

What an exciting year 2016 has been for Studio, starting with a win at the Daily Echo Curtain Call Awards for John Davies for his performance in *The Crucible* and a clutch of trophies from the All England Theatre Festival for our one-act play entry, the dinner party scene from *Top Girls*. In the last three months, we launched our ambitious bid to expand our theatre premises and garnered a magnificent 11 nominations in this year's Curtain Call Awards.

### THREE TIMES TIM TOPS DECCA NOMS

Three of our productions get nods in the DECCAs with hard-hitting drama *Female Transport* scoring 6 of the 11 nominations, including Best Director and Best Set and Props for Tim Greathead plus Production of the Year. There was also recognition for Eleanor Boag (Best Newcomer), James Paterson (Best Supporting Actor) and Val Greathead (Best Costumes). In the Comedy and Comic Drama category, *Toad of Toad Hall* pulled in four nominations for Best Actor (Kevin Murdoch - Toad), Best Supporting Actress (Sheelagh Browne - Mole), Best Supporting Actor (Colin Hayman - Badger) and Best Lighting, Sound and Special Effects (Joel Powney and George Cotterill). October's sell-out production of *The Ladykillers* picked up a nomination for Best Set and Props for Alistair Faulkner, Rachel Fletcher, Jill Redston and George Fleming. Excitement will mount throughout January when the awards themselves will be handed out at the south coast's very own amateur Oscars in Southampton.



The cast of *Female Transport*

### LAUNCH OF FUND-RAISING BID TO BUILD A BETTER THEATRE

Colin Hayman's acclaimed production of *The Ladykillers* sold out every ticket of its ten night run and won critical plaudits for the performances and the magnificent set. A gala performance to a specially invited audience on the first Friday launched our £350,000 bid to build a two-storey extension on our existing premises.

Our president Rosemary Squires was there to hear our two patrons, award-winning playwright Barney Norris and Liberal Democrat spokesman for Culture, Media and Sport, Baroness Bonham-Carter of Yarnbury, greet the plans with enthusiasm.

The new facilities will provide additional dressing rooms, enabling us to meet legislation regarding appropriate facilities for young people, and provide a rehearsal room for the theatre, which can also be used as a community space for hire during the day and at weekends. There are also plans for a scenery dock as well as extra space to store furniture, costumes and props. The pdf of the pamphlet (sent with this edition of VFTW) tells you a bit more about it. If you feel you can help in any way - either with practical expertise, advice, goods in kind or plain hard cash - please get in touch with our chairman, George Goulding at [george\\_goulding@icloud.com](mailto:george_goulding@icloud.com) or if you have any suggestions of grants we could apply for, Jackie Pilkington would love to hear from you on [jackie@pilk.co.uk](mailto:jackie@pilk.co.uk)



Peter Pan

The good news is that our initial fund-raising, coupled with our current financial stability, means that we can begin building work in the spring.

### FAIRIES FLY IN

*The Ladykillers* was bookended by two plays involving fairies and showed what a major asset our youth theatre has become to the club. The cast of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the summer boasted around a dozen youngsters and former alumni of Studio Youth Theatre. December's *Peter Pan* was pure youth theatre (with the tiniest bit of help from the adults and a sprinkling of fairy dust from Tinkerbell) with SYT providing not just the actors, but the director, stage management, lighting and sound as well.

### NEW DOP AND TICKET PRICING

Our AGM saw little change at the top and a bit of a reshuffle in the committee. Rachel Fletcher took up the Director of Productions mantle for the 2017-18 season and is already encouraging budding directors to come up with their dream wish-list of plays for your future delectation. Meanwhile, current DOP Linda Hayman is coaxing the current season into the world with no less than five possible dainty dishes to set before you in the coming months. With production costs increasing all the time, we opted to maintain our ticket price point at £10, but voted to dispense with the concessionary rate, except for under 16s.



## GREAT WAR/COLD WAR

The remainder of the season offers mystery, romance, great comedy, high drama, and a musical knees-up down memory lane. Could we squeeze in anything more? Well, yes - in addition to the programme already published, we will be entering two one-act plays into the All England Theatre Festival and plan to give a preview performance or two under the umbrella title Great War/Cold War for our supporters on March 10 and 11 at Studio. See below for more details.



### Dates for your shiny new 2017 diaries:

**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 gritty Female Transport, is in charge.



**March 10-11: Great War/Cold War.** The Old Lady Shows Her Medals by J M Barrie, written and first performed in 1917, is a funny and touching play focusing on what happens when charlady Mrs Dowey is told her son is home on leave from the frontline. An Englishman Abroad by Alan Bennett retells the story of actress Coral Browne's brief encounter with traitor Guy Burgess while she was on tour to Moscow in 1958.

**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, anybody?

**June 6-10: Old Time Music 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' 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 a PLEA

*Our youth theatre goes from strength to strength but we would welcome more help either from potential workshop leaders or from parents, who are prepared to train as chaperones for rehearsals and performances. Ensuring the youth theatre can continue and flourish is of paramount importance to us, but it is getting increasingly difficult without help. Please contact Linda Hayman at [lindahayman@btinternet.com](mailto:lindahayman@btinternet.com)*

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, under 16s £8, and performances start at 7.30pm, unless otherwise stated. Seats can be booked on 01722 342860.