

Village Players' Information (VPI) January 2014

THOUGHTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Christmas Clubnight



The late actress and wit, Katherine Hepburn once said « if you give the audience a chance they will do half your acting for you ».

Such was the case at the VP Christmas party held on December 12th, 2013, where cast and audience met with one shared aim: to entertain each other.

First to walk the official boards was club night organiser Barbara Balbo. She invited her audience to help her think of what entertainment we could put on for such an event. Festive in red and full of drama, Barbara quickly roused her audience to participate. Soon fellow thespians, John Middleton and Sylvia McKillop joined the stage from out of the audience and they led us along with more theatrical tongue-twisters and teasers....



The audience was full of surprises. Next Geoffrey Peek was having none of it. He appeared in the role of Sylvia and John's agent. He was mainly interested in getting a share of their actors' fee. He came on stage to challenge everyone but Barbara as leading lady got the last say and, through a series of clever wordplays, she brought the story to a happy conclusion.



The actors then drew together to sing "I'm dreaming of a VP Clubnight" accompanied by Chris Hemmens on the guitar (although he was dreaming of a piano). From the pits, the audience hummed along to the well-known tune and appreciated the new lyrics ably penned by the scriptwriter for the evening, John Mckillop.

The audience by now were definitely on board for more theatre and after a short intermezzo, the stage was cleared for clubbers to hone their moves on the dance floor. No-one was too young to participate. From young Alice Caunt upwards to the young-at-heart, we all got up to dance. With DJ Cathy FitzSimons *sur les platines*, we rocked through golden oldies such as "It's Raining Men", we sang along to Queen and we made happy arm signals to YMCA. The final revellers (myself included) were

sent home still singing late into the night. A great time was had by actors and audience, both one and the same.

Of course, none of this wonderful evening would have taken place without the creative magic of the VP team: A big hand to: Barbara Balbo as clubnight organiser. Scriptwriter John McKillop. Sylvia McKillop who decorated the clubhouse with such a warm welcoming glow. DJ Cathy. The food bearers and of course all those not mentioned here who also worked with them in the VP team to make the event such a success. Thank you.

As I went home that evening, I mused on the fact that theatre makes real life more fun. We had met up with old friends, made the acquaintance of new members, we had acted up, been inspired and even set plans for the new year. All because of the festive club night. VP theatre is indeed a good thing. Thank you.

Fiona Cook

More Praise for Warhorses of Letters

A stirring performance here, which deserves some high whinnying of approval. An accomplished adaptation - brilliantly directed. Creativity and imagination led to a most ingenious production. With apparently effortless enthusiasm, all involved drew the audience into the theatre of war and the fascinating evolving relationship between two hoofed friends. It makes horse sense to have a text and images which kept our head nuts in order.

No bad smells. No frothing at the mouth. Clearly spoken text. Ingenious and audacious solutions for theatrical problems much to the fore - much to our delight.

All involved seemed to be whipped up with gleeful energy. They enjoyed the happening and so did we. Thank you again.

Mike Scott out of wish you'd been there.

FUTURE CLUB NIGHTS & EVENTS

JANUARY 11TH 2014

Workshop: Introduction to Fitzmaurice Voicework[®]

Run by James Spencer

Date: Saturday, January 11, 2014

Time: 3.00-6.00pm

Place: CPO, Lausanne

Price: Free for members (Value 150 CHF)

Request donations for CHF 5, to cover the cost of the room rental.

Nbr of participants: 12 max.

Contact: James Spencer: spencejam1@me.com;

www.spencersvoiceworks.com for more information about me and Fitzmaurice Voicework[®]

JANUARY 30TH 2014

St George's Quiz Night - Organised by John Middleton

Another change to start the year! The April 23rd George's Quiz makes its CPO debut rather earlier than usual, but it's nevertheless the same totally interactive event where you can have a go at answering questions that have intrigued the Q.M. during the past 12 months. He hopes you will be happy to hear the answers and believe in most of them (nothing remotely concerning celebrities, pop or worse songs, sports, films or TV will be involved.) We hope to raise for this first Quiz to be held at CPO, the usual 3 or 4 teams of 4 or 5 contestants.

FEBRUARY 20TH 2014

Poetry Evening - Organised by Geoffrey Peek.

This will be a great evening of poetry, with a variety of poems read by our talented actors, including any of you who would like to take part! The poems can be sad, tragic, comic, romantic, funny, or what you will. Do come forward with your suggestions, and we'll work out a balanced and entertaining programme together. Above all, note this date in your diaries in indelible ink!

Geoffrey Peek 024 425 0055 or geoffrey.peek@bluewin.ch)"

MARCH 20TH 2014

"In the Middle of Nowhere"

On Thursday 20th March, we will be hosting a rehearsed reading of Chris Hemmens' one-act play "In the Middle of Nowhere" at the CPO and we will be holding auditions very soon. For more information about how you can audition for a role, please email chris.hemmens@hotmail.co.uk. Thanks.

APRIL 10TH 2014

"A Woman of No Importance", by Oscar Wilde - A play-reading organised by Carole Hetzel

MAY 15TH 16TH 17TH 2014

SPRING PRODUCTION - **"Conversations"** -

Meet John Betjeman and Philip Larkin, two of England's leading poets of the 20th century

AUTUMN

Getting There

Mike Scott would like to prepare with you an entertaining Clubnight for next autumn using the theme "Getting There". Texts, sketches, music in one form or another. All ideas, all talents welcome, from first timers to experienced theatrical troupers. So far nothing has yet been fixed. Urgently needed - a volunteer to type out a final text before next June - about four hours interesting but unpaid work!

For those volunteers willing to take part, it would imply one meeting before Easter, one rehearsal before the summer school holidays and then one or two rehearsals before the Clubnight. Interested? Please contact Mike Scott in Prilly.

OTHER NEWS

Members' details will be sent out soon. If you have any last-minute details to give or if there are any details you don't want us to share with the rest of the membership, please let us know at villageplayers@gmail.com ASAP. Thanks, Chris.

New Technical Director!



We are delighted to welcome **Ian Griffiths** to the Committee as **Technical Director**. He has already helped out in recent productions and events in many capacities, including lighting, providing slideshows and being the official photographer.

EVENTS IN ENGLISH AROUND TOWN

GEDS : www.geds.ch

Tues. 14 Jan. **Playreading:** *Little White Lies (Petits crimes conjugaux)* by Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt.

Tues. 28 Jan. **Playreading:** *The Hunt for Red Willie*, by Ken Bourke

GAOS : www.gaos.ch

11 January 2014 - Auditions for the 2014 spring show, CATS, Institut Florimont, Geneva.

25-26 January 2014 - Set design workshop, Salle communale de Commugny. Click [here](#) for more information.

International Club of Lausanne : www.icl-club.ch

ICL NEW YEAR BRUNCH Sunday, January 19 - 13h00

Total Musical Theatre:: www.totalmusicaltheatre.com

A Pole Dancing Class at 'Pink Attitude Studio' Venue: Rue de Corsaz 11bis, Montreux Date: Friday 24th January at 20:00

SOME EXTRA ENTERTAINMENT

THIS MONTH'S JOKE!

The Norse God Thor rides his horse into town and announces "I'm Thor!", to which one of the township responds "Then get a thaddle thilly!".

CHRIS'S FILM PUZZLE

FROM ONE BOB TO ANOTHER

Using only co-actors, can you connect Robert de Niro to Bob Hoskins in exactly 4 films?

The films you may use have the initials SH, TAF, TDH, and WFRR.

What is the link between the actors that connect Robert De Niro and Bob Hoskins?

Solution below.



Example: Connecting Tom Cruise to Ewan McGregor using the films MR and EWS.

Tom Cruise -> Eyes Wide Shut -> Nicole Kidman -> Moulin Rouge -> Ewan McGregor.

VILLAGE PLAYERS COMMITTEE

Chairman	John McKillop	024 441 15 71	jmmckillop@yahoo.fr
Membership	Chris Hemmens	079 658 42 95	chris.hemmens@hotmail.co.uk
Administrative Director	Susan Morris	021 964 52 05	susanmorris22@hotmail.com
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Treasurer	Derek Betson	021 635 30 84	derekbetson@msn.com
Secretary	Colin Gamage	021 701 31 58	gamage@bluewin.ch
Business Manager	Position to be filled		
Technical Director	Ian Griffiths	078 713 94 43	ian.m.griffiths@gmail.com

& HELPERS

Newsletter Editor *	Susan Morris		susanmorris22@hotmail.com
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* Deadline for articles to be submitted to VPI editor: 25th of each month

VP EVENTS CALENDAR BELOW FOR EASY REFERENCE

SOLUTION to Chris' Film Puzzle (see Page 3 above):

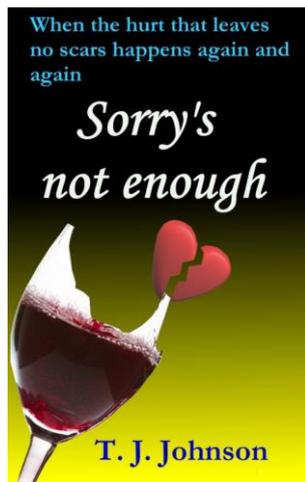
Robert De Niro -> The Deer Hunter -> Christopher Walken -> Sleepy Hollow -> Christina Ricci -> The Addam's Family -> Christopher Lloyd -> Who Framed Roger Rabbit -> Bob Hoskins.

Link: They are called Chris.

ADVERTISEMENT

NEW FICTION by Trevor Johnson, a long-serving member and former Chairman of the VPs

Can Jennifer learn to live with her husband's demons?



Available now at the Amazon Kindle store

How many times can you say 'I'm sorry' and then do the same thing again?

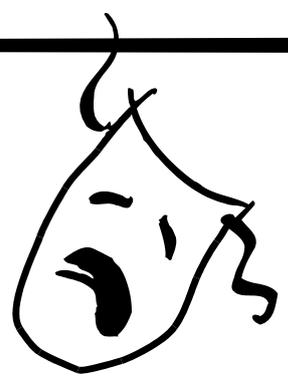
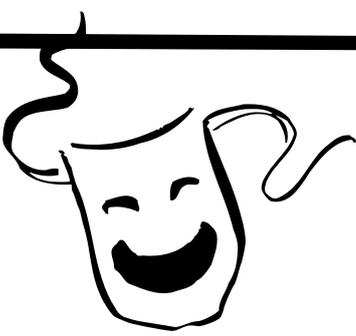
The alcohol-fuelled torrent of words that pour out of Graham hurt Jennifer every time, but this type of domestic abuse leaves no scars, no bruise on bruise. Graham can't or won't see the abject misery building in Jennifer. He does say 'sorry', every time, but without really knowing what he is saying sorry for.

Jennifer sacrifices her job in Geneva for a return to England, and for a time the verbal abuse stops. Then the emotional rollercoaster of good time-abuse-sorry-silence-good time-abuse starts again, but the peaks are less frequent and the troughs become lower and lower.

Why do abused women allow it to continue? Jennifer goes inside her head to try to find an answer to why it is happening and what she can do about it. In spite of all the hurt she feels the same love for Graham as she had at the beginning, but can she learn to live with his demons, and stop their marriage breaking up?

Even if you don't have a Kindle, you can still read Kindle books by downloading one of the free Apps for PC, iPhone, or Tablet at

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/feature.html?docId=1000493771>



THE VILLAGE ENGLISH-SPEAKING **PLAYERS**
THEATRE · LAUSANNE

EVENTS CALENDAR

Preview of our next VP events to be held at the
Centre Pluriculturel d'Ouchy, Beau-Rivage 2, 1006 Lausanne

WORKSHOP: INTRODUCTION TO FITZMAURICE VOICEWORK@**
Saturday January 11th 2014 – 3.00–6.00pm
Contact : James Spencer at spencejam1@me.com to reserve your place

CLUBNIGHT – ST GEORGE'S QUIZ NIGHT*
Thursday January 30th 2014 – bar opens 19:30

CLUBNIGHT – POETRY EVENING
Thursday February 20th 2014 – bar opens 19:30

CLUBNIGHT – A REHEARSED PLAY-READING*
“In the Middle of Nowhere” – a new play by Chris Hemmens
Thursday March 20th 2014 – bar opens 19:30

CLUBNIGHT – A REHEARSED PLAY-READING*
“A Woman of No Importance” – by Oscar Wilde
Thursday April 10th 2014 – bar opens 19:30

SPRING PRODUCTION**
“Conversations” – Meet John Betjeman and Philip Larkin
Two of England's leading poets of the 20th century
May 2014 at 20.00 (bar opens 19:30)

For more information on any of these **productions, contact **James Spencer (079) 344 27 63**

*For more information on any of these **clubnights** or **workshops**, contact
Barbara Balbo (021) 711 13 79 or (079) 321 15 25

Or visit the Club Website www.villageplayers.ch