

# On the Fringe



An occasional newsletter from the Spring Grove Fringe – November 2013

Registered Charity Number 1150982

## Next production – Two Farces

A supper evening ... You are going to have Food, Friends and Fun once more!

Friday November 29, 8.00pm

Saturday November 30, 7.30pm

Not Another



In **Easy Stages**, we get a peek backstage at a technical rehearsal which is not going well. (Don't we see enough mistakes in the usual SGF productions?) Stage Manager Gerry has a precise way of working and this is not understood by the motley stage crew he has been given, most of whom probably wanted to act. Toy-boy Nigel – no relation! – never turns up, because he is 'working late at the office'. Director Keith, fresh from Drama School, produces new, 'imaginative' props which upset the careful plans of Gerry – a stage manager who cannot even manage life.

In the second play, Geraldine, the Vicar's wife embarks on a clandestine plot with ladies from the Parish Poetry Group to expose the 'private affairs' of members of the congregation unless they amend their ways. They write as **'The Eagle Eye'**. At first, their plans seem to be swelling church attendance, but they soon discover that those in glass houses should not throw stones.

Box office SGFKingston@gmail.com

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Tickets £17.50 (under 15s £10) (please say if you require vegetarian)

## Also in the wings ...

December 13 – **Christmas Party** (members only)

**February 7/8 – Toad of Toad Hall** – our New Year family show. An updated revival of the much acclaimed favourite.

**May 16/17** – Supper evening, to be arranged.

**October 3/4** – Spring Grove Fringe in Ireland? – a piece specially written for us by Chris' s wife Imelda.

later still?? – a very stylish and glitzy production of **Cabaret**, with live music.



## AGM

At the AGM on 16th October Jonathan reported on the year's activities and presented the Trustees' Report.

Sandy reported that, over the year, we had spent about £2000 on new black drapes and replacement lighting equipment.

The following were elected as Trustees for the coming year:

Jonathan Rollason (Chair),  
Amanda Shaw (Secretary),  
Sandy Gavshon (Treasurer),  
Gavin Chaplin,  
Helen Dawson,  
Nigel Duffin,  
Daisy Jones,  
Tony Tresigne.

A category of Junior 'Associate' members was suggested – the Committee will look at ways in which we can encourage younger members and give them parts in productions, where appropriate.

It was agreed that Trustees should nominate charities for donations, but members were encouraged to put forward suggestions of charities which were local, or in which they had a special interest

# Another Night at the Musicals

Spring Grove Fringe, St John's Hall ★★★★★

**"Rush to see it!"**                      **"It's a sell-out!"**

**"Not to be missed!"**                  **"Steal a ticket!"**

This was a long-overdue return for the pre-eminent amateur theatre group in Kingston upon Thames, Spring Grove Fringe. Bravely directed by Daisy Jones and Rhian Roberts, making her debut with SGF, this over-talented group gave us yet another evening of famous and less well known songs from the musicals. We were treated to a cornucopia of performances from these legends of Grove Lane, including, for our true delight, a double entrance from the doyenne of this stage, Amanda *Two-Beats-Behind* Shaw, - we could not have asked for more auspicious start to the show.

From the opening number the audience was surprised and amazed at the variety of songs, all slickly introduced by the MC, Allan *Call-me-Smooth* Lloyd, which was provident since we could not read the programme. Never one to hide his light, he illuminated the choice of songs with the wittiest of references which might have eluded us otherwise.

The group numbers were brilliantly choreographed by Daisy and Rhian and "Blow Gabriel Blow" was a definite highlight of the first act, after which all the male audience will be in Rhian's church next Sunday. In a class all of its own was Rhian and Daisy's "Class" from *Chicago* - what stars!

The man with the golden voice, Scott Milligan, showed his great versatility: wig-wearing (which he always enjoys), acting as stooge to Amanda's totally out-of-character bossy rant in "I'll Tell You What I Think of You", and then delivering a heart-stopping rendition of "Stars" from *Les Miserables*.

SGF's very own diva, Jenny Robson, ruffled plenty of tail feathers with an exceedingly fluttery performance of "Mein Herr" and teamed with the talented Tom Morrell for a little known but charming song "Suddenly Seymour". Tom also treated us to his Professor Higgins with expert accompaniment and prompting from Nick Morrell.

Another revelation in this show was Bethany Birley with a perfectly performed "Prologue" from *Joseph and His 'something or other'*.

We were charmed by the poignant performances of Jacqui Rollason and Dick Need in "I Remember it Well" from *Gigi* - no memory problems with them, darlings. Dick also reminded us why we need our East European friends over here with "The Gasman Cometh". Add to this Ross Jones and Allan Lloyd as Frank and Bing and, frankly, out-performing them

and the gorgeous "Somewhere" of Adrian Treloar and we were all quite transported by the end of Act 1 (to the bar).

In Act 2, SGF's evergreen High School drop-out, Gavin Chaplin, gave us a suitably slick version of the *Grease* classic "Sandy", despite not knowing quite which way to turn with the glut of Sandys available to him.

A much-needed grimy edginess was introduced when six dangerous-looking ladies, led by Veronica Birley with a mighty fine 'merican drawl, confessed their murderous crimes in "Cell Block Tango" causing a number of husbands in the audience to look rather worried and a few wives to appear inspired.

David Hamilton wowed us with a brilliant performance of "Betrayed" from *The Producers* - that man really can do it all - and then starred again, alongside the extremely talented, but rarely seen, Sarah Richardson and Rhian, in "Easy Street".



Sarah re-emerged with the fabulous (swoon, swoon) John Hackett for undoubtedly the funniest song in the show - you know the one - "The Song That Goes Like This": an over-actors' dream and so appropriate for SGF. This led into the final (yes, we got there!) exhortation to "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life" - a very good idea at this point.

The staging of an SGF production is always an experience and this was no exception. The set devised by the incomparable Gavin and Helen was stunning, the lighting and music were very finely timed and tuned (and in the nick of time) by Adrian and Nigel and all was masterfully controlled backstage by Tony Tresigne (not a mean feat with this troupe of prima-donnas). A final note for Rhian: yes, they are all hugely talented but you mustn't be diffident and this critic is sure you will reach their standard very soon.

So ... I ask, in all honesty, where would we be ... without the Music and the Spring Grove Fringe? In the pub on a Friday night, that's where!