

On the Fringe



An occasional newsletter from the Spring Grove Fringe ~ November 2024

Registered Charity Number 1150982

Around the World



Roll up roll up, time to be taken on a magical journey.

Now that the nights are drawing in we have just what you need to lift your spirits. A musical adventure which will transport you to Newfoundland, New York, Jamaica and Australia and that is just for starters.

An evening of song and supper that Spring Grovers do so well. Can't wait to see you there and have a sing along with you. Who knows where we may end up?

Tickets £25.00 including supper.
Licensed bar (card or cash).

Oh Yes it is!

It's Pantomime time again ... OH YES IT IS!

After the excitement of Christmas and New Year we know you are all looking forward to the next big extravaganza – the Spring Grove Pantomime!



This time we are giving you a new version of Alice in Wonderland. Meet all your favourite mad characters: the Queen of Hearts, White Rabbit, Tweedledum and Tweedledee, the Cheshire Cat, Mad Hatter and March Hare and a few you haven't met before, in a fast paced, joke-a-minute production.

Tickets will go on sale in early January so put the dates in your diaries now: **7th & 8th February.**



Close Encounters!



The latest performance by members of the Spring Grove Fringe was one that your reviewer was absolutely delighted to attend.

The main performers, long cast by the Fringe as the ingénues in most productions, were finally centre stage, as fully matured as a good port should be after 22 years, and they held the floor with everyone hanging on their every word.

There was a little confusion about the proper name of our hero. Was he Jonathan or was he Adrian?



The same could be said about Karina Anna or was it Anna Karenina? Whoever – they both played their parts to perfection. The traditional kiss must have been practised over the years, because they clearly did not need an Intimacy Co-ordinator.



The musical arrangements were a delight and just so unusual. Who has ever heard 'Here Comes the Bride' played on an alphorn? As my readers will recall, the most frequent piece to be played on this instrument is the widely known Concerto Grosso No. 1 (2013) for four alphorns and orchestra by Georg Friedrich Haas.

The female lead looked ravishing in a costume that fitted her to perfection and was radiant throughout the performance. As we have come to expect over the years, Karina is faultless in her timing, facial expression and elegance.

The supporting crew, consisting of a distinguished team of best men with chic floral decoration, herded the audience with admirable efficiency. Security arrangements were well thought out with a team of Brazilian Ju-Jitsu specialists in place in case any fighting broke out.

Speeches were, unusually for the SGF, more or less word perfect and a special mention must be made for Edwin, whose few words were charming, sincere and brief.

As was appropriate, the wedding cake, made of cheese was a fitting tribute to this happy couple whose generosity, warmth and spirit of inclusivity deserve a huge round of applause and our best wishes for a very long run.

40 Years On

Next year SGF will be 40 years old – incredible to think we have been entertaining you for that long and we hope you have many happy memories of our past performances and suppers. Maybe not many of us will be around to celebrate in 40 years' time but we hope with your support that the show will go on. Next year SGF will be 40 years old – incredible to think we have been entertaining you for that long and we hope you have many happy memories of our past performances and suppers. Maybe not many of us will be around to celebrate in 40 years' time but we hope with your support that the show will go on.

Chance Encounters



In October the Spring Grove Fringe audience eves-dropped on some interesting conversations taking place on a park bench. Written by Jay Cundell Walker and expertly directed by Val Boyle and Lynn Charlton, these were variously amusing and surprising conversations and a poignant monologue on the theme of homelessness and loneliness.



Superbly performed by Laurie South, Janice Smith, Julia Becker, James Farrant (making his stage debut with SGF), Lynn Charlton, Val Boyle, Tony Tresigne, Chris Brookes and Sandie Glenny, these pieces required the full breadth of acting skills which we have come to expect from this well established company.



SGF introduced Becca Knighton and Kyle French-Wollen to their audience and we anticipate more from them.



After the usual delicious supper, it was time for the audience to sharpen up and enjoy the challenge of a challenging and entertaining quiz hosted by Tessa and Steve, also making their debut on the SGF stage. It was hugely appreciated, particularly Steve's musical accompaniment, and we very much hope to entice them back for Round 2.

Another evening of great entertainment from Spring Grove Fringe.



Pocket Playhouse Plus

Our May production was a series of sixteen short plays mostly taken from Michael Frayn's 'Matchbox Theatre', 'Pocket Playhouse' and 'Magic Mobile'.



The individual pieces were loosely connected through the topic of communication, its shortcomings and misunderstandings, talking about, talking to, talking at cross purposes; leaving the audience with a smile on their faces and wondering what on earth was going on.



The characters could be in a play or in a book, or maybe... it's you or maybe all of us who knows? It was a most enjoyable evening with lots of laughter and riotous jollity.



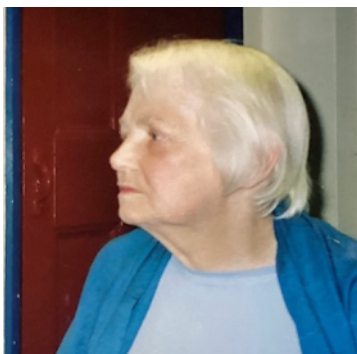
I just want to be the Fairy Godmother!

Pat Lines, who died at the end of October, was one of the founder members of the Spring Grove Fringe with its first panto, *Aladdin*, in 1985.

Pat was a passionate Thespian and had trained at the Bristol Old Vic in her youth.

She directed many of the pantomimes for the SGF in the early days when panto was the only offering. She then directed *Murder in the Red Barn* – the first of a long line of plays for which Pat was responsible.

The Lines family joined in many productions, both behind the scenes and on stage. Those who witnessed it, will never forget Pat's husband, David,



performing heroically as Crunchbones in *Sinbad the Sailor*.

As the Fringe grew, Pat was involved for many years in the half term children's workshops, resulting in such performances as *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *Fantastic Mr Fox*. For those of us who now have grandchildren playing in pantomime are also those whose own children were on stage in some of these productions.

As Pat grew older, she became the Fringe's prompter and at long last, an audience member.

Pat did become the Fairy Godmother, and the first and only Honorary Life President of the Spring Grove Fringe.

Her funeral will be at St. John's Church at 1.30 pm on Tuesday, November 26th.

May she rise in Glory!