

# On the Fringe



An occasional newsletter from the Spring Grove Fringe – December 2012

---

## Non o'ya messing about



Panto time is nearly here in Spring Grove and this time we visit the world of Non o'ya messing about. A world of mysterious messing about and suspense, where Looceet and her three siblings find themselves cast out into the desolate, strange and snowy landscape of Cor paiovem. They encounter strange beasts of the forest and swirling snowflakes in a place where the sun never shines. Having left the safety of a Tallboy and venturing out of the closet, they must fight the evil forces of the White Witch and her dastardly companions, Shattabrick, Jynn and Tonique.

Will they survive the winter of discontent with the help of a beaver couple and a laid-back hippie lion, Asbin? Will they return to mad Professor Quirk's cranky mansion and his eccentric staff? Who knows?

You can find out what happens next by coming to the shows on February 8th or 9th. If you have a part in this magical world, the first rehearsal is Sunday morning, 6th January. We don't have much time, as usual. (Oh yes we do!!)

---

## Storage

We are likely to need some short-term storage for props and costumes while we replace our leaking shed next year. If you, or anyone you know, has some space in an outbuilding/garage/lockup, for a month or two, either low-cost or free, please let Jonathan know.

In fact, to keep our props and costumes in better shape, we would be interested in a low-cost solution for storage on a longer-term basis.

## O&O and RSA

For a review of the Oysters and Oedocles evening from our Secret Santa, see the next page. We made a profit of £1635 (including £370 from the Bar) which is excellent. A donation will be made to RSA, about which Jonathan writes:

The RSA is actually the Royal Society for the Encouragement of the Arts, Manufacture and Commerce. An important area has always been education and the Society supports six Academies in England. As education is so key to achieving our aims, the London Region runs a project directed at young people who are NEETs (not in education, employment, or training) with the aim of giving them a purpose in life.

Youth Groups are invited to apply for funding in order to undertake meaningful projects. The Society provides mentoring and releases funds as and when milestones are passed. The awards range from £500 to £5000. Fundraising is always difficult and several individuals and organisations have donated monies in the name of loved ones or donated monies to be spent in a particular borough. They will be delighted to receive funding towards a worthwhile project in Kingston and are really grateful that some monies from the show will be donated.

The awards are made in March and RSA will update us when they have made an award. If you know of any worthy youth movements, do encourage them to enter. Jonathan can provide more details of the entry requirements and process.

---

## In the wings for 2013

**May 17/18** – Forty winks on a midsummer night, as Shakespeare slips into his whalebone corset, has the laces firmly, but lovingly, tightened by dressers Sandy and Nigel, emerging as a slim 90 minute beauty, ready to slip alongside you in your flowery bower and charm you with his magic potion!

**October 4/5** – A musical evening

**November 22/23** – A new play, especially written for us by Imelda Brookes, a regular member of our audience, who is completing a creative writing degree at Kingston University.

# Oysters & Oedocles – a Secret Santa Review

This was a fantastic evening featuring two short dramas by our favourite local am dram group, the Spring Grove Fringe, including an interval with a delightful Greek-style supper.



The first play *Oysters in the loft*, by resident thespian Dick Need, was a fun and very well-acted play about a Ouija board and a young prankster. Jo (the schemer), Karina (the innocent) and Linda (almost sensible) formed a good trio, reacting well to each other. Tony's cameo as the angry John and Suzanne's as the drunk John's wife were suitably small-community-quirky.



David's John revealed his plan for revenge on the ladies, and the coup de theatre was a real surprise, as the lad was revealed from under the tablecloth. Julius crowned an excellent cast with his wide-eyed, boyish innocence. The play

was the perfect length and Jacqui's direction gave us a delightful start to the evening.

Following the supper interval was *Oedocles, King of Thebes*, by Michael Green. But ... this was a version as performed by 'The Spring Grove Tragedians'. What emerged was a delightful tongue in cheek play about a local am dram group which appeared to consist mainly of swingers, appalling footwear and copious amounts of wine.



The play got off to a crackling start with Amanda berating her flirty husband, played by Chris, in a very seedy-looking dressing room.



The curtains opened on the main stage, revealing a striking Greek-taverna-style set, on which the cast delivered splendid iambic pentameter. Only Julia could act the part of a corpse so brilliantly.

Veronica certainly had her work cut out in charge of the Chorus of Greek 'women'. Who would have thought that SGF was so short of females?



Scenes in the increasingly wine-sodden 'dressing room' gave the cast chance to reveal to us the internal affairs and back-stabbing of the Tragedians – well, what a surprise! Jenny was glamorous and outgoing, in contrast to her rather slow-witted husband, portrayed with craft by Nigel. Gory scenes in the 'Tragedy' were mirrored in the 'real-life' affairs of the Tragedians.

A special mention must be made of 'The Prompt' who once again had a starring role in this production.

A great deal of fun was had by the cast who were hilarious in the delivery of a script, filled with an irony that was lost on neither audience or cast. Directors Sandy and Nigel only occasionally looked concerned.

The set, lighting, costumes and ambiance were once again superb and must get a mention. A great, fun evening was had by all and ... did I mention that the bar is very good value?