

Village Players' Information (VPI)

February 2016

An evening of STORYTELLING – arranged by John Middleton

The first club night of the New Year was well attended by about forty people. John Middleton put together a first-class event. He took us to around ten countries spanning more than twenty centuries. It was a case of the sublime 'The Selfish Giant' by Oscar Wilde, which was beautifully read by Barbara Balbo to the ridiculous, a tale 'King Rhampsinitus and the Thief' by Herodotus, which was exceptionally well read by John McKillop. All the readers were superb and John Middleton is to be congratulated on putting together such an excellent collation of stories and matching them to the performers.

Mary Couper

Here are a couple of views from the audience:

For me, it was an original idea to have stories read and at first I was not sure it would be 100% successful, but I'm glad to say that I was wrong!

I found it really enjoyable and very varied. Lots of stories were interesting and fun and as they were read by people who act very well, that certainly doubled the pleasure for the audience (or at least for me!).

Gwen Czajkowska



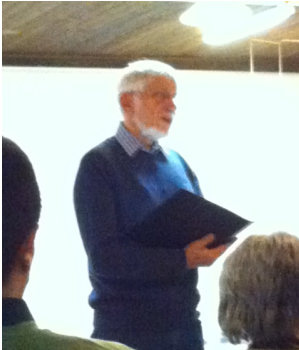
Mary asked me to write up my reaction to the evening of short stories for the VPI. « Just a few lines » she added.

JUST A FEW LINES ??? !!!!! after I'd thoroughly enjoyed the VP's 1st evening of 13 short stories?

In a 'few lines' I can't do justice to such a wealth and variety of writing, let alone the excellent interpretations our various troupers invested in their material.

More difficult for them than taking part in an As You Like It evening because they had to put themselves into characters and language of other ages, culture, morals... in material not of their choosing. Some of them had also done research around the authors.

The pieces ranged from 450 BC to the 20th century - Herodotus to Laurie Lee - authors from France, Italy, Ireland, Greece, India and Germany.



Seeing and hearing VP members draw on all their skills of voice, gesture, and, in some cases, costume, was a joy.

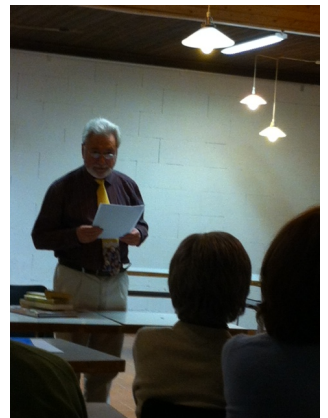
I do not know how many months John Mid took to read, select, and time these pieces, but I do know that his painstaking efforts resulted in success.

I spoke to several members of the audience at the end and they were full of praise for the evening.

One criticism emerged: the casual table seating arrangement meant that some gestures and body language were missed.

Thank you John.
Vivienne Furtwangler

P.S. I was amused and admired my VP son's professionalism at the end; breaking the rhythm by talking about scripts and books he'd brought along, he assured our complete attention when he finally gave his really excellent reading of the enjoyable last morsel.



FUTURE CLUBNIGHTS & EVENTS:

FEBURARY 18TH AT THE CPO, LAUSANNE

KARAOKE evening – arranged by Daniel Gardini

Come and have some singing fun. Following last year's successful and entertaining evening, we're doing it again!

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.

MARCH 17TH AT THE CPO, LAUSANNE

A PLAYREADING – “Amphitryon” by Heinrich v. Kleist arranged by Christa Baan

Since antiquity many plays have explored this famous episode of Greek mythology. But Kleist's version remains the best combination of comic scenes with profound questioning of identity.

Amphitryon is a comedy of confusions that takes place in Thebes, ancient Greece. While Amphitryon is fighting a victorious battle, Jupiter appearing as Amphitryon, visits the latter's wife Alkmene. The servant, too, finds himself deprived of his identity by Mercury. Written 200 years ago, the play has lost none of its appeal.

We are still looking for 1 male actor for the March playreading. It will involve 1 read-through in February and 2 rehearsals first half of March. Please contact Christa at: baan@bluewin.ch.

APRIL 14TH AT THE CPO, LAUSANNE

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

Mr Ping thinks that jumbo jet wheels smooth out the bumps in cultures, making everything universally bland. He wants to offer a certain resistance to this process by celebrating eccentricity with you all. Make a note of the date, please, now, for Thursday April 14th.

Poems, sketches and texts written by Craig Brown, Nicolas Carr, Raymond Devos, Mike Scott, Jean Paul Semès, Pierre Trepet, Benedict le Vay,

Come along and share the laughter with our readers/players.

SPRING PRODUCTION- MAY 12TH TO 15TH 2016

Rehearsals of **BLACKADDER II**, directed by Daniel Gardini and Julia Krämer, are going well.

If you would like to help out backstage or with costumes and props, please contact Daniel at: Gardini.dan@gmail.com.

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>.

NEW WEB SITE

If you go to www.villageplayers.ch you'll see that our website has been updated and has a more modern look. The ticketing facility will be fully functional very soon.

EVENTS IN ENGLISH AROUND TOWN

GEDS www.geds.ch

09 Feb I Do Not Like Thee, Doctor Fell by Bernard Farrell

GAOS www.gaos.ch

14 Feb Musical evening for members & friends

ICL www.icl-club.ch

13 Feb Valentine fondue

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 (1/3/16)		
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	derekbetson@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: KARAOKE FUN

Arranged by Daniel Gardini

Thursday, February 18th. Entrance free.

CLUBNIGHT: PLAYREADING “Amphitryon” by Heinrich v. Kleist

Arranged by Christa Baan

Since antiquity many plays have explored this famous episode of Greek mythology. But Kleist's version remains the best combination of comic scenes with profound questioning of identity.

Thursday, March 17th. Entrance free.

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 via web site as of April.

VILLAGE PLAYERS' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

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