

Village Players' Information (VPI)

March 2015

NEXT CLUBNIGHT **THURSDAY MARCH 19TH**

PLAYREADING - MOLLY SWEENEY

written by Brian Friel and directed by Pamela Jenkins

"Have you ever wondered what it might be like to be blind and then have your sight suddenly restored? Have you ever wondered how frightening this might be?"

"Molly Sweeney" is a beautifully written play about a young Irish woman who has been blind since infancy and undergoes an operation to restore her sight. Molly is in her early forties and is the daughter of a judge. She is somebody who is totally happy with her universe, she is confident, self assured and a vibrant part of her local community. Brought up by her father, she has no sense of being deprived by her blindness and often thinks that what she experiences through her heightened sense of touch and smell is far greater than what sight could ever bring her. She has no real want for the operation on her eyes, but goes ahead with it anyway, mainly for Frank, her husband and Mr. Rice's sake.

The writing of this eloquent, sensual play, like all Brian Friel's work, is so rich in texture and imagery that I am sure it will linger on in your mind for a long time. It is a rare gem that is in perfect tune with Brian Friel's own bittersweet, melancholic world.

When will medicine cure the disease of human miscommunication? Pamela Jenkins



THIS PLAYREADING WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE MAIN THEATRE AT THE CPO so there will be plenty of room and good visibility for everyone.

CLUBNIGHTS AND OTHER EVENTS

THOUGHTS FROM THE AUDIENCE



Village Players Tackle First-Time Karaoke Challenge

It might mean "empty orchestra" in Japanese, but there was nothing empty about the Village Players' first Karaoke night. Chairs, glasses and hearts were full as both new and returning members gathered on Feb 19 at the CPO.

Hosted by member Daniel Gardini, the evening featured a mix of musical styles and genres, which ran the gamut from up-tempo Disney tunes to classic rock ballads.

Bright Lights, Big Voices

Stepping up onstage under intense fluorescent lighting was no easy task for aspiring performers. However, the full bar eventually soothed any frazzled nerves and audience support provided the necessary impetus for (nearly) all Players to join in. Despite the location's lack of traditional Karaoke ambience, Daniel's installation of a large screen, four microphones, and vast choice of songs on YouTube was more than equal compensation.

Daniel, a classically trained singer whose big, beautiful baritone has been featured in several Village Players productions, began the line-up with a soulful rendition of Ben E. King's "Stand by Me." Inspired, not deterred, newcomer Alastair followed with "My First, My Last, My Everything", bringing a dose of musical sex appeal in his surprisingly Barry White-esque performance. Then John performed a sleek version of Elvis Presley's "You are always on my mind".



Hit or Miss?

Familiar face Chris took the challenge of performing two solo songs, including the seven-minute long "American Pie" by Don McLean. This is known as dangerous Karaoke territory since Madonna's painful cover was released a decade ago. Yet Chris did what Madonna couldn't—he managed to pull it off with his self-effacing humour and enthusiastic smile.

Queen for a Day

A Karaoke night is not a Karaoke night without ubiquitous covers of ABBA's "Dancing Queen" and "It's Raining Men"—the campy hit that shot The Weather Girls to stardom in the early 1980's. Group efforts with various combinations of Fiona, Barbara, Heather, Susan, Jacqueline, Sylvia and Charlotte, didn't disappoint—and had every Player singing along with a selection of golden oldies.

Another group effort proved the Village Players are successfully reaching out to a younger generation, when Alice, Emma and Sara infused the room with Indie-Pop during their version of Vance Joy's "Riptide."



Asking the audience to participate with him, Daniel wowed yet again with Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody". Comparisons to Freddie Mercury, who was also classically trained, were plentiful, and justified.

Last but not least, a surprise highlight of the evening was heartfelt torch singing by Jan. Her sweetly raspy version of Duffy's "Warwick Avenue" had the crowd clamouring for more.



All's Well that Ends Well

All in all, the Village Players' first Karaoke night was a rollicking success. Kudos to Daniel for organising a new type of event, and to everyone who performed or simply attended. We hope to

see you all in attendance at future club nights, performances, and musical evenings.
Alexis Munier



FUTURE CLUBNIGHTS

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 booed.

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

THURSDAY JUNE 18TH

AGM

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.

Events Coordinator, Membership Secretary.

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



PREVIEW PERFORMANCE FOR FEATS 2015

FRIDAY 15TH MAY.

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 we were not able to find a theatre that met our requirements closer to Lausanne but we hope our members will still be able to make it.

SPRING PRODUCTION – MAY 21-24TH

WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?

Victoria Baumgartner will be directing **Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?** at the CPO, Lausanne. Watch this space for more information soon.

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>.

EVENTS IN ENGLISH AROUND TOWN

GEDS www.geds.ch

3 - 7 March: Dancing at Lughnasa, by Brian Friel

GAOS www.gaos.ch

14 March Bal masqué (friends and family only)

English Church – Lausanne www.christchurch-lausanne.ch

28 March 10.00-15.00 - **Food Fair**

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

26 March A View from the Bridge by Arthur Miller

ICL – www.icl-club.ch

6 March Talk on Lake Baikal

26 March Brazilian dinner and music

"**Memories and more**", this charity show organised by **Gwen Czajkowska and Barbara Balbo** is to raise funds for the Sethule Orphans Trust, Zimbabwe, www.sethuletrust.org, and the DESTINO Dance Company, Ethiopia, www.destinodance.org. It is to take place in the Scots Kirk Hall in Lausanne on Friday March 13 and Saturday March 14, 2015, starting at 8pm. Tickets are sold at the door for ch 20. Please contact barbara.balbo@yahoo.com should you need any further information.

SOME EXTRA ENTERTAINMENT

THIS MONTH'S JOKE!

"This bloke said to me: 'I'm going to attack you with the neck of a guitar.' I said: 'Is that a fret?'" - Tim Vine

CHRIS'S PUZZLE:

"I think you mentioned you had three children. How old are they now?"

"The product of their ages is 36. Oh, and the sum of their ages is this room number."

"I can't work it out with that."

"You're right. Did I mention my youngest daughter has blue eyes?"

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	derekhbetson@msn.com
Secretary	Colin Gamage	021 701 31 58	gamage@bluewin.ch
Business Manager	Geoffrey Peek	024 425 00 55	ghspk@gmx.ch
Technical Director	Ian Griffiths	078 713 94 43	ian.m.griffiths@gmail.com

& HELPERS

Newsletter Editor *	Susan Morris		susanmorris22@hotmail.com
Fliers & programmes	Dorothy Brooks		dot.brooks@hotmail.com
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**

ANSWER TO CHRIS'S PUZZLE: 1, 6, and 6.

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* - A PLAYREADING

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The writing of this eloquent, sensual play is rich in texture and imagery.

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

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 WOLF – Directed by Victoria Baumgartner

May 21– 24, CPO

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