general public on Monday 20th February.

To book tickets go www.ticketsource.co.uk/whipstheatre or scan the QR code.



Ticket Prices:

Adults £11; Children £8

Performance times:

Wed 22 March at 7.30pm

Thurs 23 March at 7.30pm

Fri 24 March at 7.30pm

Sat 25 March at 2.30pm

Sat 25 March at 7.30pm

Run time:

Approx. 1hr 40 including interval



WHIPPETS PRESENTS

SHREK

The MUSICAL JR.

DIRECTED BY
NICOLA FAWCETT

22 - 25 March
West Horsley Village Hall
Evenings at 7.30pm; Saturday Matinee at 2.30pm

www.whipstheatre.org

Based on the DreamWorks Animation Motion Picture and the Book by William Steig
Book & Lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire; Music by Jeanine Tesori
"I'm A Believer" by Neil Diamond

Presented through special arrangement with Musical Theatre International. The Whips is a registered charity (no. 299657).

W & S 19/03 W & S 19/03

Wills & Smerdon

01483 284 141

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Feb 11 th 2023 @ 7.00 Whips Quiz night	WHVH
Feb 20 th Mon @7.30 . . .play reading at Jan Hudson's house	
March 22-25 th Whippets Shrek	WHVH
June 21 st AGM	WHVH
Nov 16-18 th Autumn Production	WHVH



CONTACTS

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and finally

Zebediah was in the fertilised egg business. He had several hundred young layers, called pullets, and eight or ten roosters, whose job was to fertilise the eggs

Zeb kept records, and any rooster that didn't perform well went into the soup pot and was replaced. That took an awful lot of Zeb's time; so, Zeb got a set of tiny bells and attached them to his roosters

Each bell had a different tone so that Zeb could tell, from a distance, which rooster was performing. Now he could sit on the porch and fill out an efficiency report simply by listening to the bells.

Zeb's favourite rooster was old Brewster. A very fine specimen he was, too but on this particular morning, Zeb noticed that Brewster's bell had not rung at all!! Zeb went to investigate.

The other roosters were chasing pullets, bells a-ringing! The pullets, hearing the roosters coming, would run for cover. BUT, to Zeb's amazement, Brewster had his bell in his beak, so it COULDN'T ring.

He'd sneak up on a pullet, do his job and walk on to the next one. Zeb was so proud of Brewster that he entered him in the county fair.

Brewster was an overnight sensation. The judges not only awarded him

Wait for it!

The No Bell Piece Prize but also the Pullet surprise.



This has been an annoying publication as I lost it all when the computer went down!



