

BRIDGNORTH



# theatre on the steps

Members' Newsletter  
October 2005

[www.theatreonthesteps.co.uk](http://www.theatreonthesteps.co.uk)

## MEMBERS INSIDE VIEW "IN PRODUCTION"



TOP - Tash plays "Sophie" and has her vital statistic measured by Sue Gill (Costume)  
CENTRE - Naomi Conway as "Martha" reads with Tash.  
LEFT - The brazen "Barbara" (Michelle Jennings) has her hands full with lorry driver "Ken" (Mark Youngs).

### The Road to Wigan

Keith Clarke's new play takes us into the world of the traveling salesman of 1960. Friendship, love, jealousy and the desire to succeed are all exposed in this explosive play. Strong language and strong images take us into the tangled web of Martha and Dan's lives. You might have seen it mentioned in the local paper! - KC

## Hey! Fancy a Sneaky

## Look Ahead! OO

While the Bridgnorth theatre going public are enjoying the Autumn Winter programme we can reveal exclusively to TOTS members that we have already booked many of the acts for the Spring and Summer programme for 2006! The Theatre on the Steps is now a sort after venue. Many acts that visit one season want to come back the following year, such as the Upbeat Beatles and the B'eagels. We always try to find room for new talent. This season we have Keith Clarke's "The Road to Wigan" and next season we have Linda Povey's "The Cat Flap Burglar". Some of us have already heard a read through of "Cat Flap" and it is witty and very clever. You are in for a treat! Below is a list of all the other acts so far confirmed. Tickets are not available yet but will be on sale as soon as the official programme is released:

*February 17th, 18th Kayelle Productions present Mompesson's Well by Simon Andrew Stirling*

*February 24th, 25th & March 3rd, 4th. TOTS Presents The Cat Flap Burglar by Linda Povey*

*March 31st and April 1st The B'eagels*

*April 28th, 29th The Searchers (but the deal is still to be finalised)*

*May 18th to 21st and 25th to 27th TOTS Presents The Happiest Days of Your Life*

*June (dates to be agreed) The Fortunes*

And still waiting in the wings we have one or two more surprises.....but you'll have to wait until the next news letter for us to have time to make all the final arrangements - KC

## Things that go Bump in the Night!!

The Ghost Walk is one of the most popular events at the Theatre and on each evening we have at least 200 people touring the Town and meeting the 10 Ghosts before returning to the Theatre for even more ghostly goings on.

We are always short of help on the night, and the more help we have the better the experience is for our audience.

We need 10 Tour Guides, 10 Ghosts, at least 2 people at the Theatre to help before and after the walk, heating and serving soup etc and a couple of other people to be there in case of problems. This is in addition to the Bar Staff.

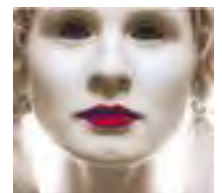
We also need some help to decorate the Bar and Theatre with ghoulish things.

The Ghost Walk is a great fun event so please be a part of it.

If you want to be a guide or other helper please call John Cannaby on 01746 767186. Email [john@youcanmortgage.co.uk](mailto:john@youcanmortgage.co.uk)

If you want to be a Ghost call Iain Reddihough on 01952 882455  
Email [iain@reddihough.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:iain@reddihough.freeserve.co.uk)

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# Members News

Welcome to new members and welcome back to our existing supporters for the new season.

- TOTS was delighted to open the new season hosting the "Golden Beak Awards", featuring talented acts from all over the country. Our thanks go to Sue Griffiths of the Bishampton Barn Stormers for organising this year's very successful event.
- All members will have received the new season's programme with the membership renewal reminder and the spring/summer 2006 programme is also almost finalised, giving you a huge choice of entertainment. Membership covers a household and with discounts for two adults and two children on most performances you can save £2 on ticket prices on top of having a great family evening out.
- Members tested their knowledge and taste buds at a wine quiz this year and showed off their skills at a skittles evening at the Shakespeare pub. What other social events would you like?  
A poetry reading evening, a group visit to the Grand, Wolverhampton? Let me know.
- Of course, anyone who has been involved in a production or who has turned up to help at a theatre working party has already found the best way to meet like minded folk, make friends and have a good laugh into the bargain. If you ticked the "volunteer" box on the membership application form, but no one has been in touch, do send me your e-mail address at [deleiper@hotmail.com](mailto:deleiper@hotmail.com). Phoning round the 60 potential helpers takes too long, so the organisers tend to rely on e-mail or only phone the "old faithfuls" for help with front-of-house or the bar. It would be great to involve some new people.
- On a final note, if you have put my invitation to renew to one side, please return it now and I shall send your new membership card immediately. **Dorothy Leiper**

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Bob Bibby (Chairman)  
Iain Reddihough (Director of Productions)  
Keith Clarke (Newsletter Editor)  
Richard Aston (Maintenance Manager)

## Can you Contribute to the Chaos? Call us if you Can!

Last year Christmas Chaos was a sell out success with audiences thoroughly enjoying a wide variety of music and comedy.

This year we hope the show will be as successful, both in Box Office terms and audience enjoyment, but to achieve that we need to have some very good acts.

We already have a magician, a number of musical acts, and some comedy sketches but do need some more variety type acts, so if you have something that you would like to be considered for inclusion in the show we would be pleased to hear from you.

Please contact Iain Reddihough on 01952 882455

Email [iain@reddihough.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:iain@reddihough.freeserve.co.uk)

## We Blame Mark for a Great Evening!

The cast and crew of "Blame the Parents" would like to thank Mark Youngs for organising a evening watching his video of the plays. It gave everyone a chance to sample some excellent food, discuss the finer points of each others performance and relive the trails and triumphs of their Theatre on the Steps production. - KC  
(Mark is currently appearing in *The Road to Wigan.*)



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### CALENDER 2 MONTHS AHEAD

Oct 5/6/7/8	A Bolt Out of the Blue
Oct 14/15/21/22	Oliver! (With Saturday Matinees)
Oct 29/30	Jazz Festival
Oct 31	Ghost Walk
Nov 1	Ghost Walk
Nov 10/11	Upbeat Beatles
Nov 18/19/25/26	The Road to Wigan

FOR FULL DETAILS SEE  
[www.theatreonthesteps.co.uk](http://www.theatreonthesteps.co.uk)

There are some important attachments to this newsletter. So clear some space on your notice boards and pin up the following important notes:

1. Agenda for the AGM
2. Help needed!
3. Props for The Road to Wigan wanted!

Any support and help you can offer is always gratefully received.



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# **THEATRE ON THE STEPS** **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of the Theatre on the Steps is to be held at the theatre on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November, starting at 8.00 pm.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of AGM 2004
3. Matters arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Election of officers/trustees
7. Any other business

## **NOTE FROM CHAIR**

Members will notice that the date of the AGM has changed this year from June to November. This is to bring it into line with the theatre's financial year.

We are always keen to see new faces on the Theatre on the Steps Committee and nominations can be accepted up to and including the AGM itself. All those elected to the Committee are asked to become Trustees of the Theatre on the Steps Charity.

We are particularly keen to find a Minuting Secretary, a Stage Manager, and a Front of House Manager, as these posts have been unfilled in the past year.

Interested in knowing more? Give me a ring on 01746-768956.

# If you can give us a hand...

## HELP WANTED

As you will have seen from our Autumn/Winter programme we have a very full season with a show on every week-end except for November 5<sup>th</sup>. This means that we need more help to keep the Theatre running smoothly and to ensure that we get the best audiences possible for each show.

In particular we need.

## POSTERS

People to go around Bridgnorth each week, preferably Monday, and put up posters for the next show, many shops will only put up one poster so we need to change them every week.

## CLEANING

The Auditorium, Foyer, Toilets and Green Room need cleaning each week and when a show is running for more than one night, we need to clean every day before the audience comes in.

## BAR and FRONT OF HOUSE STAFF

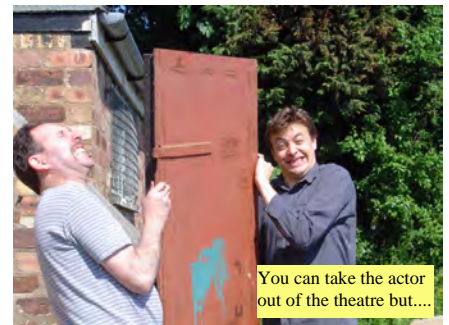
To provide staff for all the shows we need to increase the number of people in our pool of Bar and Front of House Staff.

## GENERAL HELP

There are many other times we need help. Sometimes on the Saturday afternoon when a show is setting up, taking equipment out of the Theatre after a show, working parties on Sundays to clear rubbish.

Even if you have already volunteered for some of these jobs please contact us again so we can update our records and maintain a higher standard at the Theatre.

Contact: Bob Bibby 01746 768956 email [bob.bibby@virgin.net](mailto:bob.bibby@virgin.net)  
John Cannaby 01746 765215 email [john@youcanmortgage.co.uk](mailto:john@youcanmortgage.co.uk)  
Iain Reddihough 01952 882455 email [iain@reddihough.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:iain@reddihough.freeserve.co.uk)



# .....we`ll give you many more rounds of applause!

# PROPS FOR THE ROAD TO WIGAN...

If you can lend any of the following items I would be grateful and you get the chance to see your props on stage and a big thank you in the programme! Remember its all set in 1960....

*Pew type chapel chair*  
*Book case or room divider (quite tall)*  
*Hat stand*  
*Bar stools (2)*  
*Old lounge chair (2)*  
*Farmhouse kitchen chairs (4/5)*  
*Hideous old brief case*

*1950's style bar*  
*Coffee table*  
*Hall stand (demi table?)*  
*Old Couch*  
*Farmhouse Kitchen table*  
*Welsh dresser*  
*A lamb (yep, a lamb!)*

That should be easy then!! Oh and by the way anyone who has some off cuts of *carpet* about the size of the stage, they are also needed to make Martha's feel like home!

Call Keith on 01948 880030 or e-mail [keith@avssteps.co.uk](mailto:keith@avssteps.co.uk)