

Village Players' Information (VPI)

April 2015

NEXT CLUBNIGHT **THURSDAY APRIL 23RD**

ST. GEORGE'S DAY QUIZ - Organised by John Middleton.

Why April 23rd? To celebrate the day when the patron saint of England (and a dozen other countries) died, as did Shakespeare. To most of the English, this date means nothing, so this quiz is a small attempt to spread the word.

Its content is a jumble of things learned over the past year that the writer hopes will intrigue others as they have himself. Therefore the questions are as important as the answers, over which there may be a degree of (civilised?) disagreement. Areas of interest such as pop, cinema, sport, celebrity and such like are avoided, as well as the more esoteric realms of academic subjects.

The successful questions in this quiz are those which few can answer easily, but whose answers are appreciated by many. Ingenious answers may be rewarded - or maybe booted.

4 teams will be created amongst total participants so that everyone can participate.

CLUBNIGHTS AND OTHER EVENTS

THOUGHTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

PLAYREADING March 19th- MOLLY SWEENEY

written by Brian Friel and directed by Pamela Jenkins

Molly Sweeney and Pamela Jenkins seemed to be made for each other. Pam directed Molly in a subtle and purposeful manner. We were given refreshing simplicity - three chairs on a bare stage. The enthralled audience were able to concentrate on the texts, which were read, but really played.

Being in the front row of the CPO main theatre, I caught every movement, every gesture, and every glance. This was a really well rehearsed and thought-through playreading.

Prodigious acting from the cast. They seemed to be able to exploit who they apparently are in real life, thus enriching the roles they were playing on stage. You were brilliant! Congratulations to Saskia Faulk, Chris Hemmens and Geoffrey Peek. Thank you for aiming so high.

Two minor questions: Would a blind Molly really dress like Saskia on stage? Could the text have been cut by 10-15 minutes in the 1st act?

This was a remarkable and stimulating evening. It would have been good to discuss the ideas put forward by the play with the audience afterwards.

Mike Scott



On Thursday 19th March, with a good number of people in the audience, we enjoyed watching MOLLY SWEENEY, a play written by Brian Friel (Brian Patrick O'Friel, an Irish writer) and directed by Pamela Jenkins.

This play was not only very interesting to watch, but really gave food for thought. It is based on a situation involving an Irish woman in her early 40s who is blind at the beginning of the play and then has operations to give her the ability to see. Not an everyday situation! For the whole of the play there were 3 actors on stage, all expressing their thoughts. There was Molly, played by Saskia Faulk, her husband, a "complicated" and interesting character, played by Chris Hemmens and Mr Rice, the doctor who does the operating, played by Geoffrey Peek. All three actors did a very impressive job of really becoming the characters.

Although the play was pretty long (and Pamela had already cut out parts to reduce the length) it did keep our attention - non-stop - from beginning to end. Pamela also introduced interaction between the actors which gave more "dynamics" to the production. The situation presented was really unusual, as it made us think about what it would be like to be blind, and how it would finally feel to be able to visually observe the world after 40 years of sensing what was happening but without being able to see anything. The eye operations led to a very difficult situation for all 3 people concerned. Yes, food for thought!

Congratulations to all those involved, as this was obviously not an easy play to produce but was original, very thought provoking and was excellently performed.

Gwen Czajkowska

PS: Great that we can now have plays in the main theatre hall, so everybody can actually see what's on stage!

FUTURE CLUBNIGHTS

THURSDAY JUNE 18TH

Annual General Meeting

Come one and all to this important event in the Village Players calendar to vote for your new committee and share ideas for the future of the club.

The following positions will be vacant for 2015/2016 as the incumbents will not be standing again: **Chairman, Business Manager, Productions Coordinator, Events**

Coordinator, Membership Secretary.
See below for details.



PREVIEW PERFORMANCE FOR FEATS 2015

FRIDAY 15TH MAY - GENEVA.

IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE by Christopher Hemmens - our entry to FEATS 2015 - will get a preview at the Theatre du Centre de l'Espérance in Geneva on Friday May 15th. We apologise for not being able to find a theatre that met our requirements closer to Lausanne but we hope our members will still be able to make it.

Also, we're looking for a way to sell tickets, not just reserve them. If anyone knows a good website through which to sell tickets, please contact chris.hemmens@hotmail.co.uk

SPRING PRODUCTION – MAY 21-24TH WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?

*"Martha: Truth and illusion, George;
you don't know the difference.
George: No, but we must carry on as though we did.
Martha: Amen."*

Picture credits: Movie 1996, Direc. by Mike Nicholls and
starring Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton, George Segal
and Sandy Dennis



"Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" is the story of how one couple, Martha and George, can both love and hate each other. How many sacrifices does one have to make in a marriage? What flaws can you expose to your other self? To the outside world? It all starts when a young, happily married couple are invited for one last drink after a Faculty party at New Carthage University. George and Martha not only play dangerous games with each other, but also do everything in their power to get to know their "little guests" better—no matter the consequences.

By Edward Albee, Directed by Victoria Baumgartner
Starring: Loic Regolatti, Noémy Menyhart, Erih Ahmetaj and Amina Gudzevic

May 21-24th at the CPO - Booking opens beginning of May

We still need YOU!

Come and join our Front of House staff or Stage Managing crew! We are still looking for a few members who would like to help out on this production. If interested, please contact victoria.baumgartner@gmail.com

ACTING LESSONS

James Spencer, a professional actor (and member of The Village Players) is offering Basic Acting lessons. More details can be found on his website and Village Players members get a discount.

<http://www.voicecoach-ch.squarespace.com>.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

John Holmes; Beibhinn Regli

VACANT COMMITTEE POSTS

The Committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at the CPO, Lausanne. Here are brief descriptions of the positions to be filled for the coming year.

CHAIRMAN: Neutral head of Society; represents the Society and ensures its interests. Chairs committee meetings, AGMs and EGMs. Arbitrates in any disputes amongst members. Is 'front line' in any confrontations with other organisations.

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR: Responsible for the coordination of all public stage productions. Soliciting from members their suggestions for plays, distribution of copies of suitable works to the Committee. Advising and giving counsel to the director on the formation of the necessary production team.

EVENTS COORDINATOR : The position of Events Coordinator involves the organization of our monthly theatrical activities and has the responsibility of the smooth running of these events, cooperating with the VP member running the Clubnight, the CPO staff, ensuring the hall is set up and ready for our evenings activities and asking a member of the audience to provide a write-up for the VPI.

"I have been the Events Coordinator for our monthly Clubnights since 2011. I enjoyed the successful transition from the Chalet-a-Gobet clubhouse to the CPO and happily witnessed the attendance to our Clubnights rise significantly in number. I would now like to pass on this committee position to maybe a young, new member who could give fresh energy and enthusiasm to our club. I shall of course always continue to actively support the VPs in any way I can." - Barbara

BUSINESS MANAGER: Responsible for forward planning, negotiation for hire of theatres, rooms for productions and events; liaison with appropriate authorities for services, purchase of tickets, front of house, payment of dues and performance rights. Good spoken and written French would be an asset.

"As the forward planning, by definition, will have largely been taken care of in advance, a new Business Manager enjoys a fairly quiet period of apprenticeship so this post would be ideal for a relatively new member wanting to be part of the fun of furthering the interests of this great club!" - Geoffrey

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Takes control of the Village Players' email address. Responsible for sending out the VPI to all the members who receive it by email, and for sending out publicity to everyone on our mailing list. Receives messages from people visiting our website who want to know more about the club. Makes sure that everyone who wants to become a member knows how to do that and that everyone who performs in a Village Players production is a paid-up member. Manages the membership list and all the members' details.

"It is with great sadness that I must step down from the committee this year. The university's going to pay me only until January so I must now focus all my efforts on completing my PhD thesis. It's hard to believe I've spent 4 years as the membership secretary but it's been a time of many high points and my time with the Village Players has been irreplaceable. Thanks again and I wish all of you a future full of fun and entertainment." - Chris

NEW WEB SITE!!!

The Village Players' web site is being modernised and will be more user-friendly with a simple and reliable booking facility and instant access to what's going on. The change should happen in April and we'll give you full details when it's ready.

EVENTS IN ENGLISH AROUND TOWN

GEDS www.geds.ch

14 April: Playreading: *Working Girl* by Béibhinn Ni Cheallaigh
21 April AGM
23 April Playreading: GEDS writes

GAOS www.gaos.ch

17-26 April Cabaret

National Theatre Live at Pathé Flon cinema, Lausanne <http://www.pathe.ch/fr/pathelive/theater>

16 April A Hard Problem

ICL – www.icl-club.ch

18 April Exhibitions on Yul Brynner & Peter Ustinov in Morges

SOME EXTRA ENTERTAINMENT

THIS MONTH'S JOKE!

"My wife told me: 'Sex is better on holiday.' That wasn't a very nice postcard to receive." - Joe Bor

CHRIS'S PUZZLE:

It is greater than God and more evil than the devil. The poor have it, the rich need it and if you eat it you'll die. What is it?

Answer below.

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
Production Coordinator	Victoria Baumgartner	079 531 94 18	victoria.baumgartner@gmail.com
Events Coordinator	Barbara Balbo	021 711 13 79	barbara.balbo@yahoo.com
Publicity Coordinator	Christa Baan	021 807 26 19	baan@bluewin.ch
Treasurer	Derek Betson	021 635 30 84	derekbetson@msn.com
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& HELPERS

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Costume & Props tracking	Catherine FitzSimons		swissfitz@yahoo.com

* Deadline for articles to be submitted to VPI editor: 25th of each month

**VP EVENTS CALENDAR BELOW
FOR EASY REFERENCE**

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ANSWER TO CHRIS'S PUZZLE: Nothing

EVENTS CALENDAR

Preview of our next VP events to be held at the
Centre Pluriculturel d'Ouchy, Beau-Rivage 2, 1006 Lausanne
(**Playreadings** will take place in the theatre, not the bar area)
www.villageplayers.ch

CLUBNIGHT* - ST GEORGE'S QUIZ NIGHT

Organised by John Middleton

Its content is a jumble of things learned over the past year
that the writer hopes will intrigue others as they have himself.

Thursday April 23rd – bar opens 19:30 – Entry is free of charge

PREVIEW FEATS 2015 ENTRY

IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE – written by Chris Hemmens

Friday May 15th – **Théâtre du Centre de l'Espérance, Genève**

SPRING PRODUCTION**

WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF, by Edward Albee – directed by Victoria Baumgartner
"Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" is the story of how one couple, Martha and George, can both love
and hate each other. How many sacrifices does one have to make in a marriage? What flaws can you
expose to your other self? To the outside world?

May 21– 24, CPO - Lausanne

FEATS in HAMBURG

Support your Village Players team performing Chris Hemmens's play:

In the Middle of Nowhere
Hamburg, Germany, May 22-25

For more information on the **Production: contact Victoria Baumgartner 079 531 94 18

*For more information on the **Clubnights**: contact Barbara Balbo 021 711 13 79 or 079 321 15 25
or visit the Club Website: www.villageplayers.ch