

On the Fringe



An occasional newsletter from the Spring Grove Fringe ~ June 2018

Registered Charity Number 1150982

The American Dream?



5/6 October 2018

Entertainment of the people, by the people, for the people!

Janice and Jenny are directing a revue with a transatlantic flavor (note the spelling!) on 5th/6th October. *The Great American Dream ... or is it?* Nearly four hundred years ago the Pilgrim fathers started the whole thing off, ... but don't expect too much puritanism! We hold these truths to be self-evident: there will be the Wild West, a Gold Rush, the Roaring Twenties, glitzy Hollywood days and the Great Gatsby. They have lots of ideas for chorus numbers, songs and sketches but would like your suggestions too.

A Bunch of Amateurs

24/25 November

A Bunch of Amateurs, by Ian Hislop & Nick Newman, directed by Roger Chown.

Private Eye editor Ian Hislop and award-winning cartoonist Nick Newman have combined to write a very funny play about the pitfalls of amateur theatre when 'invaded' by a fading Hollywood film star who thinks he has been chosen to star in a production in Stratford On Avon, whereas in fact, he has unwittingly committed himself to 'King Lear' in Stratford St John in Suffolk.

A read-through/audition is scheduled for June 27th at 8pm in the Parish Hall.

It would be very helpful to let Roger know, asap, if you are interested in getting a part or helping backstage. Contact email: rcsc1948@gmail.com

A message from Jonathan

Thank you all so much for the love and support you have given Jacqui and me. She is working so hard at recovery and its just so very frustrating for her. She has had tremendous support from the NHS with physio and occupational health at least three times a week, coupled with private physio up to three times a week. She has just started to read again but not been able to do a crossword. She can now walk around the table unaided but is completely worn out when she finishes.

We had a family holiday booked in Spain and got the sign-off from the doctor. We found an excellent English physio who has been to villa three times a week and Jacqui has spent time in the pool. Getting out of the pool is now much easier and she steadfastly refuses to use the hoist. She will be able to go to the pool in Kingston now.

Here she is in the pool having fun doing her exercises.



She sends her love to everybody and is already talking about directing next years panto !! That's the target and she will do it!



The Ghost Train

Your intrepid correspondent is just back from a most thrilling weekend – what! In fact not just thrilling but pretty scary too, by Jove! That constantly surprising company, SGF, staged two quite distinct versions of that amateur stalwart: *The Ghost Train*, by Arnold Ridley. I was fortunate to secure tickets to both evenings or I would not have believed it was the same play, don't you know.



Expertly directed by a new artistic partnership of Tony Tresigne and Scott Milligan, this proved an excellent collaboration assisted by a cast playing their jolly old socks off – what!

For the Friday performance the cast was augmented by several well-fortified members of the audience playing a leading role, as did Prompt (always a terrific part in SGF plays). This was a brave directional move which resulted in a delightfully improvised and camp performance from the slightly surprised cast who gamely entered into the spirit, if not the ghost. On the Saturday the audience were invited to merely watch the play and a far more chilling performance ensued with the tension and ghostly atmosphere racked up.



Vicky Maunder as the mad Julia stunned everyone with her screams and Sandie Glenny and Nigel Bellwood were perfect foils as her supposed captors.



Of course SGF is always at the forefront of dramatic innovation and Veronica Birley gave a standout performance as Saul the Station Master in this gender-neutral casting.

The usual role of Teddie was also transformed by the wonderful Suzanne Nail into the delightfully obtuse Tessie until she showed her mettle and trapped the villains.



The couples caught up in the drama were expertly played by the darling thespian partners Karina Ramnarain and Adrian Treloar, together with Janice Smith and Chris Brookes as the squabbling, interminably-married couple.

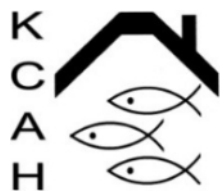


Finally a special mention for the debut performance of newcomer, Mark Springthorpe, who was most convincing as Inspector Jackson; we shall see much more of this young actor, mark my words.

As usual no expense was spared with the set, lighting and special effects which were certainly up to the standard expected from this enterprising troupe. No, there was no train actually on stage, but who would have known that, so dramatic was the production both nights. Huge congratulations to all the cast and directors for a most enjoyable show.

Donations

SGF continues its tradition of supporting charities with donations from the profits of our shows.



After our Christmas Crackers show we were able to make a donation of £500 to Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness, good news for those that it helps, especially in the cold Winter months. KCAH supports primarily single people who are homeless, at risk of becoming homeless or who are experiencing serious problems with private landlords.

MAN&BOY, as a small charity, will be able to make our donation of £500 after the pantomime go a long way.



Their Director told us that he hoped their forthcoming camp in June would make a big difference in the boys' lives, by building their confidence and self-esteem. Every boy needs a positive male role model in their life, and especially during childhood. This relationship is most commonly filled by their dad but, when this isn't possible, another significant man in a boy's life could take this place. The chairty offers a number of opportunities designed to build trust and confidence between men and boys, to create strong and positive relationships.



Kingston Samaritans are celebrating their fiftieth anniversary

this year and thanked us, on behalf of their volunteers, for our donation of £500 after *The Ghost Train* in May.

The Samaritans offer a safe place for people to talk any time they like, in their own way – about whatever's getting to them. Volunteers are trained to be good listeners, to be sensitive to callers' distress and to explore feelings, including those which may lead to suicidal thoughts. Kingston Samaritans does not receive funding from government nor from the national Samaritans charity.

The branch provides support locally through its various Outreach activities, which include working in partnership with the YMCA in Surbiton, Network Rail and Wandsworth Prison. They also attend and run workshops and events in schools throughout the community and support events at both Kingston University and Kingston College.

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

Schrödinger's Trump



Who knew that Donald Trump, in preparation for his visit to Kim Jong-un, would visit Grove Lane? And not in Air Force One, but in a piñata. I could have sworn there was a cat in there last time I looked, or was it a sword-wielding Zorro?

No, wait a moment, he (or was it she) was being converted to a native American belief system by a lapsed Catholic priest. This new religion seemed to involve talking to plants, and rather scrubby ones at that.



Well, you are just not allowed to wallow in sumptuous religion these days, much better to stay at the Hotel California – such a lovely place, such a lovely face. Wait a moment! Face ok, but those calves look frightfully muscular. That's uncertainty for you.

At least we have the Terminator on our side ... Oh! no!! his battery is fla... ..



The Butler saw what??

You will never know what the Butler saw at our play reading in June if you were not there. A dozen players have sworn themselves to secrecy about the undressing, cross-dressing, strait jackets and gun shooting ... not to mention prodigious quantities of wine. Don't miss out on the action – you don't even need to learn lines! Listen out for news of our next occasional play-reading over the Summer.

