

Village Players' Information (VPI)

April 2016

FROM THE AUDIENCE

A PLAYREADING - "Amphitryon" by Heinrich v. Kleist arranged by Christa Baan

Amphitryon is Kleist's reworking of Moliere's play of the same name, which is also loosely based on the much earlier play by the Roman playwright Plautus. It was a splendid production directed by Christa Baan. The setting was superb, thanks to the backdrop expertly created by Christine Seifert, and most of the performances were excellent.

Jupiter (Robert Mayenfisch) and Mercury (Sylvia McKillop) disguise themselves as the Theban General Amphitryon (Robert Mayenfisch) and his slave Sosia (John McKillop), both of whom are away at war. Jupiter's intention is to seduce the unsuspecting Alkmene (Gwen Czajkowska), wife of Amphitryon.



This happens one night, and, as things turn out, Amphitryon and Sosia turn up while Jupiter is inside the palace, tending to his task. The play becomes a comedy of errors, with the two pairs of "twins," the real Amphitryon and Sosia comically playing off of the godly dissemblers. The confusion and fury mount throughout the play, until at the very end Jupiter reveals himself in his true shape (Derek Betson). He and Mercury return to Olympus - but not before rewarding Alkmene and Amphitryon with the promise that they will have a son whose name will stand as the symbol of male power and greatness - Hercules.



It is the honourable and loving character of Alkmene that is the centre of this gently amusing play. She is virtuous, she is honour bound, and she profoundly loves Amphitryon. However, at the end the audience is left wondering about the apparent reconciliation between Alkmene and Amphitryon. Gwen was absolutely stunning in this role even to the curtain call ending with her ambiguous Oh! Perhaps a croak of despair or a scream of outrage - its force vibrated long after the play's close.



Supporting cast was ably played by Dorothy Brooks in the character of Charis, wife of Sosia. There was a charming scene where Charis and Alkmene study the Diadem given to Alkmene and decipher the letter J and not A enabling Alkmene to realise that it was in fact Jupiter who had seduced her the previous night.

Altogether, a very enjoyable evening in which it is possible to laugh at the characters, situations, and lines in *Amphitryon* but also enough in the play to make one think, if not cry.

Congratulations to Christa and the cast for this enjoyable evening.



FUTURE CLUBNIGHTS & EVENTS:

APRIL 14TH AT THE CPO, LAUSANNE

MR PING AND THE SQUEAKY CLEAN TIE PIN – arranged by Mike Scott

Fighting as ever the insipid and mild, but not the bitter. Join our 10 writers and 10 readers who, with a little music, offer a celebration of eccentricity.

SPRING PRODUCTION- MAY 12TH TO 15TH 2016

Rehearsals of **BLACKADDER II**, directed by Daniel Gardini and Julia Krämer, are going well. Tickets are available on the web site www.villageplayers.ch at 25Fr for an adult and 15Fr for students and children up to 16.

Please spread the word, advertise in your various clubs, associations, neighbourhoods and workplaces. A poster / flier will be available soon for you to put up on notice boards and distribute to potential audiences.

APPEAL

I have recently been taking a trip down memory lane (it's just off the road to pleasurable recollections on the way to happy times)

I have Music Hall videos for 1987-1993, 1995,1998. Does any one have any other years? (there was no Music Hall in 1997).

Trevor Johnson
tjjch@hotmail.com

FUTURE OF THE CPO

As announced in March VPI, a meeting was held on this subject on 16th March 2016.

The meeting was very well attended with some 100+ people present including 7 members of the VPs.

Véronique Biollay-Kennedy, Directrice CPO opened the meeting and presented a history of the CPO which was/is also displayed on panels in the foyer and bar.

Timothée Deblock, Président Association CPO presented the results of the survey of users etc. made last year. One of the most interesting of the statistics presented was that 37% of the regular users had stated that their activity would have to cease if the CPO was to close. If you would like to have a copy of the complete presentation, please contact Colin Gamage at gamage@bluewin.ch.

Oscar Tosato, Conseiller Municipal, opened his discourse by stating that he was very impressed by the number of replies (32% returns) to the questionnaire.

He then reviewed some of the other projects that have been/are underway under his department's jurisdiction. Regarding the area of the CPO, he stated that the church next door could be demolished as it is not a "listed" building but any replacement would have to be of the same volume.

However, the Ville de Lausanne, while having plenty of ideas, does not have the funds available to redevelop this site, or that of the CPO.

He concluded that a possible way forward is for the Association CPO to launch a project (démarche participative) for the future of the site of the CPO to be presented to the Ville de Lausanne.

Once submitted, the Ville de Lausanne would grant an extension of the right of usage of the land (droit de superficie).

When questioned for how long this extension might be granted, his reply was "for some 5 years". This extension would require a legal change to the "droit de superficie" and Mr. Tosato did state that the Ville de Lausanne would cover the legal costs involved.

At the AGM of the CPO held on 23rd March 2016, Timothée Deblock reported that the next steps for the Association CPO are to find out from other organisations etc. what is required to advance the project (démarche participative) regarding the future of the CPO site.

We will be able to keep up to date with the progress of this project by our participation on the CPO Comité, the next meeting of which will be on 4th May 2016.

Colin Gamage.

EVENTS IN ENGLISH AROUND TOWN

GEDS www.geds.ch

12 April Playreading: The Bald Soprano by Eugene Ionesco

GAOS www.gaos.ch

6. 8, 9 April Auditions – Hair The Musical
15-17, 22-24 April Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

ICL www.icl-club.ch

21 April Lecture: Rajasthan – Following the Footprints of the Maharajahs

VILLAGE PLAYERS COMMITTEE

The position of Business Manager is still vacant. If you would like to take on this job, please contact Susan Morris, Colin Gamage or Derek Betson.

Acting Chairman	Chris Hemmens	079 658 42 95	chris.hemmens@hotmail.co.uk
Membership	Dorothy Brooks	078 624 66 35	dot.brooks@hotmail.com
Administrative Director	Susan Morris	021 964 52 05	susanmorris22@hotmail.com
Production Coordinator	Daniel Gardini	078 286 95 74	daniel.gardini@hispeed.ch
Events Coordinator	Mary Couper	079 703 75 04	coupermar@gmail.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	Position vacant		
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**

EVENTS CALENDAR

Preview of our next VP events to be held at the
Centre Pluriculturel d'Ouchy, Beau-Rivage 2, 1006 Lausanne
at 8.00pm – doors and bar open at 7.30pm
(**Playreadings** will take place in the theatre, not the bar area)
www.villageplayers.ch

CLUBNIGHT: Mr PING AND THE SQUEAKY CLEAN TIE PIN

by Mike Scott

Fighting as ever the insipid and mild, but not the bitter.
Join over 10 writers and 10 readers who, with a little music, offer a celebration of eccentricity.
Thursday, April 14th. Entrance free.

SPRING PRODUCTION: BLACKADDER II

Directed by Daniel Gardini and Julia Krämer

at the CPO, Lausanne

May 12, 13, 14, at 8.00pm – doors and bar open at 7.30pm.

May 15th at 5.00pm – doors and bar open at 4.30pm.

Reservations: www.villageplayers.ch.

25Fr adults, 15Fr students, AVS, AI

VILLAGE PLAYERS' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, June 16th ~ 8pm. Doors open at 7.30pm.

CLUBNIGHT: TO BE ANNOUNCED

Thursday, September 15th. Entrance free.

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