

## **Village Players' Information (VPI)**

**June 2016**

### **NEXT CLUBNIGHT:**

### **VILLAGE PLAYERS' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** **!!!! COME AND FILL THESE SEATS !!!!**



**Thursday 16th June, 2016**  
**At 20h00**

**Doors open at 19h15**  
**Bar open 19h30**

**CPO - Centre Pluriculturel d'Ouchy**  
**Beau-Rivage 2, 1006 Lausanne**

**PLEASE NOTE IN YOUR DIARIES - AND TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND FELLOW MEMBERS**

Come and have your say in the running of the club and our activities, and cast your vote for the new Committee. Of the present Committee, the following are willing to stand for (re)election for the following posts:

<b>Production Coordinator</b>	<i>Daniel Gardini</i>
<b>Events Coordinator</b>	<i>Mary Couper</i>
<b>Secretary</b>	<i>Colin Gamage</i>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<i>Derek Betson</i>
<b>Publicity Manager</b>	<i>Susan Morris</i>
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	<i>Dorothy Brooks</i>
<b>Technical Manager</b>	<i>Ian Griffiths</i>

At the moment we have the proposal of *Chris Hemmens* for the post of **Chairman** but do not have candidates for the posts of **Administrative Director** and **Business Manager**.

So before, or latest at, the AGM we will be looking for volunteers to come forward to fill these positions. Brief descriptions of these posts are:

**ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR:** Coordinates the running of the Society, guarantees its efficient administration, assists and deputises for the Chairman.

**BUSINESS MANAGER:** Responsible for forward planning, negotiation for hire of theatres, rooms for productions and events; liaison with appropriate authorities for services, purchase of tickets, front of house, payment of dues and performance rights.

**THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT MEETING - WE NEED YOU ALL TO COME ALONG.**

The Committee.

## **SPRING PRODUCTION: BLACKADDER II - A TRIUMPH!!**

### **FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Congratulations to everyone involved in Blackadder! Every character a hit, great comedy, really slick scene changes - A terrific evening's entertainment! - Helen Thrupp

Went yesterday. Full house and fabulous flamboyant fun filled evening. You just can't miss this! - Pamela Jenkins

Wonderful! Superb! Excellent! Loved it! Brilliant acting!.. just some of the comments from the audience after last night's performance.

And from Geoffrey Peek:

First of all, I have to make a serious confession. I only bought tickets for the latest Village Players Production ( at the CPO in Lausanne-Ouchy on 12-15 May ) because I wanted to support my favourite Club and its gifted directors and cast. All I knew about Blackadder was that the main character of the TV series was played by Rowan Atkinson, whom I remembered as 'Mr Bean', a 'funny-ha-ha' character that had instantly bored me so rigid that I got rid of my TV set at once. So I was not expecting to enjoy Blackadder 2.

Imagine my surprise when I found myself at once thoroughly enjoying it all - as did the mostly anglophone audience on that first night. My son, sitting on my right, never stopped honking with laughter. The humour was caricatural but mostly of the deadpan variety, the stuff I personally like best, and there were some wonderful one-liners. The action takes place in the Tudor court of Elizabeth I and revolves around Lord Edmund Blackadder, a self-centred, cowardly but cunning and witty opportunist, whose main aim is to win the favour of Her ( very fickle ) Majesty while quite literally trying to keep his head. He employs a young man called Bob, who is in fact a woman in disguise, and to his dismay finds 'him' attractive. As soon as he discovers that 'Bob' is in fact Kate, they get engaged. In the end, Kate gets whisked off by his best man, Lord Flashheart, so Blackadder did not get the girl.

In the interval on that first night, I rushed to get more tickets for the second night. The Friday night audience was even bigger than on the first night, but less noisy, so probably less anglophone. They seemed to very much appreciate the quality of the performance and the humour without always picking up the punchlines, especially some of the 'naughty bits' that were not backed up visually ! ( We teachers are not supposed to get them to learn 'naughty' English ! ).

Friday's slightly more sober audience distinguished itself from Thursday's by generously applauding, after nearly every scene, the high quality of the acting and the sustained pace of the performance throughout the play, a huge credit not only to excellent directing by Daniel Gardini and Julia Krämer but also to the prodigiously slick and professional work of the Crew and Technical Team, led by Catherine FitzSimons. Special praise should also go to Ian Griffiths, aided by his son Simon, who skillfully enabled the lighting to remain 'spot on' throughout.

In a production like this, it is impossible to mention every name of those who gave their time in such a worthy cause, but mention must be made of the sound and the very polished video ( thanks to Daniel Gardini and Julia Krämer ), the props and backstage assistance ( Sarah Heasman, Jenni Plumb, and others ), Sylvia McKillop's Make-up team, and the Front of House Team, headed by Derek Betson and assisted by Sylvia Rubli, Susan Morris, Denise Gamage, Helen Thrupp, Pamela Jenkins, and Heather Gavin. Congratulations to whoever created

the paper programme, which was highly informative and most attractively laid out. 'Many thanks, too, to Christine Seifert for the magnificent backdrop she painted for our show. So many people, both on stage and off, are involved in a successful production. Anyone reading this who is new to the Village Players should take note that they are very welcome to join any such team. It is hard work but great fun!

What about the actors? My task is easy, in that they were all very good but difficult, in that I must be brief as there are so many to mention. Obviously, the greatest challenge was faced by Chris Hemmens (playing Lord Blackadder), who was on stage almost nonstop and who turned in another absolutely brilliant performance. John Holmes extracted full comic effect with his portrayal of the long-suffering Baldrick, and David Nunez was very convincing as the dim-witted Lord Percy. Léna Bouille was equally convincing as 'Bob', the boy who was so very clearly the girl called Kate. (Did Lord Blackadder need a new pair of glasses?). Alexis Munier was excellent as the irrepressibly irresponsible and despotic Queenie, speaking impeccable 'Queen's English' for the occasion. Colin Gamage once again proved how versatile he is, getting it just right as the obsequious Lord Melchett, and Dorothy Brooks was perfect in the part of Nursie, the Queen's intellectually-challenged nanny. Sara Barmada was brilliant as Lady Whiteadder, the puritanical aunt and the purely tyrannical wife of the taciturn Lord Whiteadder, played with expressive skill by John Middleton, who did not miss a single line! The ubiquitous Catherine FitzSimons clearly revelled in the part of Wisewoman, which she nosed her way into with great thespian ease, and John McKillop managed the challenge of playing Kate's father and the Monk with professional skill, both parts requiring him to be a lecherous drunkard. Daniel Gardini himself put in a very realistic performance as Simon Partridge, a beer-sodden pub-crawler. Anja Abi Nader handled three parts (Dr Leech, the messenger, and Geoffrey Piddle) very well, and Aurélien Barakat made a remarkable whirlwind appearance as Lord Flashheart, who 'got the girl'.

Lord Edmund Blackadder may not have 'got the girl' at the end of Blackadder The Second, but as his great-grandson is the Lord Blackadder of Blackadder The Third, set in the Regency period, one does not have to be an accomplished biologist to deduce that his lordship struck lucky at some later stage of life. Who knows whether we might one day strike lucky, too, by having Blackadder The Third at the CPO. I am not ashamed to admit that I am dropping an enormous hint !

A big thank-you to the excellent directing team of Daniel and Julia, and to everyone involved in this highly successful production.

Here's a small sample of the excellent photos taken by Tim Briginshaw. To see them all, please go to the dedicated website: <http://www.geoaspects.com/blackadder/index.html>





## **FUTURE CLUBNIGHTS & EVENTS:**

**N.B. AS OF SEPTEMBER, CLUBNIGHTS WILL START AT 19H30**

### **THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> – AN “AS YOU LIKE IT” EVENING**

Come and perform whatever you like: a comedy sketch, a song, a poem, a soliloquy...

If you would like to participate in this fun, informal Clubnight by performing yourself, please let us know by email as soon as possible!

Please contact Mary Couper at: [coupermar@gmail.com](mailto:coupermar@gmail.com).

### **THURSDAY OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup> – AN EVENING OF SKETCHES**

Organised by Daniel Gardini

## **LOST PROPERTY**

This pewter jug was lent as a prop for Blackadder but we don't know who to return it to. Please contact [susanmorris22@hotmail.com](mailto:susanmorris22@hotmail.com) if it is yours or you know who it belongs to.





## EVENTS IN ENGLISH AROUND TOWN

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

07 June Playreading: One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

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

11 June Geneva's got talent!

**ICL** [www.icl-club.ch](http://www.icl-club.ch)

12 June Visit to iris gardens at chateau de Vuillerens

**AMERICAN DRAMA GROUP** – Shakespeare Castle Tour

<http://www.adg-europe.com/?events=the-tempest>

09 June The Tempest – Chateau de Chillon, Montreux

10-11 June The Tempest – Chateau de Prangins

**Recital Alexis Munier & Naomi Yamaguchi Bohn**

1 July 7 pm Eglise St François, Lausanne – entrance free, no reservations, donation appreciated.

Featuring a mix of operatic duets and solo arias for soprano, starting with Mozart and ending on Verdi in a journey through some of the most powerfully emotional arias of all time.

## 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	<a href="mailto:chris.hemmens@hotmail.co.uk">chris.hemmens@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Membership	Dorothy Brooks	078 624 66 35	<a href="mailto:dot.brooks@hotmail.com">dot.brooks@hotmail.com</a>
Administrative Director	Susan Morris	021 964 52 05	<a href="mailto:susanmorris22@hotmail.com">susanmorris22@hotmail.com</a>
Production Coordinator	Daniel Gardini	078 286 95 74	<a href="mailto:daniel.gardini@hispeed.ch">daniel.gardini@hispeed.ch</a>
Events Coordinator	Mary Couper	079 703 75 04	<a href="mailto:coupermar@gmail.com">coupermar@gmail.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:derekhbetson@msn.com">derekhbetson@msn.com</a>
Secretary	Colin Gamage	021 701 31 58	<a href="mailto:gamage@bluewin.ch">gamage@bluewin.ch</a>
Business Manager	Position vacant		
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>
Costume & Props tracking	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

**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  
(as of September) at 7.30pm – doors and bar open at 7.00pm  
(**Playreadings** will take place in the theatre, not the bar area)  
[www.villageplayers.ch](http://www.villageplayers.ch)

### VILLAGE PLAYERS' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup> - 8pm. Doors open at 7.30pm.**

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

**Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup> – 19h30. Entrance free.**

Come and perform whatever you like: a comedy sketch, a song, a poem, a soliloquy...  
If you would like to participate in this fun, informal Clubnight by performing yourself,  
please let us know as soon as possible.

Please contact Mary Couper at: [coupermar@gmail.com](mailto:coupermar@gmail.com)

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#### CLUBNIGHT\*: AN EVENING OF SKETCHES

Organized by Daniel Gardini

**Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> – 19h30. Entrance free**

More information soon.

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\*\*For more information on **Productions**: contact Daniel Gardini - [Gardini.dan@gmail.com](mailto:Gardini.dan@gmail.com)

\*For more information on the **Clubnights**: contact Mary Couper - [coupermar@gmail.com](mailto:coupermar@gmail.com)  
or visit the Club Website: [www.villageplayers.ch](http://www.villageplayers.ch)