



theatre

on the steps

www.theatreonthesteps.co.uk

TOTS 2004 IN PRODUCTION

Sally De Sancha's version of the Mike Leigh classic, *Abigail's Party* in rehearsal. Richard Aston (as Lawrence) responds surprisingly well to the CPR, administered by Sue Boardman (Ang)!!



Abigail's Party opens June 11th and reveals the positively cringe worthy exploits of Beverly, an unlikely and uncomfortable gathering of guests. It is social snobbery taken to comic proportions!

40 Years On The Steps!

Celebrating 40 years of Theatre on the Steps

Theatre on the Steps is celebrating its 40th anniversary by inviting members past and present to an open air garden party. We are hoping that members' friends and family will come along to join us. There will be music and entertainment and of course a few stories from the past about those star turns, magical theatre moments and some of the great plays and pantomimes that have been seen at the Theatre on the Steps.

The event will be opened by a celebrity guest and marks 40 years of Theatre on the Steps. Held at Oldbury Wells School Field and starts at 3pm.

It's a chance to meet up with members of theatre, past and present and pay tribute to the many people who have contributed to the success of the theatre!

So come along for a lovely afternoon in the sunshine (hopefully!) And be entertained by the music of the Bridgnorth District Youth Orchestra and talent of the Youth on the Steps.

There will be laser shooting arranged by "LaserSport of Bridgnorth", a fully licensed bar and a GRAND PRIZE DRAW for a wide screen TV kindly donated by "Bryan & Knott".

Tickets are available to MEMBERS ONLY until 28/5/04 and then go on general sale. First come first served!! Ticket price of £12.50 includes food and a glass of wine.

CONTACT FROM THE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE on 01746 763257

Kind thanks to the following for their support:

Roger Davies, head teacher Oldbury Wells School

Bryan & Knott Insurance Brokers, 111, High Street, Bridgnorth

LazerSport International Ltd www.lasersport.biz

www.theatreonthesteps.co.uk

We are delighted to announce that our new web site has just been launched at:

www.theatreonthesteps.co.uk

There are full listings of all the productions and events with detailed background notes. If you want to know more about your choice of production just click on "MORE INFO" and there will be pictures, comments from the director and tales from rehearsals.

Other sections cover the history of the theatre and details of new productions just getting underway. The "latest news" is a rolling column of the most current events. Take a look and let us know what you think.

Keith Clarke



Murder on the Steps

Opens 20th May and continues 21st, 22nd, 27th, 28th and 29th May at 8pm

The Theatre on the Steps continues its busy spring season of its own productions with the high tension thriller *Sleuth* by Anthony Shaffer. The season started with three stories from the Alan Bennett Talking Heads series, and more recently the popular Lancashire comedy *Hobson's Choice* played to very good houses.

Sleuth is set in the country manor house of detective story writer, Andrew Wyke, whose hobbies are the playing of a wide variety of games where he can pit his mental dexterity against others. His peace is shattered by the arrival of a young man, Milo Tindle, whose objective is to marry Andrew Wyke's wife. From then on a deadly game between the two is played, a game which leaves the audience on the edge of their seats trying to guess the outcome and the eventual winner.

The suspense continues with the arrival of the intrepid Detective Inspector Doppler and his henchmen Sergeant Tarrant and Constable Higgs who attempt to unravel the mystery and determine who has murdered who.

Sleuth is a classic whodunit which was made into a famous movie starring Lawrence Olivier and Michael Caine, and the Theatre on the Steps production will bring the suspense to the stage, suspense that continues throughout the play with many twists and turns that will have the audience certain about the result, only to discover another set of events which lead them in a different direction and to a different conclusion..



Pictured in rehearsals are John Britton as Milo Tindle and Iain Reddihough as Andrew Wyke

Sleuth is being directed by Christine Reddihough who said "It is a long time since we had a true thriller at the Theatre and with *Sleuth* the suspense could not be greater". Anthony Shaffer captures the spirit of the classic mystery. He teases the audience with facts, and then presents further contradictory facts which keep the audience guessing until the final seconds of the play which leaves the audience gasping"

Youth on the steps

Youth on the Steps continues to flourish with 30 young people coming each Saturday morning, with several more people on the waiting list. They are rehearsing for the autumn production of the delightful *Wind in the Willows*.

28 students are also practising for their Drama examinations with the *London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts*. The exams will take place at the Theatre on May 16th. LAMDA exams have always been highly regarded by both the profession and employers as they not only set the standard for Acting Performances but help build confidence and effective communication. Last year LAMDA Acting Examinations were QCA accredited, and each grade of the examination syllabus allocated a level within the National Qualifications Framework and is included in the students' mainstream education results. This year 18 students are taking Grades which are equivalent to a pass at GCSE Grade D -G, or an Foundation GNVQ, or Level 1 NVQ, a further 10 Students are taking Grades which are equivalent to a pass at GCSE Grade A*-C, or an Intermediate GNVQ, or Level 2 NVQ.

Last year Youth on the Steps had one of highest number of entrants with all students passing with Distinctions or Honours, one of the highest levels of success in the UK enhancing the Theatre's reputation as a centre for the Performing Arts serving Bridgnorth and Shropshire.

We hope that our students will all pass and that we can match or even surpass the results achieved last year.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL TAKING THE EXAMINATIONS!

Iain and Chris Reddihough

BRIDGNORTH
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