

Village Players' Information (VPI)

November 2016

AN EVENING OF SKETCHES - FROM THE AUDIENCE

When I arrived at the CPO for this Club Night, I was looking forward to being, for once, just an ordinary member of the audience. That was until, in the bar, I was cajoled by our Events Coordinator to do this write up "because you're not going to be up on the stage tonight!"

The appeal of comedy is very personal and, fortunately, not everyone is amused by the same things. So this write up is very much my personal observations and comments about this Club Night.

Firstly, I was very pleased to see that this was the best-attended Club Night for quite some time with well over 50 people in the audience. Maybe this tells us something about what attracts people to come to the VPs events -Productions and Club Nights. My view is that people come to be uplifted, entertained and made to laugh and not subject to an evening of dark, morbid subjects. Or being expected to think too deeply to find the meaning behind what they are watching.

A quick glance at the programme showed me that my expectations would have a good chance of being met. It showed an ambitious list of 23 sketches that should cover everybody's tastes. The programme sheet was particularly useful as it informed us that the sketches to be presented covered the period from 1970 - 2015. It also gave the names or sources of the original presentations ranging from Monty Python via Peter Cook/Dudley Moore and The Two Ronnies to Saturday Night Live.

And that these sketches would be performed by a cast total of 17. That's equivalent to 45% of the current VPs membership!

The evening started with the novelty of a loudspeaker announcement with apologies that whoever was taking part would be replaced by someone else - already in the cast list!

The show proper opened with "Hello" a great Peter Cook and Dudley Moore interpretation by Chris and Daniel. A bit later it was good to see our Events Coordinator, Mary, on stage for the first time in the role of a museum curator.

I am attempting not to give a boring write up just listing every sketch that was performed but just give you some of the notes I made as the evening progressed. So I apologise, in advance, to any of the cast whose name or sketch is not mentioned in this write up.

The programme was sourced not only from the UK but some great American (topical) sketches such as "President of China" complete with word play on, among others, Hu (president) and Kofi (coffee) Annan. Then Gwen's tortured English "announcements" really tickled the audience.

It was also very pleasing to see 3 newcomers on the stage for the first time with the VPs. Hopefully this will not be the only time we will be seeing these new members (?) as their they could have so much to give for the future of the VPs.

For example, I found that the two newcomers Kelly and Vivianne in the US sketch "They're Meat" were particularly impressive. Then, not exactly new, newcomers, Julia and Léna demonstrated excellent playing on accents in "Englishwoman in Paris."

John Holmes was seen playing his real life role of a schoolmaster in "Prize Poem". It was an excellent performance by John in the Stephen Fry role. I just hope that he is not quite like that when teaching at the ISL!

Chris and Daniel treated us to the superb Two Ronnies sketch of "Mastermind", giving the answers to questions before they are asked. This was an amazing performance of a difficult sketch to perform.

Who was acting "Gerald the Gorilla" from the 1981 Not the 9 o'clock News?

In "Near-death Experience" we saw the talent of the 3 "new to the VPs" on stage together with Cathy in the excellent sketch from the US Saturday Night Live.

A translation by Julia of "Die Kuh Elsa" was very well performed by Julia and David. Then Barbara gave a very good imitation of Catherine Tate in "Pub Sketch" with Chris taking the Ronnie Corbett role. Then, I particularly liked the old Ronnie Corbett and Harry Enfield sketch "Blackberry" performed by John and Daniel.

The show closed with a reprise of the Peter Cook and Dudley Moore sketch "The Frog and Peach" performed by the organisers of the evening's magnificent entertainment - Chris and Daniel.

On behalf of all the audience, I say "Many Thanks" to them for putting the show together. Not forgetting all the cast members for giving us a thoroughly challenging and entertaining evening.
Colin Gamage.



FUTURE CLUBNIGHTS & EVENTS:

N.B. CLUBNIGHTS START AT 19H30

NOVEMBER 10, 11, 12TH – AUTUMN PRODUCTION ENGLISH VARIETY & MUSIC HALL

For the club's autumn production this year the Village Players present an evening of entertainment in the English Music Hall style of the 1880 to 1920 period, tinged with some more modern acts. This will be to avoid any comparisons with the ancient and memorable Olde Tyme Music Hall performances from the Village Players of yesteryear.

From his rostrum on the stage the Master of Ceremonies for the night will introduce each act with a loud voice, combining the studious use of a gavel and previously unheard of words that may or may not exist in the English language.

There will be audience sing-alongs, as well as sketches, monologues, duets, and individual singing acts, accompanied throughout by an experienced on stage pianist of the old calibre.



Please come along and enjoy yourselves and join in with the old time pub sing-alongs. Whistles, jeers, cheers and ribald comments, as well as applause will be the order of the evening: provided that you have first reserved and purchased your entry tickets, with the usual prices of Fr. 25 for adults and Fr. 15 for those of you who are under 16 years old. Don't forget to reserve your seats on www.villageplayers.ch.

Derek Betson

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH – LEMAN INTERNATIONAL FAIR

BEAU RIVAGE PALACE - LAUSANNE - all day

As in previous years, the Village Players will have a stand at this prestigious fair where we'll be dressed in Music Hall costumes and informing the general public about what we do. It would be wonderful to have a lot of members participating in this event, by helping to set up the stand, being present to give information, distribute fliers and generally woo some new members. You can stay for as little as an hour or for the whole day. Please let Susan Morris know that you will be part of the VP team for this event: susanmorris22@hotmail.com.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15TH – CHRISTMAS PARTY



Enter into the Christmas spirit with an evening of carol singing, traditional Xmas fayre and other entertainment. If you would like to volunteer to help organize this event, please contact Mary Couper at coupermar@gmail.com

EVENTS IN ENGLISH AROUND TOWN

GAOS www.gaos.ch

2, 3,4 Dec Puss in Boots Panto

GEDS www.geds.ch

15-19 Nov Play: Relative Values

Scots Kirk International Bazaar

Saturday, 5 November, 2016

Ave de Rumine 26

Sales and Refreshments: 10:00-16:00; Barbecue: 11:30

VILLAGE PLAYERS COMMITTEE

Chairman	Chris Hemmens	079 658 42 95	chris.hemmens@hotmail.co.uk
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* Deadline for articles to be submitted to VPI editor: 25th of each month

**VP EVENTS CALENDAR BELOW
FOR EASY REFERENCE**

EVENTS CALENDAR

Preview of our next VP events to be held at the
Centre Pluriculturel d'Ouchy (CPO), Beau-Rivage 2, 1006 Lausanne
at 7.30pm – doors and bar open at 7.00pm
(**Playreadings** will take place in the theatre, not the bar area)
www.villageplayers.ch

AUTUMN PRODUCTION**

ENGLISH MUSIC HALL & VARIETY

November 10th, 11th, 12th - 20:00

A light hearted period costume show encompassing musical pieces from old time music hall acts circa 1880 until 1920, interspersed with more modern variety acts and sketches.

Tickets are on sale on the website: www.villageplayers.ch

VILLAGE PLAYERS' STAND

At the LEMAN INTERNATIONAL FAIR

November 13th – 10:00-17:00

Beau-Rivage Palace, Lausanne

CLUBNIGHT*: CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 15th, 19:30. Entrance free.

Carol singing, Xmas fayre, entertainment

If you would like to help organize this event, please contact Mary Couper.

CLUBNIGHT*: PLAYREADING

January 26th. 19:30. Entrance free.

"A DINNER FOR ONE" – organised by Daniel Gardini

For more information on **Productions: contact Daniel Gardini - Gardini.dan@gmail.com

*For more information on the **Clubnights**: contact Mary Couper - coupermar@gmail.com
or visit the Club Website: www.villageplayers.ch