

# Prompt:

the newsletter for **Teignmouth Players** and **TYKES**

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**January/February 2020**

## CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME.

Firstly, I hope all had a good Christmas and new year. It was, as I am sure you are all aware, a very busy time for Teignmouth Players, with Jack and The Beanstalk playing ten performances of which seven were either sold or as good as, and the others not too far behind. Somewhere close to 1800 people saw this year's show. I am delighted to report that feedback from audiences was excellent, so a big 'thank you' must go to all the cast and crew, in particular to **Jeff Hocking** and **Carmen Louise** who were Musical Director and Choreographer respectively. I have to say a personal, and huge 'thank you' to **Maria Renwick** who did an amazing job as Production Co-ordinator - a thankless task but particularly for a show the size of panto, a critical one, that takes nerves of steel to make happen. I would also like to thank those who supplied cake on my birthday!!



I am delighted to welcome **Nathan Swain-Sachs** to the committee, He will now be looking after the Social side of the Society, and I am sure we will be hearing from him of future events in the coming months! Also we are joined by **Angela Mayo-Carroll** who stepped forward after last month's plea for an assistant treasurer. Welcome both, I am really looking forward to working with you.

Our focus now shifts to 2020 and our next production follows hard on the heels of the pantomime, but is something a bit different. **The Tempest** is our Shakespeare play for 2020, is in the more than capable hands of director, **Nicole Davall**, with a great cast and imaginative staging that will ensure that this year's offering will be more than up to the standard of the previous years'. These have been some of our biggest sellers in recent years of Ice Factory Studio Theatre productions, and have become a regular and popular part of our season.

Our new season programmes booklets will be published shortly, and please, when you are at the Ice Factory Studio Theatre, grab a handful and get them distributed. This is the same message we are always giving, but these things don't do themselves. **Jane Athey** and her small team of distributors need your help. There will be several thousand copies and they don't do us any good on a bookshelf at the Ice Factory.

Don't forget to keep an eye on Social Media and our website for news on auditions, and visiting productions through the year that aren't in the printed programme. As I write this auditions are underway for our TADDfest entry, written by our good friend and member Peter Whittle and directed by Ken Swan called **Breaking the News** - '*Christmas, Mother, and a secret - what could possibly go wrong?!?*' This will be presented at the Ice Factory Studio Theatre along with 3tc's entry **Love Me Tender** 11-14 March. ABS Theatre also return following their triumph of Breaking the Code to present **4000 days** on 27-28 March. Tickets are on sale for these now.

A range of workshops are currently being planned with **Margaret Long** driving the process to get more people involved in the backstage and technical sides of the Society. We have a lack of experienced Stage Managers, and others who are vital to run our productions, and if we are going to be able to continue we need to address this. There is no such thing as a show that doesn't need a stage manager! So please, keep an eye out for further information and come along and find out what you can do to help.

Margaret Long has done an amazing job contacting members and this is paying dividends. Please contact her ([membership@teignmouthplayers.com](mailto:membership@teignmouthplayers.com)) if you are interested in helping in any area of activity that you may not have told us about before.

You can also contact me at any time ([info@teignmouthplayers.com](mailto:info@teignmouthplayers.com)) if you are able to offer help, or feel you have something that the committee need to look at.

Finally, 'Au revoir' but definitely not 'goodbye' to our Treasurer, **Paul Gibbons**. Paul needs no introduction and has been a real stalwart of the Society for several years, having served on committees, jumping in to help at a moment's notice, stage managing, production co-ordinating, running lighting or sound, the bar, and being a great friend to all in the Society. Paul is moving away from the area, but will be remaining as our treasurer, ably assisted by **Angela Mayo-Carroll** who will be his eyes and ears on the ground. Thank you Paul, I know Teignmouth Players will always hold a special place in your heart, and I hope you know that we value everything you have done, and we hope, will continue to do albeit remotely.

Wishing you all the very best for 2020.

Daniel Saint

## PRODUCTION NEWS.

### The Tempest – Ice Factory Studio Theatre, 17<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> February

Directed by Nicole Davall



Have you booked your tickets? With a great cast, some innovative staging and a bit of Classic Shakespeare, this is going to be a fantastic start to the Ice Factory's 2020 line-up.

William Shakespeare wrote "The Tempest" in 1610-1611, and it is widely considered to be the playwright's last play. While the play is not based on anything, many believe the author drew inspiration from Ovid's "Metamorphoses," Erasmus's "Naufragium," and Peter Martyr's "De orbe novo." The play opens with a storm, a common device in the Bard's work, and lands a group of seamen on an island ruled by the magician Prospero.

Fun things you might not know about the Tempest: -

1. The Tempest is one of Shakespeare's shortest plays at 17,233 words.
2. The Tempest is the most performed play on the BBC
3. Uranus's moons are named for characters in "The Tempest."
4. Several A-list celebrities have played the role of Prospero onstage and on screen, including John Gielgud, Patrick Stewart, Derek Jacobi, Michael Hordern, Christopher Plummer, Vanessa Redgrave, and Helen Mirren.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Ice Factory Studio Theatre for another visit to the world of Shakespeare. Visit [www.teignmouthplayers.com](http://www.teignmouthplayers.com) to purchase tickets online.



(Photos by Jon Bond, Memoir Multimedia)

### One Act Play Week – Ice Factory Studio Theatre, 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> March

#### Breaking the News, Written by Peter Whittle, Directed by Ken Swan (TP)

It is written by Peter Whittle, is the TP entry for this year's Taddfest at Dawlish and is a three hander.

The story line is that Nigel is living with his girlfriend. They are discussing where they are going to spend Christmas when his mother comes around to their flat and springs a surprise on the both of them. The tag-line is 'Christmas, a secret and Mother. What possibly could go wrong!'

We have auditioned for Alice and Mary, the female protagonists, and now need to find a Nigel

## Love me tender, Written by Roger Woodcock and directed by Jackie Wesley-Harkcom (3TC)

After the local pit closed, Josie and Jim's fish and chip shop has begun to fail, but their lives are cheered by their Elvis-song-singing, 'spud peeler' Billy. Billy, still at school, has responsibility for his mum. She is unwell and he has cared for her since his Dad died in a pit disaster. Young Billy's solace is his friend Olga – a cheerful young student, but with her own torments. For the four protagonists, rumours of a Japanese car factory coming to the town make their life prospects very different, but a few hours' events make a huge difference to their lives. Poignant moments of light and shade interlaced with gentle humour mark this fitting companion to 'Darra's Coffin' as another masterly piece from playwright Roger Woodcock.

## Foundation for Murder – Ice Factory Studio Theatre, 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> May



Written and Directed by Jackie Wesley-Harkcom.

If you like a good murder mystery, then you can't go wrong with this home grown production of "Foundation for Murder". Was it Colonel Mustard, with the candlestick, in the ballroom; Mrs White in the Library with the rope or is there something sinister going on at the Ice Factory Studio Theatre? All will be revealed during this murderous "who dunnit" production. Tickets on-sale very soon.

## Travel Notes – Pavilions Teignmouth, 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> July

Written and musically directed by Jeff Hocking, Directed by Steve Wreford.

Watch this space for details of the upcoming reading and auditions for this musical dash around the world in delightful musical theatre.

## Blackadder – Pavilions Teignmouth, 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> September

Directed by Amy Burton-Smith

### Auditions for Blackadder

Blackadder is running from 1st - 5th September and there are still roles that need to be filled. We are doing series II episodes, Head, Money and Chains. A **read through will be on Monday 24th Feb at 7.30pm** and **auditions will be Wednesday 26th Feb 7.30pm** at the ice factory. If you can't make the audition date, please don't hesitate to contact Amy Burton-Smith to discuss an audition on an alternative date. Her email is [theamyburtonsmith@gmail.com](mailto:theamyburtonsmith@gmail.com).

### Roles available:

Principal roles:

- Nursie
- Melchett

Episode roles that will be doubled:

- Mr Ploppy
- Spanish Inquisitr
- Farrow' brother
- Minstrel
- Messenger
- Arthur
- Leonardo Acropolis
- Mad Beggar
- Mr Pants
- 2 Guards

## Roberto Zucco – Ice Factory Studio Theatre, 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> October

Written by Bernard-Marie Koltès, Directed by Steve Andrews

Robert Succo was born in Mestre. On 9 April 1981 he fatally stabbed his mother Maria 32 times, and his father, a police officer, who had refused to lend him their car. He hid their bodies in the bathtub covered in water and lime to delay the discovery of the murders and fled with his father's service pistol. In 1988, Bernard-Marie Koltès wrote a play (Roberto Zucco)[a] loosely based on Succo's life and crimes.

Keep an eye on Prompt and your email for details of the reading and auditions for this production.

## Sleeping Beauty (Pantomime) – Pavilions Teignmouth, 28<sup>th</sup> December – 3<sup>rd</sup> January

Written and directed by Amy Burton-Smith.



Reading and auditions for this year's pantomime will take place in a few months. Watch this place, our member's facebook page and your email for more details.

## New Play Reading Group for 2020

There are a number of members who have expressed an interest in play reading, and I'm pleased to tell you that Nathan Swain-Sachs, aka Dame Dotty Dimple, has very kindly agreed to coordinate a group.



Nathan will be contacting you from a dedicated Players' email address, once that has been set up, but will probably be something like [playreadinggroup@...](mailto:playreadinggroup@...) or [prg@...](mailto:prg@...), so watch out for that.

In the meantime perhaps you can let me have any comments or ideas on what you would like to see or have experienced with other groups and email me on [membership@teignmouthplayers.com](mailto:membership@teignmouthplayers.com) which I will pass onto Nathan until he has his own email.

The sort of thing that would be useful to know is, would evenings or weekends be best? Would you like different people to lead the group? Frequency – Monthly or Bi-Monthly? Would you like the bar open for a discussion group afterwards? Would you like to know beforehand what is going to be read?

We have loads of scripts to start with at The Ice Factory, but I'm sure we can arrange to borrow some from other societies too.

It will be a lovely way to catch up with old friends and make some new one.

Margaret Long

## Stop press – let's get social!!!

Quiz night at the ice factory at on the evening on Saturday 8th February from around 7pm



What's the only thing better than a good old Pub quiz?

How about a pub quiz hosted by a drag queen?

Members and guests are invited to join us at the Ice factory on Saturday 8th February from 7pm for an evening of trivia, fun and games hosted by Rusty Screw.

This is a great opportunity for members and newcomers to socialise and see what TP has to offer so come along and have some fun.

The bar will be open and snacks will be available, this event is free for current members and only £2 for guests. Hope to see many of you there.

## Stepping out to support a great charity

The cast of Teignmouth Players' production of 'Stepping Out', performed at the Pavilions Teignmouth this summer, are delighted that their efforts have resulted in the Players being able to make a presentation to The Helen Foundation of £1,160.61. A Charity night was held on 16th July in support of The Helen Foundation and Teignmouth Players also donated a 25% of the programme sales to the charity. We are also delighted to announce that a further donation to the Helen Foundation of £106.65 has been made from the sale of programmes at this years Pantomime.

*Left to right: Jessica Hunter (Director); Margaret Long; Roger Kirk (The Helen Foundation); Steve Wreford; Annie Kirk (The Helen Foundation) Gaye Ilston; Elizabeth Phipps; Emma Firth; Hannah Cridge.*



## Around the area.

Compliments of John Miles (The Torbay Thespis) - Here are some of the other productions coming up in our area.

6-8th February. 7.30pm. **'The Cross and the Switchblade'**, directed by **Martin Harris**. 6-8th February. 7.30pm.

Unleashed Theatre Company. St Mary Mag's Church, Castle Circus, Torquay.  
unleashedtickets@gmail.com Community theatre.

12-15th February. 7.30pm. **'The Wolves of Willoughby Chase' by Aitkin and Tunney,**  
directed by Becky Dobson. Tadpoles Youth Theatre.  
Toads Theatre Company. 01803 299330. [www.toadstheatre.co.uk](http://www.toadstheatre.co.uk)

14th February. 7.30pm. **'The Breath of Life', by David Hare.**  
Directed by Cora Gant. A script-in-hand production by Dartington Playgoers. Totnes Library. Ticket  
on the door.

19-22nd February. 7.30pm. **'Night Must Fall' by Emyln Williams, directed by Maggie Campbell.**  
'Bijou' Theatre. 01803 665800

12-14th March. 7.30pm Sat mat 2.30pm. **'The Importance of being Earnest' by Oscar Wilde.**  
Directed by Sandra Dudley.  
Ivybridge Theatre Company at The Watermark.  
Contact Sandra Dudley on 07837 330831 or 01752 698525

12-14th March. 7.30pm **'Agatha Crusty and The Village Hall Murders'**  
by Derek Webb. Directed by Pat Gillies.  
Shiphay Am Dram. SADS. St John's Hall, Cadewell Lane. [www.shiphayamdram.co.uk](http://www.shiphayamdram.co.uk) 07821 601 658

16- 21st March. 7.30pm Sat mat 2.30pm. **'Deathtrap' by Ira Levin, directed by Jill Pettigrew**  
Toads Theatre Company. 01803 299330. [www.toadstheatre.co.uk](http://www.toadstheatre.co.uk)

20-22nd March. Friday 20th 7.30 p.m. Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd 3.00 p.m. **TADDFest at  
Shaftbury Theatre, Dawlish.**  
Three plays Friday and Saturday, two plays on Sunday, followed by the awards presentation.  
Detailed adjudication after each play.  
Contact Freda Welton. 01626 775140, or email to [taddfest@gmail.com](mailto:taddfest@gmail.com)

21-25th March. 7.30pm. **'Chicago'**  
Director/Choreographer, Tracey Loveridge, Musical Direction, Rob Young and Simon Carter  
TOPS Musical at The Palace Theatre, Paignton.

27-28th March. 7.30pm. **'4,000 Days' by Peter Quilter, directed by Amy Burton-Smith.**  
ABS at The Ice Factory Studio Theatre, Teignmouth.  
A Four Dimensional sensory performance.