



Prompt:

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

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May 2021

Chairman's Welcome

First of all, please accept my sincere apologies for not being in touch sooner. Whilst much of the world seems to have stopped in recent months, the calendar hasn't and neither have we. However, I make no apologies for this being a fairly well packed edition of Prompt!

As I was sat in the office of the Ice Factory Studio Theatre writing this, I was looking through to the studio space that has not been used for over a whole year now. It is still a bit of a building site up there, although much progress has been made and we will be ready for the exciting new production to be staged in July (all fingers, toes and other extremities crossed!!)

As we all faced the unknown this time last year, it was impossible for anyone to have imagined the impact 'the situation' would have had on us all, both individually and as a Society. I sincerely hope that everyone has managed to keep well... and sane!! You will all be very aware I'm sure, that theatre at all levels has had to face challenges over the past year, and even now the major amateur musicals in the area that were due to be staged by our friends at TOADS Stage Musical Society, Exeter Musical Society and TOPs in 2020, then 2021 are now being postponed to 2022.

It feels a long time ago now, but thanks must go to **Amy Burton-Smith**, **Nathan Swain-Sachs**, **Hannah Baxter-Freeman** and **David Warren** who all, with the help of production co-ordinator, **Margaret Long**, managed to 'stage' two performances of an online interactive pantomime in December. Performed live in the actors' own homes, this specially written version of **Jack and the Beanstalk** was very well received by the audiences (the performers were able to see audience members and their reactions via the live 'Zoom' link), and it proved to be an innovative and clever use of the technology to hand. Well done, and many thanks to Amy for coming up with the concept.

We do however, move forward and look forward to getting back to some sort of normal life in July with our exciting new production **Frank's Final Redemption?**. Written by members **Steve Wreford** and **Gordon Mellor**, Frank Sinatra finds himself at the bar of the Pearly Gates Hotel, and serving behind the bar is St Peter. The show then reflects on the life of one of America's favourite singing stars, his music and the light and dark that made his life so full. A two-hander musical play, it has on

this occasion been cast without auditions and I hope you will appreciate the necessity for this under the current circumstances. We fully expect to return to our normal methods of casting by audition for all future shows.

Moving forward we are taking very careful steps for the remainder of 2021 and we are prepared for the possibility that we may have to revise plans at any time with little or no notice. We are looking at options for the rest of the year, including a return to the Pavilions for Pantomime at Christmas - more details on this to follow soon!

Our plans for 2022 have been discussed and the hope is that we can present much of the abandoned 2020 season, although if there are still restrictions in place regarding social distancing and PPE, we may need to make some changes to that programme. We are talking to our loyal team of directors whose plays had to be postponed, and we look forward to working with them as soon as we are able. We can confirm that Shakespeare will return in 2022 in his now customary spot in February with this year's offering, again directed by **Nicole Davall**, being **A Midsummer Night's Dream**.

I would like to welcome **Margaret Long** and **Paul Gibbons** (moving to the other side of the country is no escape!) to the trustees of the Society, who along with myself, **Roger Smith**, **Jane Athey** and **Dave Renwick** have the legal responsibilities of ensuring the correct running of the Society in accordance with the various laws and regulations.

There will be news of the AGM coming soon after we were unable to hold this last year, in line with guidance from the Charities Commission and our own Constitution.

You will be pleased to note that the committee propose no increase to membership subs this year, but after a year off, subs will be due before the AGM and the membership year is changing to fall in-line with the Society's financial year, so will now run from May to April, and we will advise how that will work via our new online system that has been mentioned previously. Fear not, those of you who do not have access to the internet, your needs will be catered for in the new system as it goes live.

Please continue to stay safe, with the vaccines (I had my first one recently!) the light at the end of the tunnel is getting closer.

Daniel
Your Chairman & Trustee.

Production News

Frank's Final Redemption (Frank Sinatra: In his own Words & Music)

Ice factory Studio Theatre - 13th to 17th July.



This musical play tells the story of one of America's greatest 20th century entertainers through his own words and music. Set in the familiar surroundings of a saloon bar in Hoboken during the early hours of the morning, Sinatra is sat slumped at the bar with St Peter posing as a barman at the Pearly Gates Hotel.

Sinatra enjoys his favoured bourbon – Jack Daniels, while St Peter questions him about his relationships, friends and lovers revealing the highs and lows of his life at his final redemption.

Written and performed by Steve Wreford and Gordon Mellor.
Directed by Ken Swan

Tickets will be available online shortly.

Autumn 2021

As you will be aware, we are re-opening the Ice Factory Studio Theatre in July (COVID restrictions allowing) with a new production of 'Frank's Final Redemption?' as detailed in the Chairmans' Welcome.

Looking beyond this, the productions that were originally scheduled for 2020 are now being planned for 2022. This does, however, leave a gap in our schedule for a potential production to be staged in the autumn of 2021. We know that this is not going to be a 'normal' year, and we are fortunate that we are hopefully in a position to put productions on to the stage - something several of our friends in other societies locally have not been able to do.

We are looking for experienced directors to put forward proposals for a production with the following criteria to be performed in the Autumn:

- The genre to be a light-hearted comedy / farce.
- The title / author should be one that audiences will recognise and feel familiar with.
- the cast size should be no more than four.

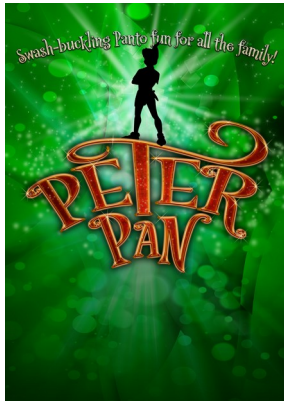
Our steps back to normality need to be cautious and ones that will make our audiences feel safe and willing to return to live theatre. We must also prepare for the (hopefully remote) possibility that restrictions may be re-introduced at any time.

If you think you have a production that will fit the bill, then please get in touch to be put forward for the committee to consider.

Contact: info@teignmouthplayers.co.uk or telephone 01626 778991

Panto 2021 – Peter Pan

Pavilions Teignmouth - Dates to be confirmed



It's behind you. Oh no it's not, it's all to come this December/January

Although there is still an enormous amount of work to go, plans are well underway to stage this year's pantomime at the Pavilions Teignmouth.

- Directed by Layla Crabtree and Nathan Swain-Sacks.
- Musical Director, Jeff Hocking.
- Choreographer, Carmen Louise.

As soon as we have more details, including audition dates, we will broadcast it to you all.

Membership.

As mentioned in the Chairman's welcome, there will be no change to our subscriptions this year, although we will be adding an option for members to make an optional donation should they wish to do so. (Every little helps after a year without our usual sources of income.)

We have moved our membership to an online platform which will allow you to pay this from the comfort of your own living room. (or office or anywhere else you like to go online) The platform is by a company called membermojo. In terms of your privacy and data, all of their servers and backups are held on UK servers and they are fully GDPR compliant, so your data is safe.

As mentioned the membership year has been changed to reflect our financial year, so your membership will now become due from the 1st May each year. This will prevent the scramble of payments at the AGM, however, be aware that you will only be able to vote at the AGM if you have paid your current membership fees. As always you will need to be a current member to get involved in any of our productions or activities.

We will shortly send out emails to all those on our database and you will be able to pay by card directly to our paypal account. That doesn't mean you will not be able to pay in person at the Ice Factory, so once everything has reopened you will be able to pay by cash or card there as well. Please note that we no longer accept checks.

So, when you get an email from the membermojo site asking you to renew your membership. It will not be a scam. (although you should always be vigilant). Keep an eye on your spam folder, just in case it ends up there.

Grant award



In March, we were given the opportunity to apply for grant funding from Devon County Council. We were not able to off-set this against the inevitable financial loss the Society will make in 2020-21, as it had to be spent on a Capital project. The consensus was that to aid our compatibility with other venues, we should upgrade the sound control desk, and so an application was made to enable the purchase of the same desk as is used at the Pavilions, all be it in a smaller format. Delivery of our new sound desk is expected any time soon. This will, as with the lighting control desk, benefit us all as our operators will now be familiar with the desk and be able to pre-programme certain elements of our productions before we take them to the Pavilions. We will be offering training to anyone who wishes to learn the art of sound design and operation using this new piece of kit.

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Players
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**ONE
TWO
ONE
TWO**

Sound training with Teignmouth Players

Whether you are versed in the art or a novice,
if you have a desire to learn we want you to join our sound team!

YOU CAN BE INVOLVED!
info@teignmouthplayers.com · 01626 778991

noda
Teignmouth Players CIC Charity number: 1176246 Teignmouth Players is a member of NODA - The National Operatic and Dramatic Association

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Drama · Music · Comedy

Wardrobe



We are still looking for someone to take over the management of our wardrobe operations please. Anyone interested, please let us know and Jane Athey will be more than happy to give you detail of what is involved.

The Hayden Room

Plans have now been drawn up to make improvements to the Hayden Room, and we are hoping work can start on this later this year. There will be a little disruption, but we will phase the work so that the space can continue to be used for rehearsals and meetings. The plan will mean re-building the cupboards in the room, bringing the wardrobe and props down to this larger space (and giving more space to each than they have at the moment), and adding a toilet. The kitchen will also be rebuilt (with a smaller footprint, but more cupboard and worktop space than it has now) to open it up so it will be part of the main room. Separate coffee making facilities will be added as a temporary measure to the bar so that in the time between now and the main refurbishment taking place, it will save the disruption of rehearsals downstairs, and also remove the need to bring coffees etc up the stairs.

Building Maintenance and improvements



Ken Swan has been back at work on the refreshing of the Studio space after an enforced break (with me there to annoy him, finding extra things to do!). Jackie Wesley-Harkcom (apparently with the help of Phil and their cat!) has been busy re-making the black drapes so they now fit the smaller space of the Ice Factory Studio Theatre. Jackie is also re-hemming the blue wall drapes, so we should be all shiny and smart for when we re-open. Attention is now turning to the plans for the other parts of the building. In a perfect world, we would have had the major renovations completed by now, but circumstances have obviously thrown us several curved balls, but again I hope to be able to update you on the plans in the months ahead. I also spent time on the roof with our friendly builder / electrician, Bobby Martin and we hope that the leaking roof is now fixed. Keep your fingers crossed as we wait for a good rain storm with the wind coming from all directions to see if it has done the trick. We have had flat roofing contractors working on the flat roof as well during lockdown, and a number of faults were found there and have been fixed.

Steve Wreford has also made great progress in tidying up the outside walls of the building, with the first coats of paint have been applied to the rendering and the Fire Escape has been jet washed to remove the flaking paint so we can make the necessary restorative works to make this fit for the future.

Finally (but not least!), thanks go to Piran Wills who has been doing a great job as part of his Duke of Edinburgh award keeping the path etc clear and tending to the flower troughs. Thanks must also go to Sarah, Piran's mother who has donated flowers for the troughs.

DRESSING SINATRA



As many of you will know, plans are well underway to put on the Players' first production after we open to the public with Franks' Final Redemption. We see Frank Sinatra at the Pearly Gates Hotel chatting to St Peter about his life, his loves and his music.

We are looking for additional help behind the scenes.

We have our own very well-stocked wardrobe and properties departments and we also have very close links with other local theatres who have often provided us with additional costumes and props in the past. However, when all else fails it's often a matter of rummaging in the charity shops, exploring the online auction sites or turning our hands to making what's required ourselves (often surprising ourselves with the results in the process!) Whilst this might sound like a tall order, it's not really and there's plenty of time between now and the days before the show to get all we need.

If this side of theatre is new to you, there is plenty of help and support on hand from people who are experienced in where to find the things needed.

If you're interested, even if it's only to find out a bit more, please email me on info@teignmouthplayers.co.uk. You can also leave a message on the Box Office phone, 01626 778991 as I'm over there at least once a week.

Margaret Long