

Prompt:

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

The Ice Factory Studio Theatre
Somerset Place, Teignmouth TQ14 8EN
Telephone: 01626 778991
info@teignmouthplayers.com
Teignmouth Players: CIO Charity number 1176546.

Contact us:

01626 778991 info@teignmouthplayers.com teignmouthplayers.co.uk
f @teignmouthplayers and @theicefactorystudiotheatre

November 2019

MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING CHAIRMAN

Dear fellow Teignmouth Players,

As some of you will know, I have had a couple of health scares this year and, unfortunately, one of these continues to make life more difficult than it ought to be! I have, therefore, asked my fellow trustees to allow me to step down from the Chair of the society with immediate effect. This has not been an easy decision as there is so much that we still want to achieve. However, I know that Daniel and the rest of the committee share the desire to make the Ice Factory Studio Theatre a more welcoming and effective facility for members and audiences alike and I hope that you will all get behind them in these endeavours.

My sincere thanks for all their support and understanding go to our President, Roger Smith, and fellow Trustee, Jane Athey. Their wise counsel and immeasurable support for the Society will, I'm sure, help to guide Daniel and the rest of the committee through the months ahead. My thanks too go to your committee, Daniel Saint, Ken Swan, Layla Crabtree, Acting Treasurer Paul Gibbons, Jeff Hocking and Margaret Long, for their support and concern. My final thanks must go to my family, Chrissie, Greg and Maria for their constant love and support. They know how important that has been and remains as far as I am concerned.

In Daniel Saint, we have someone with far greater knowledge of the theatre than I can ever hope to have. Daniel's ideas and commitment are second to none, if only he would realise it! I am utterly convinced that Daniel will be an excellent Chairman but he cannot do everything on his own and will need the support not only from the rest of the committee but from the wider membership as well.

We have a good number of younger people involved with the society now, building on the successes of the Blackadder and Shakespeare productions in recent years and last year's panto and it would be great to see more of these younger people get actively involved in the management of the Society. Layla Crabtree has stepped up to the mark, has relaunched Tykes and is already working on the Tykes' TADDFest entry for next year, good luck to her and Tykes in this endeavour.

I'm sorry that I cannot complete my term as Chairman but know that standing down now is in everyone's best interests. I still hope to be an active member of TP and wish the Society and its members all good wishes for the future.

Dave Renwick

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Teignmouth Players members

Although the committee and trustees have been aware for a while that our Chairman was not well we all hoped that a quick return to good health would rejuvenate and encourage him to carry on the good work he has started. Unfortunately that has not been forthcoming and Dave has sensibly stood down as Chairman of the Players.

I know from past experience that the pressures on the Chairman can be very difficult to handle at times and the past couple of years has shown that in no small measure.

Add these pressures to ill health and something has to give and I am glad that Dave has realised that he can hand over the chair to Daniel and take the chance to put himself and his health first for a change.

On behalf of the Society may I take this opportunity to thank Dave for all his efforts whilst in the chair and for all he has achieved during that time. Our thanks should also be to his family for giving him the support I know they will have given to try and make things a bit easier.

It is with pleasure that I have this opportunity to introduce Daniel Saint as our new Chairman.

Many, if not most, of you will know Daniel and have seen him in his various roles but you may not realise just how experienced he is in theatre and most aspects of it. He always seems to be helping one group or another when not helping us and is so well known and respected in the theatrical circuit in Devon and further afield.

Whilst he will not relish the circumstances of his sudden 'promotion' I am convinced, after Jane Athey and I had a long conversation with him about his thoughts for the future, that he will be a worthy successor to Dave and will take the role very seriously and bring a good degree of enthusiasm, expertise and innovation to it

Jane and I have offered our help and assistance in the unlikely event that he is unsure about anything and I am sure that members will do so as well.

I hope that he will continue to involve all age groups with theatre and build on the excellent reputation that both the Players and the Ice Factory Studio Theatre have so rightly gained over recent years. Dave is absolutely right when he says Daniel cannot do everything on his own so if you want to keep the Players and TYKES going and being successful please, please help wherever and whenever you can, don't wait to be asked just offer whatever you can, I am sure your help will be more than welcome.

Roger Smith

MESSAGE FROM THE INCOMING CHAIRMAN

Dear all,

I would just like to conclude this cascade of messages from Dave Renwick and Roger Smith by thanking Dave Renwick for his leadership over the past 16 months or so, and I am sure you will join me in wishing him a quick return to good health. I would also like to thank Chrissie, Greg and Maria for the support they have given Dave, myself and the Committee and am thrilled that all, including Dave, will continue to play an active part in the Society.

I feel very humbled and privileged to find myself in this position. Not a position I sought and I am probably more surprised than anyone to find myself here. However, with the help and advice of the Committee, Trustees, and most importantly, each and every one of you, our members, I feel confident we can work together to build on the strong foundations of the Society.

I appeal to you all to help where you can. In today's world, members move from Society to Society appearing in productions that they want to do. Whilst I fully understand this, and indeed, as Roger has said, I work with many different groups in the area at venues of all shapes and sizes, we are not unique in that this leaves us with a relatively small core of members to run things day to day compared to how things used to be.

If there is an area you feel with your help we can improve, let us know - don't wait to be asked! I am a firm believer that clear constructive communication is at the centre of any success, but that needs to be a two-way street.

I am sure we will continue to have different ideas, as lively discussion is an important part of our every day lives, and we are all, I am sure, working for the same goal, which is to promote and develop performing arts within the local community, and I am looking forward to working with you all to achieve this.

We are, as always actively looking for new members, and will be launching posters and leaflets encouraging people to come and join us - a preview of the poster that we will have on display is shown in this edition of Prompt.

Keep reading as later in this edition I take a look at our plans over the next few months.

Best wishes,

Daniel Saint



HELP NEEDED FOR THIS YEAR'S PANTOMIME

At the moment we are short of stage crew for the upcoming production of Jack and the Beanstalk. If you are available between the 28th December and 4th January, please get in touch. (A few days before for familiarisation would be even better.) This is not all about heavy lifting but rather helping to get set and props into the right place at the right time under the guidance of our stage manager. If you can help please let Daniel know by emailing info@teignmouthplayers.com.

PRODUCTION NEWS

We have a fantastic programme of productions and performances coming up. We hope you will all get involved where you can as well as coming along to see these much anticipated shows.

Jack & The Beanstalk.



December 28th to January 4th at the Pavilions Teignmouth.

Written by Alan Frayn; Directed by Daniel Saint; Musical Director, Jeff Hocking
Casting is complete, rehearsals are under way and tickets are on-sale for this years spectacular seasonal pantomime. Get your tickets early for the best seats and tell everyone you know to come along and support us. Just as importantly, when the call goes out for Front of House volunteers or any other assistance, please jump in to help if you can.

The Tempest



February 17 - 22 at the Ice Factory Studio Theatre.

Written by William Shakespeare; Directed by Nicole Davall

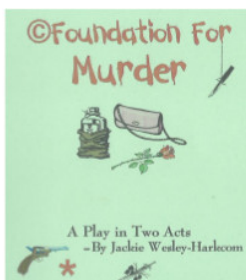
Following on the success of our run of excellent Shakespearian productions we are enormously proud to be able to stage this production which kicks off our 2020 season. At the time of writing, casting for this production should be complete. Keep an eye on our webpage for release dates of tickets for this show.

Taddfest 2020

March 19 - 21 at the Shaftesbury Theatre, Dawlish

Teignmouth Players have been supporters of the Teignmouth and Dawlish Drama festival for many years and aim to enter 2 plays in 2020. Our entries will include one from our junior section, Tykes and we are currently pinning down the entry from the senior section. More details to follow.

Foundation for Murder



May 5th - 9th at the Ice Factory Studio Theatre

Written and directed by Jackie Wesley-Harkcom

Drawing from her years of experience in writing and producing murder mysteries, this production promises to be a deathly delight to cast and audiences alike.

Reading date for this production is Wednesday 27th November followed by auditions on Wednesday 4th December @ 19:30 and Sunday 8th December @ 2:30pm.

We recently emailed out details of the characters for this production, however if you'd like more information, please contact Jackie via email: Jackie@murdermadetomeasure.co.uk.

SEASONAL SOCIAL CATCHUP



Saturday December 7th, 6:30 – 7pm at the Ice Factory Studio Theatre

A few of us were chatting and thought it might be nice to have a seasonal get-together. We know this is fairly short notice, but we would love to invite you all to come along and join us.

It doesn't matter whether you are a paid up member, new to the Society or want a chance to renew acquaintances (and your membership), this is the perfect way to kick off the festive season.

Bring a plate to share, bring your singing voice as we might sort out a few seasonal favourites and bring that festive cheer. This will be an informal evening with the aim of having a bit of a laugh. We really hope you will come along and join us and catch up with all the members of the Teignmouth Players Family.

THE GOOD DOCTOR REVIEW



They say you are only as good as your last production. Well, WHAT a production *The Good Doctor* turned out to be. This mixture of short plays written by Neil Simon, based on the works of Anton Chekhov and directed by Paul Loveless not only drew in the crowds, but received a fantastic review, a copy of

which you can see below: -

What a wonderful evening Teignmouth Players presented at the Ice Factory. A series of classical vignettes based upon a collection of short stories by Anton Chekhov and turned into a comic masterpiece by Neil Simon, in which Paul Loveless directed a talented cast of five to perfection.

Gordon Mellor portrayed his narrator/writer with charismatic ease throughout together with some poignant sequences, particularly 'Too late For happiness'.

For his debut appearance at the Ice factory David Gent proved a tremendous asset to the team, ranging from a gout-ridden Bank Manager to a father educating his son in the ways of the world. All with great panache.

Also making her debut with the Players is Patricia Angove who gave a display of her acting skills in a wide variety of characters.

Jaz Wyer-Brown played her selection of characters with tremendous conviction. From the young wife, the 'drowning' con-man, her theatrical audition (a masterpiece) and her 'lady of the night' were all memorable.

Last, but by no means least, Lewis Bird played the juvenile male roles. He needed at times to relax into his roles to make them more thoroughly convincing. But his immature son portrayal and his locum dentist were his best roles.

Paul Loveless' simple studio theatre staging was a great success, helped by the simple yet ingenious set design and effective lighting. The adaptation of costumes for each scene proved appropriate for the characters portrayed.

Thank you Teignmouth Players for a most entertaining and interesting evening.

Geoffrey Wildey.

LOOKING FORWARD

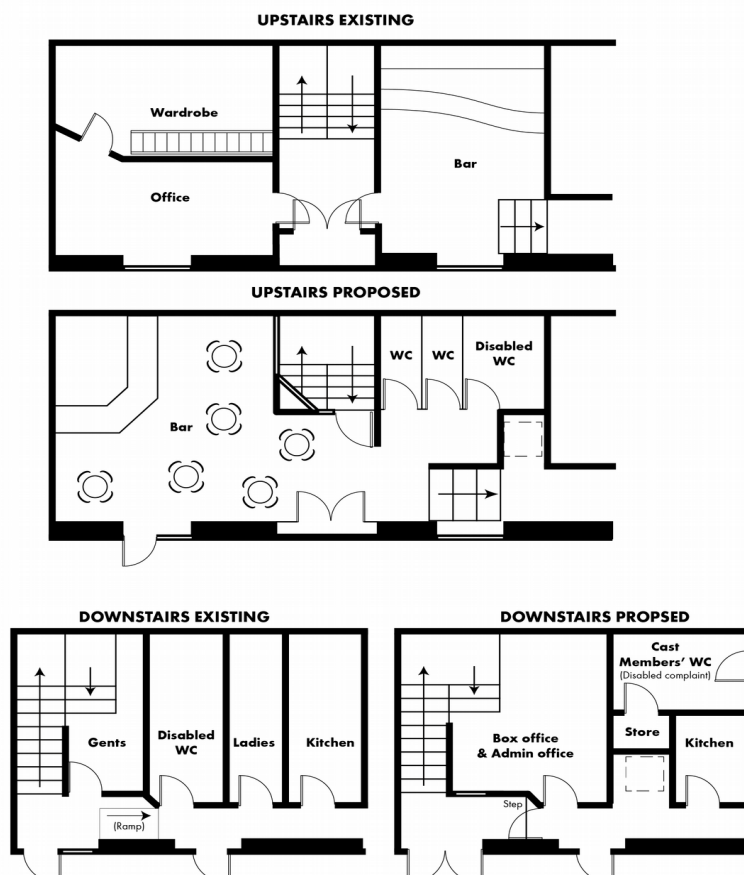
By Daniel Saint

We are now getting the elements together we need to improve the Ice Factory Studio Theatre as I outlined at the AGM, with the hope that these works can be carried out during the summer months of 2020. The sketch plans, as shown below, most of you will have seen are not the final ones, but were to kick-start discussions. I hope that in the months to come we can update you all more on what is going to happen and when. We are actively looking at the feasibility of improving disabled access to upstairs, and will keep you posted on progress. When they do happen, this will mean the Ice Factory Studio Theatre will close and be out of bounds for three, possibly four months. We are exploring various options to ensure there is not a break in our programme for 2020.

We have 20 years of our lease on the Ice Factory Studio Theatre remaining, and this is a lease that Teignbridge cannot terminate early, so we firmly believe that these works will be a positive use of some of the legacy money we received from Harold and Joyce Hayden's estate to make the Ice Factory Studio Theatre fit for the next 20 years and beyond!

Looking at 'theatre', we are putting the finishing touches to the 2020 season, and this should be published shortly. I am delighted that Layla Crabtree is entering a TYKES production in TADDFEST, and we hope to have a second entry too - but more on that soon!

Proposed plans for Ice Factory Studio Theatre 2020:



MEMBERSHIP

We are thrilled that Margaret Long has taken on the role of Membership Officer for the Society. This is an often difficult job and can take many hours of dedication to keep the records up to date, chase cast members, keep our email systems current and find individuals to help when help is needed.

Margaret has done a great job in contacting members who have not yet renewed, however if she hasn't had a chance to get to you and you haven't yet renewed, please get in touch as it will make her life much easier.

We are also embarking on a process of getting people involved in the areas they have listed as areas of interest on membership forms. Don't be surprised if you get a call asking to come along to a "Front of House" induction event, or are invited to help with areas of a production you have listed as an interest.

More importantly, let people you know who have an interest in any aspect of the performing arts know that we are here. The more members we have the easier it is to get the volunteers we need for productions as well as the casts.

WHO'S WHO..

President & Trustee - Roger Smith. (info@teignmouthplayers.com)

Committee Chairman & Trustee - Daniel Saint. (info@teignmouthplayers.com)

Acting Treasurer - Paul Gibbons. (treasurer@teignmouthplayers.com)

Membership Officer & Committee Member - Margaret Long. (membership@teignmouthplayers.com)

Ice Factory Bookings & Committee Member - Ken Swan. (bookings@teignmouthplayers.com)

Tykes Leader & Committee Member - Layla Crabtree. (info@teignmouthplayers.com)

Other Committee Members: - Jeff Hocking

Other Trustees: - Dave Renwick, Jane Athey

