

Village Players' Information (VPI) January 2015

As you may know, the production of The Hobbit was a huge success and we're devoting several pages of this VPI to audience feedback and photos, but before that, we hope that you already have the next clubnight on Thursday, January 15th at the CPO in your diaries. Here's a reminder:

JANUARY 15TH

A PLAYREADING

"Cat's Cradle" written by Leslie Sands directed by Adrienne Hahne.

THE FULTON KIDNAPPING - CASE REOPENS AS NEW EVIDENCE COMES TO LIGHT!

Our story takes place in a quiet English Village where preparations are underway for a society wedding...

The play consists of 2 acts, both taking place in a village pub in the 1950`s. It was originally produced in the Octogone theatre by the VP`s in 1989. Most of the actors are from the original cast.

Leslie Sands was a well-known playwright, scriptwriter for " Z Cars ", and other films as well as an actor.

CLUBNIGHTS AND OTHER EVENTS

THOUGHTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

THE HOBBIT

A Great Evening! Thank you and Congratulations! Very Professional - *Roberta Linn*

Congratulations on the GREAT interpretation of the Hobbit yesterday!!

Thoroughly enjoyable and not a line fluffed to stop the believability (is that a word ?) of it.

Put your collective feet up and have a well-deserved, pampered Christmas and here's to a 2015 full of fun and great potential! - *Eileen Beesley*

Comments on Facebook or via email

- Wonderful, loved it so much fun!! keep going folks!
- Well done. You all did a great job!
- Amazing play! thank you all of you! that was over the top!
- The Hobbit was brilliant! Well done to all.
- What a fantastic show! I enjoyed every minute of it. You all did brilliantly & those costumes & props were amazing. Hope your next two performances go really well
- Bravo, on a bien aimé aussi. On sera là pour la prochaine production...
- The event was spectacular, with superb and convincing performances...not to mention the special effects and lighting! Well done to all
- Thousand thanks for your fantastic "The Hobbit", you were all just stunning, I had great fun!

Dear Victoria and Daniel,
As I now live in Bern, I don't often get to the VP productions. However, when I saw that you were putting on the Hobbit, I thought to myself, how on earth are they going to do that and decided to make the effort to find out (last Saturday evening).

The only word I can use to describe what I saw is Extraordinary and I will explain why.

Firstly, your vision and direction of the project is to be congratulated. The ideas worked and the plot came together very well. It could maybe have been cut in one or two places but the conception was very clever. The direction of the scenes was excellent and you really got the most out of your actors. Your control of so many people on a small stage was admirable. I cannot wait to see your next production.

A very special mention for the lighting, properties and effects which were extremely difficult to do and very well managed. The costumes too were very well thought out and made. A magnificent effort.

And now for the leading actors : Chris was a perfect Bilbo and maintained his role throughout with perfect stage presence, voice and body language. A superb performance.

Loïc who played Thorin the leader of the dwarves, gave an absolutely assured and dynamic performance - a natural actor. Wonderful body language and gestures. My only picky suggestions would be that he should have varied the volume of his voice so that when he became angry it would have had more effect. As the role is a big one, the volume and intensity became a bit too much at times.

The idea of having all the dwarves with French accents was excellent with again, the picky point that sometimes we couldn't understand the words ! However, I have rarely seen such wonderful interplay between all the dwarves who never once lost their characters or their interest in what was happening on stage during the many parts where they had little or no dialogue. Wonderful.

I was a little perplexed by John as Gandalf. He gave his usual competent performance though I was not sure what kind of character he was meant to portray. Was he meant to be majestic, funny, humble, self-effacing, magic?

What can I say about Daniel as Gollum? Quite simply, he deserves an Oscar and got a very deserved ovation. He and Chris gave us an unforgettable piece of theatrical joy and lots of shivers of horror. Very very well done. The makeup was splendid too.

The voice and interpretation of Smaug supplied by Heather was really excellent and gave great atmosphere to that scene.

I feel that the two young lady narrators were possibly under-rehearsed. They were charming and played their roles well but the narration was at times too rapid and without much feeling. Maybe they had been told to do it that way.

The Elves, the Trolls and Goblins were enjoyable in super costumes.

I particularly enjoyed the singing - how wonderful to hear unaccompanied singing with beautiful voices so perfectly sung.

How wonderful to see so many young people on stage (and probably back stage) and working so well together. It really was an ensemble production. I do hope to enjoy many more.

Very very many congratulations to you both, all the cast and backstage crew for a very enjoyable evening which no professional company would have been ashamed of. And thanks to the VP committee for supporting this production.

Sincerely
Zelda Mckillop Weber



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Hobbit comments from the Front of House Manager

The comments I received every night on Front of House during the intervals and at the end, just as people were leaving, were all about the professionalism of the total presentation; acting, lighting and sound.

Clearly the subliminal effect of the lighting and sound enhanced any weaknesses from the stage and replaced the lack of scenery.

One must not take too lightly the expertise exhibited by the "Dwarves" during their swordplay. A slight miscalculation on their part would have meant a totally different ending to any one of the evenings. I take my hat off to them!

Although some mistakes were made on the first night, they must have been put right, as when word got around about the success of the Hobbit (after the first night!), demands for seating reservations came flooding in...on-line and to my mobile phone.

A total of 404 seats were occupied over the four nights, which is a spectacular success compared to our productions over recent years that brought in thirty to fifty people per performance.

Let us hope that we have more successes like the Hobbit in the future.

In order to survive the Village Players must give more opportunities to the younger generation like the talented Victoria Baumgartner, Daniel Gardini and Chris Hemmens "to do their thing".

Derek Betson (a seventy-seven year old member of the younger generation)

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This was a no-holds-barred ambitious production, which really paid off.

The cast were versatile, vigorous, and agile. There was a judicious use of space: movements flowed, fights were realistic, singing created atmosphere, grouped players established scenes of great visual beauty. Great lighting, costumes, technical effects, prodigious make-up all contributed to the cast's expressive performances.

Victoria and Daniel had really polished the details - yet another mark of quality: the gesticulations, the brilliant frightening spider, the rigidified Trolls, the stunning Arahealdis just standing.

A few phrases, a few steps, an innocent smile, a little wave - the Hobbit was out of his hole and among us. Chris Hemmens didn't play Chris Hemmens, he was the Hobbit. This exemplary performance should be kept in mind for all our contributions

to plays or play readings - I hope you agree!

Our audiences have come to the CPO to hear understandable English. The texts didn't always come across. Was this a choice or an accident? Our accents don't matter as long as we are comprehensible.

Thank you for the spectacular evening, an extra Xmas bonus from "a company in the making".
Mike Scott

A few of the great pictures taken by Julien James.





FUTURE CLUBNIGHTS

FEBRUARY 19TH KARAOKE EVENING

Proposed by Daniel Gardini.

"Entertain or be entertained at the Village Players' first ever Karaoke evening!

Karaoke is a form of interactive entertainment in which you can sing along with recorded music using a microphone. The music is typically a well-known popular song minus the lead vocal. Lyrics will be displayed on a video screen to guide the singer. "

FEATS 2015

From Friday 22nd May - Monday 25th May 2015,

Hello everyone. We now have a full cast, however, additional crew members would be welcome. Please contact chris.hemmens@hotmail.co.uk for more details. We're also looking for a theatre in May in which to do a trial run of the play. We need at least 3 nights so if you know of any medium-to-large-sized theatres in the area that have a few nights free in May, we'd love to hear about it. Thanks.

Chris. (chris.hemmens@hotmail.co.uk)

ACTING LESSONS

James Spencer, a professional actor (and member of The Village Players) is offering Basic Acting lessons beginning on Wednesday 7th January.

More details can be found on his website and Village Players members get a discount.

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

SPRING PRODUCTION: AUDITIONS

Victoria Baumgartner will be directing **Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf?** to be performed in May 2015. If you are interested in auditioning for any of the 4 parts, please contact her for further information at: victoria.baumgartner@gmail.com

EVENTS IN ENGLISH AROUND TOWN

GEDS www.geds.ch

13 Jan: Playreading: Salome by Oscar Wilde

GAOS www.gaos.ch

24-25 Jan Director's Workshop

National Theatre Live At Pathe Flon <http://www.pathe.ch/fr/pathelive/theater>

22 Jan Treasure Island

SOME EXTRA ENTERTAINMENT

THIS MONTH'S JOKE!

What's green, fuzzy and if it fell out of a tree it would kill you?

A pool table.

VILLAGE PLAYERS COMMITTEE

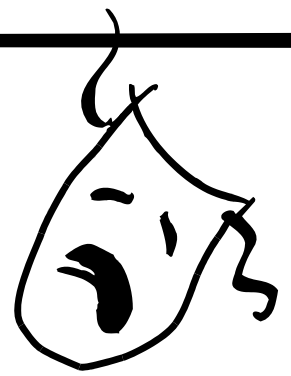
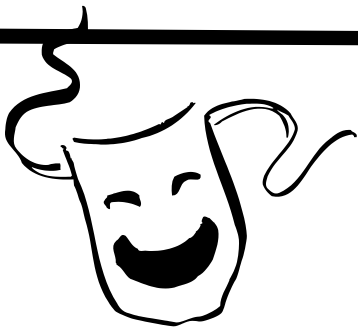
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* Deadline for articles to be submitted to VPI editor: 25th of each month

**VP EVENTS CALENDAR BELOW
FOR EASY REFERENCE**



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
www.villageplayers.ch

CLUBNIGHT* - A PLAYREADING

"Cat's Cradle" written by Leslie Sands directed by Adrienne Hahne.
THE FULTON KIDNAPPING - CASE REOPENS AS NEW EVIDENCE COMES TO LIGHT!
An intriguing mystery play which will keep you guessing until the very end - 'who done it?'
Thursday January 15th – bar opens 19:30 – Entry is free of charge

CLUBNIGHT* - KARAOKE EVENING

Proposed by Daniel Gardini
Thursday February 19th – bar opens 19:30 – Entry is free of charge

CLUBNIGHT* - A PLAYREADING

To be Advised
Thursday March 19th – bar opens 19:30 – Entry is free of charge

CLUBNIGHT* - ST GEORGE'S QUIZ NIGHT

Organised by John Middleton
Thursday April 23rd – bar opens 19:30 – Entry is free of charge

SPRING PRODUCTION**

WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOLF – Directed by Victoria Baumgartner
May 21st – 24th

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