

# Phoenix



# News

## January 2016

### **Alice in Wonderland**

**4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

With just over three weeks to go now until opening night, it's full steam ahead with preparations for Alice. Having had a couple of weeks off for Christmas, it was good to see so many cast members with books down at the rehearsals this week. Well done everyone for finding time amongst the festivities to learn your lines.

Other areas of the production are equally busy; Jacqui and Caroline are putting final touches to the vast quantity of costumes needed, Adam, Lauren, Andi and Vanessa are practicing make-up designs, Graham, Dave Neale, Roger and new member, John Rees, are starting work on building various pieces of set, Annette is seeking out props, Steve B is working on the music and Andy J is refining the sound effects. There's also Isaac working on lighting and the programme, Graham designing banners, adverts and posters and Lynda J focussing on front of house, with, of course, Kaylee steering the whole ship. This really is a team effort so thanks everyone for all your input.

So let's make sure as many people as possible get to see the show; it really will be a spectacular. Make sure you are doing everything you can to push tickets; it's an expensive show to put on so we need bums on seats. Tickets are £10 each, £8 for concessions and £28 for a family ticket for 4 (max. 2 adults). Tickets are now on sale and are available from the Stratford ArtsHouse, online, over the phone or from the box office.

<http://stratfordartshouse.co.uk/whats-on/page/4/>

01789 207100

**Get out there and sell, sell, sell!**

### **Annual General Meeting**

This year the AGM will be held on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. This is an opportunity for all members of the society to get together and catch up on how we are doing. We also elect committee members who then go on to run the group for the following year.

The committee chooses the plays we perform, decides on the venues we use, looks after the studio and generally keeps the society going. Any member can be nominated to join the committee and contribute to the running of the group. We are always keen for people to join the team. Committee members are given specific responsibilities such as membership secretary, premises manager, social secretary, venue booking, newsletter production and so on and are expected to make a contribution to how the group develops. Committee members need to attend monthly meetings and take on some aspect of running the group. To join the committee, you need a current society member to nominate you in writing (an email will do) to the current committee at least one week before the AGM, i.e. 15<sup>th</sup> March. At the AGM, your name will then be added to the list of potential committee members and then the members at the meeting vote in the committee.

If you are interested in joining the committee, please talk to any one of us. We'll tell you all about the joys and perils of being part of such a productive gang. Why not come and play!

**STOP PRESS: Membership fees are now due. Please get a form from Caroline or from the Studio, fill it in and return it with your money before the end of January 2016.**

## Spring 2016

We have a busy time ahead after Alice has been put to bed, so brace yourselves everyone.

We are still awaiting confirmation of our entry to the Lighthorne Drama Festival – we should hear at the start of February. In the meantime, we are proceeding assuming that we are in, so that if we get selected, we are not caught on the hop. This means that we are aiming to run two shows in the spring at the same time, as follows:

Out of Focus by Peter Gordon, directed by Graham Robson; 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> May  
Dance before Dying by Baz Stalinski and Kaylee Holt, directed by Kaylee; 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> June

As the productions are so close to each other, we will need two completely separate casts and crews. The intention is to run overlapping readings and auditions so that people can make an informed decision as to which one they would like to get involved in and the directors can collaborate on their casting.

Here are details of both shows:-

### Out of Focus – directed by Graham Robson

- ~To be performed at the Bear Pit Theatre for 4 nights, 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> May
- ~ read through - Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm
- ~ auditions – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm

Graham will need 4 men and 5 women of varying ages.

Synopsis – The village hall has been overbooked. There's Brownies, badminton players and people with table tennis bats fighting for space with those rehearsing a panto and a man desperate to show his slide collection to anyone who will sit still long enough. Finally peace reigns as relationships blossom, friendships form and people learn what it is to be part of a community.

Get in touch with Graham to find out more and to let him know you're interested in being involved.  
Mobile – 07778 037268 or [info@dtline.co.uk](mailto:info@dtline.co.uk)

### Dance Before Dying – directed by Kaylee Holt

- ~To be performed at the Lighthorne Drama Festival in Lighthorne for 1 night, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> June (we'll be notified of the performance night nearer the time)
- ~ read through - Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm
- ~ auditions – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>, **2.00pm** and Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 7.30pm

Kaylee will need 5 men and 5 women, some to play late teens and some to play older

Synopsis – Callum is 18 and dead. He's not sure how or why. In an attempt to find out, Callum attends his own wake, accompanied by Mrs Traherne, his spiritual guide. Here he discovers more than he may have wanted to know about his own death.

Get in touch with Kaylee to find out more and to let her know you're interested in being involved.  
Mobile – or [kaylee\\_holt\\_degree@hotmail.com](mailto:kaylee_holt_degree@hotmail.com)

As you can see, we'll be looking for 19 cast members and two crews so there'll be plenty of room to get involved.

## Other News

**Titfield Thunderbolt – the video:** The video we have all been waiting for is now ready for viewing. We have planned a date of Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March. We will either be at the Studio or the View, awaiting confirmation.

**Annual Quiz:** This year, we have a new quizmaster. Neil McBride will be master of ceremonies so that Lynda and Fiona can join in. The date is set for Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April. Get it in your diary and we'll confirm the venue nearer the time.

**Sad news:** I'm sure those of you who knew her will have heard that Nellie Hadland, former and much-loved member of the Phoenix Players dies just before Christmas, with her funeral being held last week. Nellie was a lovely lady who was with the group with her husband, Albert, for many years. She will be missed.

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*Why not tear this bit off and stick it on your fridge?*

<p><i>Your "looking forward to the challenge of a new year" committee consists of:</i></p> <p><i>Fiona Robson          Carlyne McHugh          Andy Jepson          Caroline Adams          Graham Robson          Jacqui Lindsay          Kaylee Holt          Lynda Jepson          Neil McBride</i></p>	<p><b>Dates for your diary:</b></p> <p>W/c 31<sup>st</sup> January</p> <p>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February</p> <p>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February</p> <p>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February          Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February</p> <p>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February          Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February</p> <p>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March</p> <p>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March</p> <p>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April</p> <p>W/c 22<sup>nd</sup> May</p> <p>W/c 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016</p>	<div style="text-align: right;">  </div> <p>Alice in Wonderland at the Stratford ArtsHouse</p> <p>Read through of Out of Focus, 7.30pm</p> <p>Read through of Dance before Dying, 7.30pm</p> <p>Auditions for Dance before Dying (Sunday @ 2.00pm and Tuesday @ 7.30)</p> <p>Informal auditions for Out of Focus, 7.30</p> <p>Video of The Titfield Thunderbolt</p> <p>Annual General Meeting – everyone is invited, so get it on the calendar</p> <p>Annual Quiz</p> <p>Out of Focus at the Bear Pit Theatre</p> <p>Lighthorne Drama Festival – Dance Before Dying</p>
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