

A little later than previously advertised.....here it is, the latest issue of View From The Wings with all the news you need to keep you abreast of what is happening at Studio Theatre. And there's a lot going on! The first six months of this year have been incredibly busy in our little theatre with several productions vying for rehearsal space and performances ranging from hard-hitting dramas to musical romps.

Studio's Youth Theatre led the way with a polished and entertaining take on **Sherlock Holmes**. The ladies of the **Top Girls** team rehearsed in the foyer to a selection of sea shanties and expletives emanating from the main auditorium as the cast and crew of **Female Transport** set sail for Botany Bay. Both teams tested Kevin Murdoch's hair and make-up abilities as conditions deteriorated below decks in one and Japanese concubines, Dutch peasants and female Popes turned up for dinner in the other.

Salad Days proved a huge hit, all seats selling out before the opening night and most of them apparently occupied by people who had seen the production first time round in 1954 in their own salad days and were anxious to take a stroll down Memory Lane. Judging by the audience reaction, they were not disappointed by what they saw and heard.

The season finished with a **Dream** of a production set somewhen between Ancient Greece and the Road to Kathmandu as a cast of young and old hands braved vertiginous slopes and a mini heatwave to deliver an imaginative version of Bottom's "rare vision".

TROPHY TIME

Spring was the time to take home a few trophies with triumphs for Studio at the Daily Echo's annual Curtain Call awards and the All England Theatre Festival's one act play competition.

John Davies turned one of his two nominations for a Curtain Call award into the real thing, winning the Best Actor in a Drama category for his role as John Proctor in **The Crucible**.

Studio's distaff side showed that it was made of multi-tasking stuff when the eight-strong cast juggled complicated wordplay with quantities of potato, carrot, zabaglione and a variety of cutlery in the dinner party scene from Caryl Churchill's **Top Girls**. Entries to the Dorset Drama League's festival in Shaftesbury and Totton Festival of Drama yielded a selection of shields and statuary that represented a Best Actress win for Pam Goldsbrough, Best Costumes (at both festivals) for Theo Ross and Best Stage Presentation - all of which boosted our

trophy cabinet in the foyer. There were also nominations for Rachel Fletcher (twice) as Best Actress, Lesley Bates (Best Director) and Louise Leavy (Best Supporting Player).

Studio patron and award-winning playwright **Barney Norris** was nominated for the Breakthrough award in The Times Sky Arts South Bank Breakthrough Award after publishing his first novel *Five Rivers Met On A Wooded Plain*, in which Salisbury and Studio Theatre figured prominently when one of the characters joins to play Ophelia in a production of *Hamlet*. Ring any bells?

The most important production of the next few years has to be our new extension - a £350,000 building project, which will give us additional rehearsal space and dressing rooms, enabling us to comply with legislation regarding our youth theatre members.

AU REVOIR TO THE KELLYS

We said farewell and *bon chance* to Peter and Joy Kelly, who are moving to France to run a B&B business in Normandy. Peter has been an active member since joining in 2007 - acting and directing, stints as Chairman and Director of Productions - but, undoubtedly, his greatest legacy is the creation of our thriving youth theatre, which he set up in 2010. Both he and Joy have both been instrumental in encouraging the younger members of our theatre family to get stuck in to all things theatrical (as well as acting, we have youth theatre members involved with sound, lighting, props and stage management and on our management committee, although



Martha Osment as Puck



Best actress Pam Goldsbrough

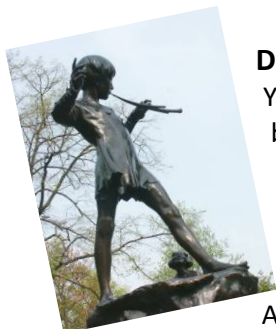


Peter Kelly

we haven't let them loose on the power tools yet). Joy has been a regular chaperone and has also acted as our Child Protection Officer. Their contribution will be much missed and I know there will be many young people who will, in later years, credit Peter with giving them a love of theatre.

AND SO TO OUR NEW SEASON.....a bumper selection of seven productions (so far), starting with:

October 12-15 & 17-22: The Ladykillers. A gang of ruthless criminals pose as classical musicians to take rooms in the lodging house of a sweet little old lady while they plan their latest bank robbery. This very funny stage version of the famous Ealing comedy, directed by Colin Hayman, promises to be a hot ticket with Alistair Faulkner, David Taylor, Keith Edmund, Paul Chalmers, and Stew Taylor ganging up on Theo Ross's Mrs Wilberforce. **NB The performance on October 14 will be a gala night for potential donors to launch our fund-raising bid on the new build. More details to follow.**



December 7-10: Peter Pan. Join the lost boys and their hook-handed friend as Studio Youth Theatre whisk us off to Neverland for a pre-Christmas family treat. Our enterprising bunch of youngsters will not only act, but direct, stage manage, and provide props and technical back up as they take the second star on the right and fly straight on till morning - all without the use of a safety net, but with liberal sprinklings of Tinkerbell's fairy dust .

February 6-11: Communicating Doors. Time travel has never been as funny as in Alan Ayckbourn's dizzying comedy of rotating doors, murdered wives and a dominatrix on the run. The women must pull together to try and change the course of history before they all come to a grisly end. Tim Greathead, responsible for last year's hard-hitting Female Transport, is in charge.

April 3-8: My Cousin Rachel. Linda Hayman, who directed Jamaica Inn a few years back, has opted for another by Daphne du Maurier. Young Philip Astley must choose between head and heart when he encounters his cousin Ambrose's beautiful, charismatic widow Rachel and falls in love with her. But did Rachel have anything to do with Ambrose's death and how much does she stand to gain from being widowed a second time?

May 16-20: An Evening with(out) Ronnie Barker. Comedy genius Ronnie Barker left a treasure trove of sketches and songs to tickle the funny bone, which George Goulding is lovingly crafting into an evening of hilarity, cross-dressing and double entendres. Fork handles, says it all.

June 6-10: Old Time Musical Hall. Dig out your best whistles and flutes, dust off your Sunday tiffers and toddle along to Studio's homage to the likes of Marie Lloyd, Vesta Tilley, George Robey and Robb Wilton.



July 17-22: A Streetcar Named Desire. Director Tamsin Jacson brings the hot and steamy French Quarter of New Orleans to Studio in Tennessee Williams's Pulitzer prize-winning drama. Fragile beauty Blanche DuBois visits her sister Stella and brutish husband Stanley with devastating consequences. The film provided an Oscar-winning role for Vivien Leigh and a career-defining one for Marlon Brando.

PLUS

Studio has its annual charity spot on the market on August 13. Peter Mitchell says he is still short of stock to tempt the bargain hunters of Salisbury. If you have anything to offer - bric-a-brac, books, toys, jewellery etc.- please contact Peter on peter.mitchell @ntlworld. com or call him on 01722 501399 or 07986 133776.

All performances take place at Studio Theatre in Ashley Road, Salisbury, unless otherwise stated. Our box office is now Salisbury Tourist Information Centre in Fish Row. Tickets are £10, concessions £8, and performances start at 7.30pm, unless otherwise stated. Seats can be booked on 01722 342860.