

## Village Players' Information (VPI)

May 2014

**THE SPRING PRODUCTION - May 15, 16, 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**at the CPO, Lausanne**

### CONVERSATIONS

*Written by John McKillop and directed by Jacqueline Caunt*

John Betjeman and Philip Larkin were arguably two of the greatest English poets of the 20th century. Their bi-polarized quintessential Englishness ranges from Betjeman's '*The scent of the conifers, the sound of the bath ...*' to Larkin's '*Their nippers have got bare feet, their unspeakable wives ...*'. But what is intriguing about these two poets is the way their works complement each other (as the poets compliment each other in our production). They are related to one another in such a way that if - hold tight for a minute whilst we bring some maths into the Conversation and combine the beauty of mathematics with the beauty of poetry and then either multiply the reciprocal of Betjeman with Larkin, or the reciprocal of Larkin with Betjeman - their product is ONE. Come and watch some alchemy in action at the CPO in May as the VPs present Messrs Betjeman and Larkin in *Conversations*.....

.....conversations during which the two poets come to appreciate each other's work and realise why each of them wrote what he did; BUT they are not alone in all this! Their respective inner selves come into the plot to reveal what gave the poets inspiration (including revelations of details of their private lives).

The dialogue is richly interlaced with recitations of the major works of John Betjeman and Philip Larkin.

#### Cast:

John Betjeman - Geoffrey Peek

His spirit - Margot Jaggy

Philip Larkin - Colin Gamage

His spirit - Saskia Faulk

The poetry reciters:

Kim van Ess, Fiona McHugh, Jack Pogany, Heather Gavin, Des George

For tickets: [www.villageplayers.ch](http://www.villageplayers.ch) or call 079 219 02 29

## THOUGHTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

### A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE

On Thursday 10th April the VPs presented a rehearsed play reading of Oscar Wilde's "A Woman of No Importance" at the CPO Ouchy. There was a very good turnout and the appreciative audience was well rewarded.

The cast of 11: Pam, Cathy, John Middleton, Sylvia, Daire, Susan, Vivienne, John McKillop, Geoffrey, Colin and Barbara put on a gallant performance. A lot of 'golden oldies' and a promising newcomer captured the atmosphere of Wilde's 1892 world. It is not easy to set the scene in a confined space i.e. the garden and indoors, with 11 actors, and congratulations must go to director Carole Hetzel who managed this admirably.

The ending was brought to its climax by two remarkable performances, Barbara Balbo as Mrs Arbuthnot and Geoffrey Peek as Lord Illingworth.

A good job was done by all and I was pleased to see an old, well written, amusing play being chosen by such a capable group.

Adrienne Hahne

\* \* \* \* \*

Often described as the "weakest" of the plays Wilde wrote in the Nineties" ( Richard Ellmann, *Oscar Wilde*, New York: Knopf, 1987, p. 360.), Carole Hetzel's version of this play reading still lead to a very interesting and entertaining evening, as I am sure the very large crowd attending the event would confirm!

True, although the first of the four acts was moving at a slow pace to enable the numerous characters to be introduced, the pace quickly picked up from act two where the whole "love child" affair starts to unwind. Indeed, much of the first act-and-a-half surrounds the witty conversations of members of the upper-classes, the drama only beginning in the second half of the second act with Lord Illingworth (Geoffrey Peek) and Mrs Arbuthnot (Barbara Balbo) finding their pasts catching up with them.



Like many of Wilde's plays, the main theme is the secrets of the upper-classes: Lord Illingworth discovering that the young man he has employed as a secretary is in fact his illegitimate son (Daire O'Doherty).

In one scene, Lord Illingworth and Mrs. Allonby (Susan Morris) share the line "All women become like their mothers. That is their tragedy", "No man does. That is his." Algernon would make the same remark in *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

The actors were extremely well cast! Cathy FitzSimons fit the role of Miss Hester Worsley, an American puritan and an outsider to the British society, bringing her a certain sweetness and likeability. Geoffrey Peek seemed to revel in his role of the villainous yet very charismatic Lord Illingsworth and was

very well matched by Barbara Balbo playing his old flame and mother of his love child. Special congratulations go also to VP newcomer Daire O'Doherty who did an extremely good job of portraying the role of the slightly naïve yet likable character of Gerald Arbuthnot. But the ones who stole the show for me were Pamela Jenkins and John Middleton in their respective roles of Lady and Lord Pontefract. So convincing I thought I was watching my own grandparents have a conversation.

Congratulations to Carole for directing the play and to all the actors including those I did not mention. All in all it was a very pleasant evening, which I think everyone enjoyed!

Daniel Gardini



## **FUTURE CLUB NIGHTS & PRODUCTIONS**

### **JUNE 26<sup>TH</sup>**

#### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Please put this date in your diaries so you can come and have your say in the running of the club and our activities, and cast your vote for the new Committee.



### **SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>**

#### **An "AS YOU LIKE IT" evening**

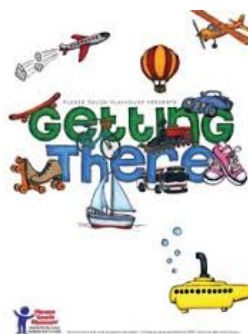
A selection of songs, prose and drama, chosen and performed by members.

Please contact Barbara Balbo at [barbara.balbo@yahoo.com](mailto:barbara.balbo@yahoo.com) if you'd like to perform or make any suggestions.

### **OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup>**

#### **GETTING THERE**

"Getting There" - an evening of songs, readings, poems & sketches on the theme of "Getting There" organised by Mike Scott.



### **NOVEMBER 13, 14, 15<sup>TH</sup>**

#### **AUTUMN PRODUCTION**

Tolkien's epic tale brought to life this November in the Village Players' own adaptation of the magical story!

Auditions will take place end of May, beginning of June for a large cast so please come and join the cast!

## **EVENTS IN ENGLISH AROUND TOWN (& ELSEWHERE)**

**International Club of Lausanne :** [www.icl-club.ch](http://www.icl-club.ch)

04 May, 2.30pm Audrey Hepburn Exhibition

21 May, 7pm – AGM

**The All England Comedy Club**, 46 ave des Alpes, Montreux : 079 383 5086 – [londonpty@yahoo.com](mailto:londonpty@yahoo.com)

03 May, 7.30pm- An Evening of Comedy, Cocktails & Cavorting

**Total Musical Theatre:** [www.totalmusicaltheatre.com](http://www.totalmusicaltheatre.com)

15, 16, 17, 23, 24 May, 7.30 A Tribute to the Tonys

**The Catalyst:** email [catalyst@epfl.ch](mailto:catalyst@epfl.ch)

A modern adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's An Enemy of the People

4 May, 6.30pm (Dorigny)

15, 16 May, 8.00pm (EPFL)

**GEDS** : [www.geds.ch](http://www.geds.ch)

06 May. Death by Design  
20 May The Tragedy of Triboulet

**GAOS** : [www.gaos.ch](http://www.gaos.ch)

03 May Choral Group Concert  
16-24 May CATS, Theatre de Marens, Nyon

**Luxembourg European Annual Theatre Summer School 2014** : [www.leadss.lu](http://www.leadss.lu)

July 26 – August 3 “A good school, well worth the price & quite intensive”

**Comédie Nestlé, Vevey** – [heather.gavin@bluewin.ch](mailto:heather.gavin@bluewin.ch)

Films of Famous Plays: entry & apéro free. 1<sup>st</sup> floor, rue de l'Hôtel de Ville 1, 1800 Vevey

06 May Gaslight  
20 May Blithe Spirit

## **SOME EXTRA ENTERTAINMENT**

### **THIS MONTH'S JOKE!**

"It's impossible to explain puns to kleptomaniacs because they always take things literally."

### **CHRIS'S PUZZLE**

"I have a 100 pound watermelon lying out in the sun. 99% of the watermelon's weight is water. After a few hours 98% of the watermelon's weight is water. How much water evaporated?"

Answer below.

## **VILLAGE PLAYERS COMMITTEE**

Chairman	John McKillop	024 441 15 71	<a href="mailto:jimmckillop@yahoo.fr">jimmckillop@yahoo.fr</a>
Membership	Chris Hemmens	079 658 42 95	<a href="mailto:chris.hemmens@hotmail.co.uk">chris.hemmens@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Administrative Director	Susan Morris	021 964 52 05	<a href="mailto:susanmorris22@hotmail.com">susanmorris22@hotmail.com</a>
Production Coordinator	James Spencer	079 344 27 63	<a href="mailto:spencejam1@me.com">spencejam1@me.com</a>
Events Coordinator	Barbara Balbo	021 711 13 79	<a href="mailto:barbara.balbo@yahoo.com">barbara.balbo@yahoo.com</a>
Publicity Coordinator	Christa Baan	021 807 26 19	<a href="mailto:baan@bluewin.ch">baan@bluewin.ch</a>
Treasurer	Derek Betson	021 635 30 84	<a href="mailto:derekbetson@msn.com">derekbetson@msn.com</a>
Secretary	Colin Gamage	021 701 31 58	<a href="mailto:gamage@bluewin.ch">gamage@bluewin.ch</a>
Business Manager	Position to be filled		
Technical Director	Ian Griffiths	078 713 94 43	<a href="mailto:ian.m.griffiths@gmail.com">ian.m.griffiths@gmail.com</a>

## **& HELPERS**

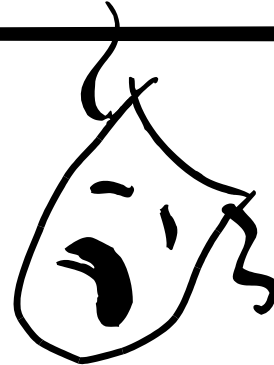
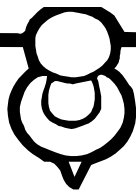
Newsletter Editor *	Susan Morris		<a href="mailto:susanmorris22@hotmail.com">susanmorris22@hotmail.com</a>
Fliers & programmes	Dorothy Brooks		<a href="mailto:dot.brooks@hotmail.com">dot.brooks@hotmail.com</a>
General Committee help	Catherine Fitzsimons		<a href="mailto:swissfitz@yahoo.com">swissfitz@yahoo.com</a>

\* Deadline for articles to be submitted to VPI editor: 25<sup>th</sup> of each month

Solution to Chris' riddle above:

50 pounds

**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](http://www.villageplayers.ch)

### SPRING PRODUCTION\*\*

**"Conversations"** written by John McKillop and directed by Jacqueline Caunt

John Betjeman and Philip Larkin were arguably two of the greatest English poets of the 20th century. Their bi-polarized quintessential Englishness ranges from Betjeman's '*The scent of the conifers, the sound of the bath ...*' to Larkin's '*Their nippers have got bare feet, their unspeakable wives ...*'. But what is intriguing about these two poets is the way their works complement each other (as the poets compliment each other in our production). They are related to one another in such a way that if - hold tight for a minute whilst we bring some maths into the Conversation and combine the beauty of mathematics with the beauty of poetry and then either multiply the reciprocal of Betjeman with Larkin, or the reciprocal of Larkin with Betjeman - their product is ONE. Come and watch some alchemy in action at the CPO in May as the VPs present Messrs Betjeman and Larkin in *Conversations*.....

.....conversations during which the two poets come to appreciate each other's work and realise why each of them wrote what he did; BUT they are not alone in all this! Their respective inner selves come into the plot to reveal what gave the poets inspiration (including revelations of details of their private lives).

The dialogue is richly interlaced with recitations of the major works of John Betjeman and Philip Larkin.

Come and watch some alchemy in action at the CPO

**May 15, 16, 17th 2014 at 20.00 - bar opens 19.30 – Tickets 25Fr**  
To reserve: [www.villageplayers.ch](http://www.villageplayers.ch) or call 079 219 0229

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday June 26<sup>th</sup> – at 20.00 – bar opens 19.30

### CLUBNIGHT\* - An "AS YOU LIKE IT" evening

A selection of songs, prose and drama, chosen and performed by members.

If you would like to contribute to this evening's entertainment

please contact Barbara Balbo at [Barbara.balbo@yahoo.com](mailto:Barbara.balbo@yahoo.com)

Thursday September 18<sup>th</sup> - bar opens 19:30 – Entry is free of charge

### CLUBNIGHT\* – GETTING THERE

Mike Scott presents a collection of sketches, readings, poems, songs .... around the theme  
"Getting There".

Thursday October 16<sup>th</sup> – bar opens 19:30 – Entry is free of charge

### AUTUMN PRODUCTION

Tolkien's epic tale brought to life this November, in the Village Players' own adaptation of the magical story! Auditions will take place end of May, beginning of June for a large cast, so please come and join the cast!

\*\*For more information on the Production: contact James Spencer 079 344 27 63

\*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](http://www.villageplayers.ch)