

Phoenix



News

March 2015

Agatha Crusty and the Village Hall Murders

20th – 23rd May

The Bear Pit Theatre

Things are progressing well with the current production. There have been a couple of changes in the casting. Due to health issues, Gill Hines has stepped down from playing Agatha and Linda Burridge has moved up to fill the gap. Lianne Murphy is now playing Alice and Phoenix stalwart, Carlyne McHugh, is now very capably taking on the part of Maisie the cleaner. Gill continues to be involved in the production doing some voice coaching with the cast to help them differentiate their characters.



The play has now been fully blocked and we are pressing on with rehearsals and line learning.

Next up is to ensure that all the technical aspects are sorted and then, of course, SELL TICKETS. We are making the most of Facebook and putting lots of teasers out there. If you are a Facebooker, please go on to the Phoenix Players page and invite all your friends to like the page – there's a box on the left-hand side where you can specifically send invites to your friends to like us. It's important to get as many likes on our page as possible to increase awareness of our shows.

Remember to get your own tickets sorted too. There's limited space at the Bear Pit so get them sooner rather than later to avoid being disappointed.

Quiz Night

Friday 10th April; 7.30pm sharp

The annual quiz night is nearly upon us. This year we are being hosted by the View restaurant, using their space upstairs. Thanks to Wayne for organising this. The restaurant is also offering 20% off food for us for the evening, so you can grab some lovely fish and chips whilst you're there.

We've got a number of teams already confirmed; please let Lynda or Fiona know if you are coming. There will be prizes for the winners and a little something as consolation for the losers too. Teams of 4 are ideal or have a points adjustment if there are more or less of you.



Get swotting and see you there.

NODA Nomination

The Phoenix Players' production of *Take Away the Lady* has been nominated for a NODA award under the heading of Best Drama. Congratulations to Becky Alun-Jones, who directed, and all those involved with this most enjoyable show. The results will be announced on Sunday 19th April at the regional NODA event in Sutton Coldfield. A party of us will be going to see how we get on. If anyone would like to join us, especially those in the cast and crew, please let me know as soon as possible.

70th Anniversary Party Invitation

Everyone ever associated with the Players is invited so please share this with your contacts too

Friday 15th May
7.30pm until midnight
Stratford ArtsHouse

Buffet, dancing and lots of laughing
1940s theme with music provided by Betsy Harmony – feel free to dress the part
(Plenty of costume available from the wardrobe for a small fee!)

£20 per head

£12.50 for 14s and under, accompanied by an adult
Tickets from Fiona Robson on 07795 474074 or inf@uftraining.co.uk
Or Becky Alun-Jones on 07969 642521



Once we've covered our costs for the night, any money left over will be donated to the Stratford Cancer and Eye Hospital. Please buy your tickets early so that we can get an idea of how much we may be able to donate.

We look forward to seeing lots of members and patrons, both past and current there.

Lighthorne Festival

We will be entering this competitive festival once again this year under the capable direction of Lynda J. Our entry is called Don't Mention the Dream, by Damian Trasler, and is a one act play about a small amateur drama group struggling to cast a show. (Sound familiar?) We will be performing at the festival on Wednesday 6th June, alongside Second Thoughts and The Abbey Players from Nuneaton.

The Box Office for the festival will open on Friday April 17, 2015, for priority booking for competing groups. As per previous years, participating groups will be allowed to book in advance a total of 20 full price tickets; 18 for the night on which they are appearing and two for the Saturday night. This is to try to ensure that groups' supporters have a chance to see them in the Festival and that hopefully every group is represented on the Saturday night when the winners are announced and the prize-giving takes place. Priority places can be booked from Rebecca Cairns via the general Box Office, for preference by emailing lighthornefestival@gmail.com or via a link on the website <http://lighthornefestival.org.uk> or alternatively on 01926 651239. It's first come first served, so if you want to go, get in early on 17th April. Tickets include a light supper.

As there is only a limited number of tickets available for the festival, we are also performing the piece on Saturday 30th May at Tiddington Community Centre. This is again in collaboration with other festival entrants, this year performing alongside Second Thoughts and Armistice Theatre from Kenilworth. Tickets for this performance are available from Rob Copley at rob.copley@touchwoodonline.com

On a final note, Lynda is in need of a stage hand to help at the two performances. If you are free and would like to get involved, please get in touch with Lynda at lyndajepson@gmail.com or on 01789 550848. The festival is really great fun and an opportunity to experience a different side of theatre, so give Lynda a call.

Titfield Thunderbolt
24th – 26th September

Looking ahead, the September production will be The Titfield Thunderbolt, a stage version of the classic 1953 Ealing comedy. Graham Robson will be directing and he is keen to start generating some interest so here's some information from the man himself.

"The play takes place in three acting areas, with the cast creating the train sound effects, and people whizzing past with hand-held bits of scenery and birds and things to create the illusion of movement. There is a Narrator to help with the audience involvement. There is also a song for the whole cast to learn, and a further one at the end, as a finale.

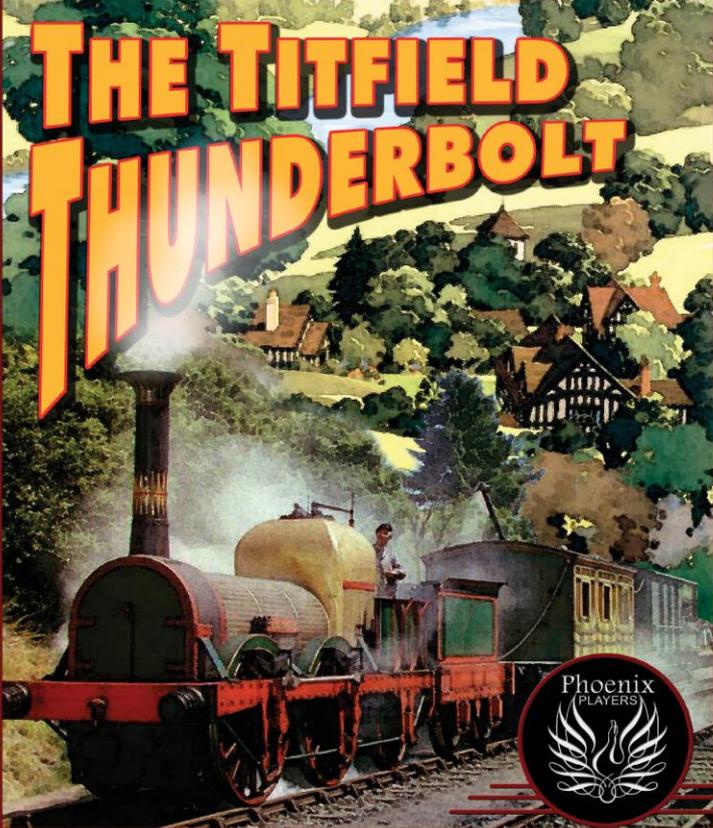
The show has 14 characters in it. Some are on a lot, and some only a little. It can be done with as few as five actors. . . . *but that doesn't seem like much fun, does it?* The plan is to have minimum doubling-up, with those people not immediately being used acting as a form of "chorus" . . . on the platform, in the pub, on the "train", involved with scenery, mixing with the audience when we do bits that involve them, etc.

Bear in mind: "There is no such thing as a small part. Only a small actor".

If you would like to know more about the show or characters or would like to get involved, contact Graham direct at info@dtline.co.uk for more details.

Readings and informal auditions will be held at the Studio on Monday 8th June and Wednesday 10th June, at 7.30pm.

The Phoenix Players present:
A re-creation of the classic 1953 Ealing film comedy:



Stratford-upon-Avon
Artshouse
Rother Street
01789 207100

September 24th
to 26th 2015

STRATFORD
ARTSHOUSE

Other News

Goldilocks! Video viewing

A good number of people turned out on a dull Sunday afternoon at the start of March to watch the video of Goldilocks! What a good show that was. Well done to all involved and thanks to the View restaurant for hosting us.

AGM 2015

Lots of people turned up for the AGM; thank you all for your support. The same president, committee and officers were re-elected with the addition of Neil McBride to the committee. So, onwards and upwards! Let's see what we can pull out of the bag this year.

Toddington train trip – back by popular demand

To get us in the right frame of mind for the Titfield Thunderbolt, we are planning to take a trip on Toddington steam railway which proved very popular when we did it a couple of years ago. Tickets are £20 each and include a fish and chip supper. It's an evening ride running from 7.00pm to 9.30pm and takes you through some beautiful Cotswold countryside. If you would like to come, please contact Graham at info@dtline.co.uk or on 01789 720450. He is gathering numbers, names and, of course, your money!

Your 're-elected with a new boy to add to the team' committee consists of:

Fiona Robson
Carlyne McHugh
Andy Jepson
Becky Alun-Jones
Caroline Adams
Graham Robson
Jacqui Lindsay
Kaylee Holt
Lynda Jepson
Neil McBride

Dates for your diary:

Friday 10th April, 7.30pm – Annual Quiz at The View

Sunday 19th April 2015 - NODA awards

Friday 15th May 2015 – 70th Anniversary Party!!!

20th – 23rd May 2015 – Agatha Crusty and the Village Hall Murders

Saturday 30th May 2015 – Lighthorne Festival preview night at Tiddington Community Centre

Wednesday 3rd June 2015 – Lighthorne Festival – Don't Mention the Dream

Monday 8th June) Readings / informal auditions for The Titfield

Wednesday 10th June) Thunderbolt

Saturday 11th July 2015 – trip on the Toddington steam railway

W/c 20th September 2015 – The Titfield Thunderbolt

