

On the Fringe



An occasional newsletter from the Spring Grove Fringe – August 2017

Registered Charity Number 1150982

Next Production

6/7 October 2017 – DRINKS BEFORE DINNER

Two one act plays from Alan Ayckbourn's 'Confusions' collection. 'Drinking Companions' and 'Between Mouthfuls' are set in the same Midlands railway hotel. There are dark undertones to both plays but, being by Ayckbourn, all issues are handled with a great deal of humour.

Drinking Companions deals with loneliness and the totally unsuccessful seduction attempt that it leads to.

Between Mouthfuls sees two marriages falling apart over dinner. An added complication is that the audience can only hear what the waiters can hear.

A Crackers Christmas

24/25 November – Get ready for Christmas with Spring Grove Fringe's cranky Christmas cabaret – a zany evening of: cabaret acts tumbling from Santa's sack, wine-tasting with a particular Yuletide bouquet, a seasonal quiz and ... who-knows-what else! TfL advises that the arrival of The Three Kings may cause traffic disruption to Christmas shopping in the Kingston area.

Storage

The SGF is now renting a garage in Surbiton to house our unique and priceless collection of costumes and props (known to our esteemed Chair as 'that load of old tat'). Our thanks go to Mike and Lynn Charlton for taking control of the space, ensuring that it was dry and clean when we moved our 'stuff' in and maintaining a vigorous watch over its safety and security. As you know, the cost of this is not inconsiderable, so Mike will be running a raffle at forthcoming shows to help cover this expense. What a star!



Donations

The SGF has continued its long tradition of supporting charities with donations from the profits of our shows.

We have given a cheque to The Save the Children Syria Appeal, supporting more than 500,000 children who have lost their homes and become refugees.



The work of Save the Children provides food, supports hospitals, repairs water systems and help schools stay running.

MacMillan Nurses are another of our chosen charities, caring as they do, for all cancer patients in their homes and in hospices.

**MACMILLAN
NURSES**

We have supported Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness. KCAH supports primarily single people who are homeless, at risk of becoming homeless or who are experiencing serious problems with private landlords.



The Clink, providing training and qualifications for prison inmates by means of a commercial in-house restaurant and Love Kingston, an exciting campaign to raise funds for the changing needs of communities in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames will also benefit from donations from the SGF.

**THE CLINK
CHARITY**

So – for everyone who comes to see our shows, every bottle of wine drunk and dinner devoured help to share our good fortune.

AGM

The Spring Grove Fringe Annual General Meeting will be on Wednesday 1st November at 7.30pm.

The Fashion Statement

Well ... who would have thought that the Spring Grove community were so fashion conscious, such Dedicated Followers of Fashion?



But they turned out in their Gucci and McQueen to bag front row seats for the SGF AW17 catwalk show which presaged the strong trend towards vintage and make-do-and-mend (the forever au courant Bag Ladies and Jenny Again labels) which is so hot this year. SGF is always at the forefront of design and interpretation.

There were some standout pieces from established designers and some out-there ideas from newcomers such as the more-is-less concept from Robertson Alone which received enthusiastic applause from a grateful older audience.



In contrast several houses, Nouveaux-Vetements-Hamilton, Ensembles, Chown Unscripted and Sexton&Sexnot, appealed to the gym bunnies with their nothing-is-less strong statement.



This will be helpful when packing for your next trip, although I Need It All suggested otherwise. An interesting direction is towards hand washable garments allowing for en plein airing; such thriftiness was very much in evidence throughout the show.

We noticed that footwear will be predominantly blue suede this autumn, the colour direction for



tights is yellow intarsia (Ramnarain Forever) and that, unusually, boots will actually be used for walking (and other things) according to the inspirational DaisySolo Inc. Sandie Is Shoeless suggested, however, that shoes (when absolutely essential) are for taxis and dining only.



In menswear the venerable Hacketty and Vintage-Glenny houses stole the show featuring hats which are essential styling next season (Editor take note). Purple is going to be de rigueur for the older woman and fur is once again in the doghouse but diamonds remain the adornment of choice and the bigger the better, particularly when wanting to channel the Mistress look favoured by Milligan Milligan. We suggest the reimagined Disney theme is strictly for the very young and brave.

Inspirational design direction, an eclectic backing track and adventurous choreography made for a stylish evening and we look forward to a preview of SS18 from these hugely talented fashion houses.

If these boards could squeak...

Of course, there is much less chance of squeaking since the refurbishment of the stage, paid for by SGF earlier this year.

But so many Thespian feet have lightly skipped across that stage since the last *On the Fringe*.



The *Beaux' Stratagem* saw a flurry of wigs, the deepest bowing and male deviousness. This was George Farquar's last play – he died six weeks after its first production at the age of 30. His early death is not seen as a portent for Spring Grove Fringe actors, most of whom are well past that knell-tolling milestone.

Ali Baba, the 2016 pantomime, took us all to an exotic world of colourful costumes and mysterious video puppetry projection.

A Question of Musicals had show-stopping numbers and a fabulous quiz.



High Notes was an evening of two one-act comedies. *Press Cuttings*, by George Bernard Shaw, set in 1911, had a pompous Field Marshall, worried about terrorism, a male Prime Minister who dressed as a suffragette, Mrs Banger and Lady Corinthia, two gun-toting anti-suffragettes, amongst others. Surprisingly, this all had a happy ending! *Il Fornicazione*, by Michael Green, was an outrageous spoof of an opera. As explained by the conductor, all but one of the orchestra were



involved in a coach accident, so the entire opera had to be performed accompanied only by a triangle.



Snow White, this year's pantomime, played to three full houses, all delighted by our dwarves of enhanced stature and scary witches. Tears were shed when Snow White bit into the poisoned apple, but help was on hand from the balletic Fairy of the Sweetest Dreams. Needless to say, the Prince got his girl and the Dame got her man.



So, yet another happy ending done and dusted and an Autumn of fun and good food to look forward to.