

FESPA NEWS

Friends of East Suffolk Performing Arts

32nd issue

February 2009

The 2009 Season starts here !

THERE'S NOT MUCH SLACK between the time the details of the summer season are set in stone and the opening of the *Friends'* Southwold box office. Which is why we sometimes hear *Friends* protest that by the time they've read details of the season's plays in this paper, they've already missed the first few all-important seat-booking days!

So this year we've pulled out all the stops to publish a week or so earlier than usual. Hopefully this will mean that *Friends* can have a little more time to mull over the 2009 Summer Theatre programme on Page 7 and synchronise their diaries before the privileged early booking Southwold box office opens on 2nd March.

Lots going on before the theatre opens, though! Not least the FESPA AGM (page 2), Our first ever Swinging '60s retro-hop (page 5) and - another first this - our bank-holiday table-top market (page 3).

Barry Tolfree, Editor

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BRUSHING OFF BLINDING BLIZZARDS AND WADING THROUGH CRUNCHING CREDIT, OUR DOUGHTY CHAIRMAN CELEBRATES THE NEW SEASON

As I write this (on 1st February) the snow is falling, as the carol puts it: "snow on snow" and the headlines as depressing as ever, so I can only hope that things will get better for us all.

Anyway, let's look forward to the 2009 theatre season in both Southwold and Aldeburgh. Did you know that it is medically proven that an outing to the theatre is good for your health? So let us support Jill and the Company in their hard work on our behalf.

The programme is inviting. You can peruse it and plan your visits on page 7. And Tony Falkingham gives us his insight into each of the plays on page 4. I personally am looking forward to several new productions which I haven't seen before — always an exciting prospect. Hopefully, amongst the actors, will be some familiar faces and some new friends.

Sadly, one of our Trustees, Terry Collins has had to tender his resignation to our Board owing to ill-health. I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to him and our appreciation of his help, advice and constant support in our deliberations over the past four years. We shall miss you, Terry, but hope to see you whenever you feel able to join us!

News has just reached me of one of our Bursary recipients, Alun Vaughan. In early February a student production by Bristol Old Vic of *Romeo and Juliet* opened in Bristol and Alun was the Stage Manager. Congratulations Alun!

You can read a progress report about another of our 2008 Bursary winners, the very talented young cellist, Maxim Calver, on page 3. Over the next several issues of FESPA News we'll be keeping you regularly up to date with the careers of all our Bursary recipients.

I do hope that as many of you as possible will support us at our AGM on 24 April, at our 60's Night on 21 March, and the Summer events. There's a calendar of all the important dates on page 2. Please note them all in your diary and I look forward to meeting you at most if not all of them.

Our AGM speaker this year is a distinguished one. He is Julian Bird, Chief Operating Officer of the Tate galleries, Advisor to the Southwold and Aldeburgh Summer Theatres and one of our most supportive Friends. The subject of his speech is: 'From Cilla Black to Damien Hirst—a life in the Arts'. Intriguing eh?

Sidi Scott

Renewing your FESPA membership with added Gift Aid

Thank you to all *Friends* who enabled FESPA to recover over £2,000 in Gift Aid during 2008. Naturally, your authority to reclaim tax will stay on file until you cancel.

For those *Friends* who have yet to sign up, a Gift Aid form is attached to your subscription renewal enclosed with this issue.

Thank you once again.

Peter Gibbs, Treasurer

**Jill invites us
to raise a glass
to an
'interesting'
year!**



Dear Friends,

2009 should be interesting... On the one hand we are told everyone will be too broke for extras like theatre visits. On the other hand, to avoid travel costs, thousands more families will apparently holiday in the UK. (This is presented in the papers as bad news!)

Our view is that theatre is not an 'extra' and the more people who holiday with us the better... So there!

In true theatrical tradition, the show must go on. Are we downhearted? Definitely not.

We think next Season is just what you need: plenty of thrills and even more laughs, as well as a cracking new play.

The Lunchtime Season at Sutherland House (1pm on Friday and Saturday) together with the Children's Shows (Main Theatre every afternoon) will also help to raise your spirits.

So come to the Friends' Evening at Westons on Friday 26 June, raise a special glass to 2009 and between us we'll make it a really jolly year.

Jill Freud

FOR YOUR 2009 DIARY

Monday 2 March - Friends' Privileged Booking opens for Southwold. See page 7 for details.

Saturday 21 March - Swinging Sixties Evening at Wangford Community Centre In support of FESPA. See page 5.

Friday 24 April - AGM. Walberswick Village Hall 6.30 for 7.00. See this page

Monday 4 May - Tabletop Market in aid of FESPA. Walberswick Village Hall. 11am - 3pm. See opposite page.

Tuesday 5 May - Friends' Privileged Booking opens for Aldeburgh. See page 7

Friday 26 June - The Gala Friends' Evening at Westons, Walberswick

Sunday 28 June - The FESPA Theatre Fete at Westons, Walberswick

Thursday 9 July - Theatre season opens in Southwold

Friday 24 July - Theatre season opens in Aldeburgh

Saturday 29 August - Last night of Aldeburgh Season

Saturday 12 September - Last night of Southwold Season

**Could you welcome a member of
the Company into your home?**

The Company sometimes needs to find short-term bed and breakfast accommodation for visiting actors and others involved in the Southwold lunchtime shows. If you live close by and would be prepared to help, Jill would love to hear from you. Out-of-pocket expenses are, of course, paid.

Phone Jill Freud on 0207 7245432 if you think you can help.

**'From Cilla Black to Damien
Hirst - a life in the arts'**



Julian Bird, Chief Operating Officer of the Tate Galleries is to be our distinguished guest speaker at the FESPA Annual General Meeting on 24 April.

Julian's career has revolved around the twin pivots of finance and the arts. He has held senior roles in the Bank of England and the Financial Services Authority and now

he runs the day-to-day operations of Tate. His commitment to the world of the arts (fine and performance) coupled with his disciplined approach to the business of presenting them to the public, makes him a valued ally of, and advisor to, the Summer Theatres. It will be fascinating to spend an evening with him and to hear about the eclectic impact which the arts have had on his life.

**Please make every effort to attend our AGM
Friday 24 April, Walberswick Village Hall
6.30 for 7.00 pm**

After the 'business' of the night has been completed, enjoy a glass of wine and enter our prize draw.

**SPOT-THE-SET
COMPETITION**

The first correct entry out of the hat for the last Spot-the-Set competition was, once again, Mrs Wendy Cooper who enclosed a note saying that, if she was successful, she would prefer it if we drew again, adding "Just wanted you to know I appreciate your marvellous sets." So it was back to the hat and, wouldn't you know it, the winner this time was our own Chairman, Sidi Scott, who correctly identified *Death in Act Two*, 2006. We'll leave it to your conscience, Sidi, as to whether you collect your bubbly prize in July!



Let's have a big entry please for Maurice Rubens' new teaser. Identify the title of the play (the year is not essential but have a guess anyway). Send your answer on a picture postcard of your own choosing (Maurice collects them!) and send to:

**Maurice Rubens, c/o FESPA NEWS,
22 Field Stile Road, Suffolk IP18 6LD**

The winner will be the first correct entry selected at random on 30 April 2009 and will win a bottle of bubbly to celebrate the opening of the 2009 Summer Season.

MAXIM TAKES HIS BOW

In our November 2008 issue we introduced *Friends* to Maxim Calver, the remarkably talented eight-year-old (now nine) cellist from Gorleston who was one of FESPA's inaugural bursary award winners.



Maxim had just started at the renowned Yehudi Menuhin School in Surrey and we wondered how his first full term had gone. His mother, Stella tells us

that, although there have been the inevitable twinges of homesickness, he is coping with the new environment and the specialist routines of the school's life admirably and has made many new friends.

Maxim has been involved in many concerts and projects in his first term and this has involved even more travelling for his parents than they had anticipated. Sometimes Stella and Ian have found themselves commuting between Gorleston and Surrey as many as three times a week in supporting their son at these



performances. The FESPA award was made specifically to help with this and Stella says that it has proved invaluable.

"Maxim has performed in three lunchtime concerts," reports Stella, "and was chosen to represent the school in a prestigious Prince's Trust concert, where he played Saint-Saëns' *The Swan*. He recently performed a complete Vivaldi cello concerto with string orchestra and harpsichord accompaniment in an afternoon and evening concert. Locally he has also performed in a Norfolk Youth Music concert held at the United Reformed Church in Norwich and, on the non-musical side, won a 2nd prize for his poem in a creative writing competition in Elmbridge (in Surrey, near the Menuhin school)."

At the beginning of his second term, Maxim has resumed his studies with great zest. We eagerly look forward to following his progress in the future.

CORRECTION

In our November article about the FESPA Bursaries we wrongly suggested that the 2008 awards totalled £1500. In fact the total sum awarded was £3,500. Apologies for this error which was corrected in our online edition - www.fespa.co.uk

Ed.

FESPA BURSARIES 2009

Call for nominations

Nominations are now open for the 2009 FESPA Bursary Awards. Successful applicants will be announced during the summer.

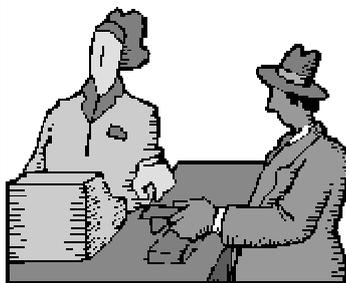
FESPA bursaries are made with the specific objective of helping to advance education in the performing arts for the people of East Suffolk

So, if you know a deserving young person who has close connections with this area and who is either already pursuing a course of education in the performing arts at a recognised college, or who has the offer of a place at one, why not put his or her name forward. If you fulfil these criteria yourself, please feel free to nominate yourself. After all, modesty is no prerequisite of success in show business!

Write to: **FESPA Bursaries, 14a High Street, Wangford, Suffolk NR34 8RA** simply giving the name and address of your nominee and enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope. We'll send them a copy of the rules and an application form which must be returned by the end of May.

TABLE-TOP MARKET

**Monday 4th May, 11.00am to 3.00pm,
Walberswick Village Hall**



A new venture for FESPA... the chance to clear out the wardrobe, garage or attic and make a bob or two for yourself running your own mini stall at Walberswick Village Hall...

And, at the same time help raise funds for FESPA. Our idea is to raise enough cash to cover the expenses we incur

each year at our Summer Fete – the hire of equipment and labour, the cost of publicity, insurance, prizes and so on.

Stalls are available to all (not just *Friends*) and cost £5 (outside) and £7 (under cover). There's no commission on sales and no particular restrictions (beyond the legal ones) on what you can sell – art and craft, antiques, bygones, books, jewellery, bric-a-brac, clothes... The greater the variety, the more the punter-appeal.

FESPA is hoping to take a table itself, so perhaps other stallholders could be persuaded to donate an item each and if any *Friends* who are not taking a table of their own would like to provide some quality 'junk', please call Sidi on 01502 578711.

Entry for visitors will be just 50p (children are free) and there will be a tombola, refreshments and light lunches to add to the sense of occasion.

Please help to make this a success. Table numbers are strictly limited so, if you want to rent one, now's the time to act - before we advertise the event publicly. Call Val Anderson on 01502 724609. In any case, do put the date in your diary and come along for a browse.

ADVERTISE IN FESPA NEWS

FESPA News is distributed three times a year to 1000 theatre lovers, mostly in East Suffolk. Following a number of enquiries, we are now happy to accept a limited amount of relevant paid advertising, subject to space availability. Revenue will all go to FESPA funds. Per-insertion prices are:

One eighth page (like this box) £20

One quarter page £30

Loose insert supplied by client, £50 (max. single sheet A4, 80gsm. Other sizes negotiable)
Contact the editor for more details at the address on the back page.

COOKING UP A STIZZLING SUMMER SEASON



Anthony Falkingham, Co-Artistic Director, writes

Last year our 25th anniversary season was extremely popular I hope you will enjoy this season just as much.

The season opens with the high-spirited comedy, *Love's a Luxury* by Guy Paxton & Edward Hoile, which we previously presented in 1984 as part of our very first season. Emma Freud played the maid. We even found a picture; see below.

There was a film made of it in 1952 with Derek Bond and a very young Michael Medwin.

It has been a popular favourite with Sam Walters at the excellent Orange Tree Theatre in Richmond, Surrey, first produced there in 1988 and then revived in 2004. Last year saw a production at the Mill at Sonning with our own Jeffrey Perry. With a cast packed with some of your best-loved actors I am sure it will get the season off to a flying start.

Second up we have another amazing screen adaptation, by



Emma Freud and Andrew Lennox pictured on stage in 1984

Mark Sterling, of the Launder & Gilliat crime thriller, *Green for Danger*. I am sure many of you will remember the great Alastair Sim as the bumbling Inspector Cockrill in a cast that included Leo Genn, Trevor Howard, Judy Campbell. Set in a cottage hospital during the Second World War it was adapted from the 1942 novel by Christianna Brand. Plenty of thrills and spills there I think.

In August we

have *Caught in the Net* by Ray Cooney, the sequel to his very popular *Run For Your Wife*; in fact originally they were going to call it *Run For Your Wife Again*. Starting in Windsor in August 2001 it transferred to the Vaudeville Theatre later that year and starred Eric Sykes and Russ Abbot. We look forward to repeating the success we had when we presented his other comedies, *Out of Order*, *Funny Money* and of course *One For The Pot*.

Following that we have a new play, *Crooked Wood* adapted by Gillian Plowman from a television film by Michael Palin. Originally written in 1988, the year after his better known *East of Ipswich*, which, as you all know, was filmed on location in Southwold. The play had its premiere at the tiny Jermyn Street Theatre in London's West End and starred Doreen Mantle, who has acted with our company on two occasions, in *A Passionate Woman* and *The Old Ladies*. The part of the courageous old lady battling against the odds will be played by your very own Jill Freud.

Finally we have a real cracker - *Gaslight* by Patrick Hamilton. First presented in December 1938, with Anton Walbrook and Diana Wynyard, it was re-titled *Angel Street* and transferred to Broadway where it ran for four years and made Hamilton a rich man. It was filmed twice in England - in 1940 and then in 1944 by MGM and starring, Charles Boyer, Joseph Cotton, Angela Lansbury and Ingrid Bergman, who won an Oscar for Best Actress.

An unfortunate case of mistaken identity



In our November profile of Hannah Harvey we featured the wrong picture! The photograph was of Student Stage Manager, Zoë Ferguson. The picture of Hannah we should have used is this one, snapped outside the theatre last summer.

Our sincere apologies to both Hannah and Zoë for this careless error which was corrected in our online edition.

www.fespa.co.uk

Don't forget that we now have our own website which carries more news and pictures than we can fit in FESPA NEWS. What's more, if you mislay your copy of the newsletter or want to refer back to a past issue, you can download it online.



**WANGFORD
ROCKS!**
Saturday 21 March, 7.30pm

Still a few tickets left for FESPA's 1960s nostalgia-fest at Wangford Community Centre.

Wear the full gear if you dare or just a pair of token flares and Hush Puppies if you're feeling diffident.

There'll be a free welcoming drink (Could that possibly be Mateus Rose? Surely not!) and afterwards a pay-bar. Then the sort of hearty grub you've spent the last half century trying to forget but secretly pining for. (There'll be a veggie alternative to the main course, by the way).

After that, our hostess, Sidi Scott, has a tale or two to tell about her early life as a dancer, and talks to a couple of *Friends* who worked in television in the 60s when shows were fuzzy-grey, live and dangerous.

Then it's clear the floor so our guest DJ can get the joint jumping to all those tracks you can remember exactly where-you-were-and-who-you-were-with-and-what-you-were-up-to when you heard them the first time!

There'll be a 'Name-the-Stars' competition and a raffle. If you would like to donate a prize, please call Jack Clayton (number below).

What a night it's going to be!

**Tickets are just £10 (oh come on!) per head from:
Sidi Scott 01502 578711, Peter Gibbs 01502 723390 or
Jack Clayton 01986 872425**

Early booking recommended as numbers are severely limited. All proceeds to FESPA funds.

HELP NEEDED 2009

Jack Clayton writes

Last year we broke new ground by producing leaflets that both advertised the Summer Theatre programmes and also invited readers to become *Friends*.

The aim was to provide supplies early in the year to hotels, caravan sites, etc. in the hope that they would enclose a copy with their booking confirmation letters. The idea was very successful, so naturally we want to build on it this year.

A small number of Active *Friends* took responsibility for distribution in the postcode areas near to the theatres and we now need to fill in some gaps and take in the not-so-close areas. We have a meeting planned for mid-March, essentially to distribute the leaflets but also to finalise our plans for the present year. If you can help and live in the IP12/13 areas (Woodbridge to Framlingham), IP16 (Leiston); or IP17 (Saxmundham), please call or e-mail me ASAP. The location of the meeting will depend upon numbers but it will be in a central location with parking.

I should also like to hear from other *Friends* who would like to help with this important task and/or to assist the Company to improve the distribution of the separate Southwold and Aldeburgh Programme Cards that will become available late in June. Please don't be shy!

**E-mail: jackclayton@keme.co.uk
Telephone: 01986 872425.**

JUST 17 WEEKS AWAY!



Sunday 28 June 2009

It's FESPA's most important fund - raiser of the year. Without the FESPA Summer Theatre Fete we really couldn't contemplate all the supportive work we do for our theatres and to help perpetuate the good health of the performing arts in our area.

Last year our fete and the associated Grand Draw succeeded in raising over £5000 which was a record. This year, even if the weather's on our side, the economic climate is inevitably going to present a challenge... So-o-o...

If you haven't done so before, do please think seriously about volunteering for action this time.

If you are relatively young and able-bodied, our organiser, Val Anderson, would be particularly delighted to get your call. Erecting and dismantling stalls, putting up and taking down gazebos, lifting and carrying are jobs we often have to pay for. So your contribution could make a real difference to our bottom line. But, even if, like the rest of us, you're not in the first flush, there are so many ways you can help - running stalls, helping with food and drink, making stuff to sell, offering prizes, contributing books, bric-a-brac, bottles, pictures, craftwork.

Let's make this year's fete the one to remember!

If you're happy to help - even if you don't know how yet - make yourself known to **Val Anderson on 01502 724609.**

A special plea...

Jack Clayton, who has run the children's tombola in past years, has other fete duties this year and is looking for someone to take over his stall. If you would like to volunteer, please give Jack a call. He can explain how it's done and can hand over a useful 'starter kit'.

A word from our Grand Draw Master, Michael Venn

Over the years the Grand Draw has always been a most popular attraction and Joy and I are delighted to be running it again this year. Once again we have been able to arrange some wonderful top prizes. Tickets will be available shortly and we will be sending each *Friend* two books with our May issue. Don't forget that you are not obliged to buy any tickets but we hope you will... After all, you've got to be 'in it to win it'! Please help to make our draw the great fund-raising success it was last year.

PROFILE

Stephen Hancock



If, like 24 million others, you were a regular *Emergency Ward 10* fan in the 1950s and '60s, perhaps you'll remember the handsome Dr. Faulkner. If that's a bit far back, you will certainly be familiar with the good Doctor's alter ego, Stephen Hancock. Over the past 20 years he has appeared in dozens of productions on the Summer Theatre stages at Southwold and Aldeburgh.

By coincidence, while Stephen was playing telly-doctors, Jocelyne (now his wife of 48 years) was playing nurses on the same rickety set, though, as far as they can remember, they never actually crossed paths. "I hated every minute of that show," says Jo. "We did it live. We weren't told anything about the story or where we fitted in; just given our lines and told not to trip over the cables. I was terrified."

The two finally did meet in Brecht's *Galileo* at the Mermaid Theatre and married in 1961. With the birth of their daughters, Phyllida and Gemma, Jo's acting career ended, but Stephen's association with soap still had a way to go with parts in *Crossroads* and seven years (on and off) in *Coronation Street* during the '70s.

"I really enjoyed Corrie but the contracts were incredibly unfair. Some actors were paid every week whether they appeared or not. Others, like me, were contracted for a specified number of episodes over an extended period which meant I could be written out for weeks on end without pay but not permitted to do any other acting work. I just stood up one day and said: 'This is unfair.' So they shot me!"

The shooting of Corrie's popular local photographer, Ernie Bishop, momentarily rocked the nation. It was front-page news in the tabloids. Stephen, fortunately, had other impressive arrows to his bow. Even while playing Ernie Bishop, he was intermittently Musical Director at Birmingham Rep and, over the years, he has been MD at many other renowned theatres, not least Stratford.

Music first 'got into his bones' as a choirboy in Durham Cathedral's Chorister School. "Being a cathedral chorister is something else! The education was amazing and Durham is such a wonderful place. I still go back whenever I can."



Stephen aged 11.

Head Chorister

From his first day, a Durham choirboy is placed on either the 'Cantoris' or the 'Decani' (Dean's) side of the choir and traditionally stays there throughout his stay. Stephen was a Cantorian but half way through his stay the unthinkable happened: he was transferred to Decani. It turned out that he had been earmarked as the next Head Chorister, an appointment that history dictated could only be made from the Dean's side of the choir.

Such was the young Hancock's musical prowess that a career as a serious composer or conductor seemed assured. But the war intervened. Stephen joined the RAF and threw himself wholeheartedly into morale-boosting entertainment duties. "I got a lot of laughs and enjoyed myself."

So, after the War, it was off to The Central School of Speech & Drama. "At the end of my time there I won a prize in an acting competition. One of the judges was the producer, Henry Sherek. He took me aside and said: 'Well I suppose I'd better give you some work.' That's how I got my first professional role – a tiny part in *Pygmalion* with Margaret Lockwood."

Stephen claims he's always been torn, more or less equally, between music and theatre. For a time, in the 50s he worked closely with comic lyricist Myles Rudge (*Right Said Fred*, *Hole in the Ground*) putting together and mounting revues in small theatre venues in London. At about the same time he was prolifically composing and arranging for both theatre and radio plays.

After completing two seasons as actor and MD in Stratford-on-Avon, Stephen and Jo had formed such an attachment to the place that they decided to set up residence there. The girls were born and educated there and it became the family home for the next 30 years.

Jo worked on exhibitions and events at the Shakespeare Centre and both daughters eventually embraced the theatre. Gemma is a casting director and has worked with Peter Hall. Phyllida became an actress and, in 1986, landed her first part in Southwold, playing Rosie in *Cider with Rosie*. Proud Mum and Dad naturally came to see her, were introduced to Jill Freud and hit it off so comprehensively that they have been involved with the Summer Season here ever since. Phyllida herself, after distinguishing herself on the Stratford stage, went on to harness her performance skills in the specialist consultancy field of facilitation and leadership development. But she still comes back to Southwold every year to perform in the now legendary Poetry, Music and Wine evening. Her own daughter is named 'Rosie' – perhaps in honour of that happy first season in Southwold.

A few years ago, *anno domini* and health concerns persuaded Stephen and Jo to leave their beloved Stratford home and move into residential care nearer their family. Their first choice of home was not a happy experience, however, which is why they headed for the town where, next to Stratford, they had been happiest. They are now contentedly ensconced in Southwold at Oaklands Retirement Home.

'Write us something!'

Stephen still composes. As you might expect, much of his work is for the voice. One of his pieces was performed at last year's 'Poetry and Music' night to great acclaim. He has written a setting for the Evening Service which has twice been used at Durham. But he is even more proud of the set of responses he wrote to be performed a few years ago in St Paul's Cathedral. "This was Phyllida's doing again! She sings in a wonderful all-women choir which takes over when the cathedral choir is on holiday. She just said: 'write us something.' So I did!"

During his long association with the Jill Freud Company, one of Stephen's best buddies, perhaps predictably, was that other brilliant MD, the late Derek Scott. "He was one of the funniest people I've ever met. A wonderful musician and a lovely fellow. I remember when he was playing the piano in *A Chorus of Disapproval*. At one point he had to come on stage and do just two lines with me. He could never remember them so one night he came on with his script in his hand ... and he *still* couldn't do them.. The thing is he could get away with it. He was so utterly charming. He really was."

Stephen's most recent appearance on the Summer Theatre stage was in 2007 as a somewhat bewildered resident of a retirement home in Andy Powrie's hilarious *Climbing the Wall* (seen below with Jill Freud and Jane Evers.) Nothing could less resemble the real-life Stephen Hancock or indeed his real-life retirement home.

"We have had a terrific two decades in Southwold and Aldeburgh thanks to Jill. She has been wonderful, not just for this area but for British theatre, and particularly for encouraging new, young talent. Mind you, she has been very kind to one or two oldies, too!"



Photo: Jim Laws



The Jill Freud Company



SOUTHWOLD & ALDEBURGH SUMMER THEATRES 2009

SOUTHWOLD
ST EDMUND'S HALL, SOUTHWOLD

ALDEBURGH
JUBILEE HALL, ALDEBURGH

Thursday 9th July
Tuesday 21st July
Love's A Luxury
by Guy Paxton & Edward Hoile
Friday 24th July
Saturday 1st August

Thursday 23rd July
Saturday 1st August
Green For Danger
The Launder & Grilliat film - Adapted by Mark Sterling
Tuesday 4th August
Saturday 8th August

Monday 3rd August
Saturday 15th August
Caught In The Net
by Ray Cooney
Tuesday 18th August
Saturday 22nd August
Extra matinee on Thursday 13th August

Monday 17th August
Saturday 29th August
Crooked Wood
by Gillian Plowman
Monday 10th August
Saturday 15th August
(based on a television film by Michael Palm)
Extra matinee on Thursday 27th August

Tuesday 1st September
Saturday 12th September
Gaslight
by Patrick Hamilton
Monday 24th August
Saturday 29th August
Extra matinee on Thursday 3rd & 10th September
Extra matinee on Thursday 27th August

SOUTHWOLD BOX OFFICE

From 2nd MARCH - 22nd MAY
Mon - Fri : 10am - 1pm - ROSEMARY DIGBY
01502 722638
P.O. Box 57, Southwold, IP18 6WQ

MAIN SOUTHWOLD BOX OFFICE OPENS SAT 23rd MAY

Daytimes (from 23rd May) Tel: **01502 724441**
Tourist Information Centre, 69 High Street, Southwold, IP18 6DS
Mon - Fri : 11.00am - 4.00pm & Sat : 11.00am - 3.00pm

Evenings (from 9th July) Tel: **01502 722389**
St Edmund's Hall, Cumberland Road, Southwold, IP18 6JP
Mon - Fri : 5.00pm - 9.00pm & Sat : 4.00pm - 9.00pm

ALDEBURGH BOX OFFICE

From 5th MAY - 19th JUNE
Mon - Fri : 2pm - 5pm - MERWYN CUNLIFFE
01394 382199
Bealings Brook, Bealings Road, Martlesham, IP12 4RW

MAIN ALDEBURGH BOX OFFICE OPENS MON 22nd JUNE

Daytimes (from 22nd June) Tel: **01728 453007**
The Suffolk, 152 High Street, Aldeburgh IP15 5AX
Mon - Fri : 11.00am - 4.00pm & Sat : 11.00am - 2.30pm

Evenings (from 24th July) Tel: **01728 454022**
The Jubilee Hall, Crabbe Street, Aldeburgh, IP15 5BW
Mon - Fri : 6.00pm - 8.15pm & Sat : 4.00pm - 8.30pm

'THE LADY VANISHES' TO TOUR With FESPA sponsorship



Mark Sterling and Penelope Rawlins have formed a touring company, Triode Productions Ltd, which plans to take their 2008 Summer Theatres success, *The Lady Vanishes*, on the road (railroad that is!) starting in the autumn. From his home in Middleton, Mark reports: "Plans proceed apace. Triode Productions is currently in the process of contacting and negotiating with theatre managers around the country. We already have a handful of pencilled dates so I am optimistic that we can put together viable tours in the Autumn of this year and the Spring of next. Triode Productions is delighted to have received sponsorship from FESPA and very grateful for the support demonstrated by the Trustees."



If all goes according to plan, rehearsals will start immediately after the close of the Southwold season. The amazing working train which was the centrepiece of the set will be refurbished in time for a planned opening on 5th October.

Mark says that he is hoping that many, if not most, of the cast seen in the production last year will be able to join the tour. *Friends* can track (!) developments on Triode's website www.triodeproductions.co.uk.

'SO WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT HENRY?'

FESPA helps Sanderlings Theatre Company stage a local triumph

Our own Val Anderson, organiser of our Summer Fete, was the director of this highly enjoyable production by the Sanderlings Theatre Company in Walberswick Village Hall at the end of January. It served to raise locale morale immeasurably at the end of what was, meteorologically, possibly the most miserable week of the year.

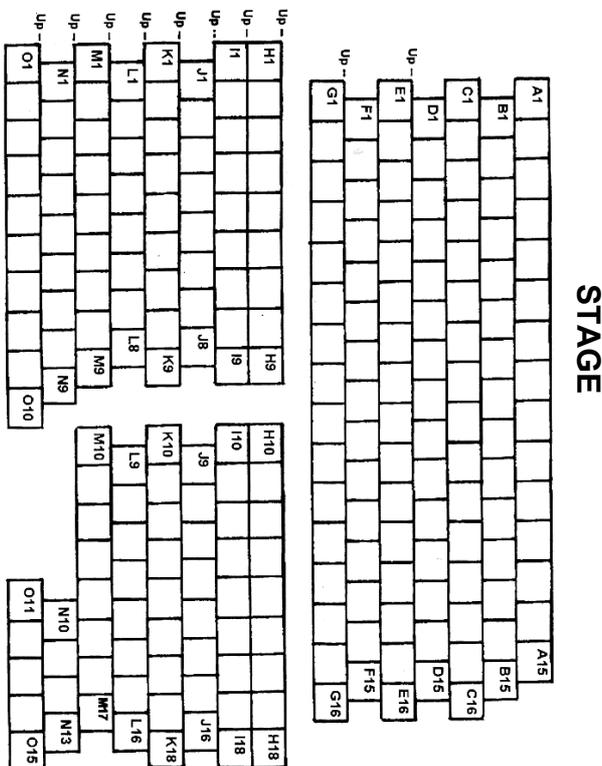
Based on a 1980 radio play by Charlotte Hastings which starred Flora Robson, the play is set in the cliffside Cornish cottage home of a young artist and his girlfriend whose lives take new turns when feisty Aunt Henrietta (Henry) comes to stay. As with all good radio plays, the script cleverly conjured up a sense of place and atmosphere which was nicely exploited in this production with its simple but nicely judged set, realistic sound-effects and lighting.

The cast and crew - villagers and locals all - gelled into a talented and well-disciplined team and, as we've come to expect from Sanderlings, there were some excellent performances with Rosie Gerrell as Henry deserving special mention for managing a substantial part so individualistically, confidently, convincingly and wittily.

FESPA's support for this Sanderlings production is an important demonstration of one of our *raison d'être* as a charity - to encourage local performing arts initiatives to thrive for the benefit of the local community.

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