

# FESPA NEWS

Friends of East Suffolk Performing Arts

35th issue

February 2010

## "RIGHT NOW, THE PERFORMING ARTS NEED ALL THE FRIENDS THEY CAN LAY THEIR HANDS ON!" SAYS SIDI

May I wish all fellow Fespians a happy New Year in spite of the Arctic conditions we have been facing. I hope that the thought of the new season of theatre-going will buoy you up with happy expectations of a great Season ahead.

FESPA had another good year in 2009 and hopefully our help for Jill's Company plus our programme of grants for local performance initiatives and Bursaries for young people planning to study the performing arts, will continue this year.

But, there are signs that actual growth in our resources and income is levelling out. Unless we can find ways of growing, our ability to contribute to the health of our local performing arts community is inevitably going to diminish in real terms in the future.

Theatrical and other performance initiatives will find it tougher and tougher to win funding in the current economic climate - particularly if (as Dame Judi claims) performing arts funding is being plundered to pay for the Olympics. Quite simply, theatre needs all the friends it can lay its hands on.

That's why we at FESPA need to make a concerted effort to increase our circle of *Friends*. After many years of expansion our membership is now steady at around 800. I'd like us to make that at least 1000 by the end of this year and double it by the end of next!

### So... an appeal!

I'm asking you to go through your address book and identify those of your friends and colleagues who you know love East Suffolk and love the theatre - **but who are not yet members of FESPA!**

Simply send their addresses to me at the address below and I will post them an invitation to join, together with a complimentary copy of the latest issue of FESPA News, a membership form and an explanation of the considerable benefits of being a *Friend*.

If you prefer, you could get your friend to contact me themselves. And don't forget there is a membership form to download on our website [www.fespa.co.uk](http://www.fespa.co.uk), and printed in every Summer Theatre programme. Or you can pick one up in the theatre foyer.

Just think, if every member recruited just one more person

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

Jill's letter to the <i>Friends</i>	2
<b>Tony previews the 2010 season</b>	<b>2</b>
Linda Connah - Obituary	2
<b>Alister Cameron to speak at AGM</b>	<b>3</b>
Looking forward to our Summer Fete	3
<b>Your 2010 Diary</b>	<b>3</b>
Southwold Theatre's 'pre-history'	4 - 5
<b>Bursary recipient Charlotte reports on her first term at RADA</b>	<b>6</b>
2010 programme, seating plan and Friends' priority booking details	6 - 7
<b>FESPA supports Youth Choir</b>	<b>8</b>
Sidi Scott <u>IS</u> Joyce Grenfell!	8

we could double our regular income which would make a real difference to the level of support we could afford to give Jill's Company and to the 'leg-up' we could offer young students to achieve their dreams in the theatre in the future.

At just a tenner a year, FESPA is not just great value but a great way of helping to keep real theatre alive here in Suffolk.

Once again, I thank my fellow Trustees, who are always supportive, as we work to keep FESPA very much alive and kicking!

Happy theatre-going and I look forward to seeing you all this Summer

*Sidi Scott, Chairman*

**FESPA, 14a High Street, Wangford, Suffolk  
NR34 8RA [sidi.scott@virgin.net](mailto:sidi.scott@virgin.net)**

## FESPA BURSARIES 2010

Applications for this year's Bursaries must be in by the end of May. If you know a deserving young person who lives in East Suffolk or has close connections with the area and who expects to be pursuing a performing arts course at a recognised college this autumn, why not ask for details, rules and an application form. Contact:

FESPA Bursaries, 14a High Street, Wangford NR34 8RA

## DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP THIS MONTH

You'll find your renewal form enclosed with this issue. If it has a Gift Aid section attached it means your membership fee is not currently registered for Gift Aid. If you qualify, do, please, sign up. Once you have done so, your authority continues to apply in subsequent years unless you cancel. In 2009 we were able to reclaim £2100 in Gift Aid so it is well worth doing.



## *Jill finds plenty of Reasons to be Cheerful in 2010*

*Dear Friends,*

There is a lot of hidden talent in the Company and, partly to show this, we like to open every second Season with a musical. I had assumed that it would not be possible in 2010 – we are still closely watching the pennies after the recession – but lo and behold, Tony has achieved some miracle of budgeting and we start with the delightful *Cowardy Custard*.

The other good news is that, with family support, we now have a year-round base in Southwold. A small house, very close to the theatre, will provide a home for two of the Production Team (viz. Tony and Peter) and, as we speak, a garden hut is being converted into an office for them. They won't be able to call us 'incomers' anymore.

So, 'Hear Ye, Hear Ye', whoever wins the General Election...

WE SHALL BE CELEBRATING!

May we all have a great summer!

*Jill Freud*

initials, was born in Southampton in 1923. After many years writing single plays, he turned to series drama including many episodes of *Dixon of Dock Green*, *Doctor Findlay's Casebook* and *Colditz*. He co-created the famous boardroom drama *The Brothers*.

*Dangerous Obsession* was revived for a tour in 2006 with Liza Goddard and Ian Ogilvy. A review noted that the plot contained 'intrigue, mystery, tension, suspense and a few shocks' – and the audience were urged to lock their doors when they got home.

In the middle of the season we present **HOLIDAY SNAP** by Michael Pertwee and John Chapman. This comedy of mistaken identities set in a whitewashed villa in Portugal, is played out with all the irrepressible fun for which these masters of mayhem are famous. Michael Pertwee, brother of Jon and son of Roland (a noted screenwriter and actor) wrote episodes of *Danger Man*, *The Saint* and *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*.

John Chapman, wrote *Dry Rot* and *Simple Spyman*, collaborated with Ray Cooney on *Not Now Darling* and *Move Over Mrs. Markham* and, with Michael Pertwee, wrote *Look No Hans*.

*Holiday Snap* had a very successful revival at the Mill at Sonning, last year.

Our fourth play is that wonderful romantic mystery, **MY COUSIN RACHEL** from a 1951 novel by Daphne DuMaurier and set on a large estate in Cornwall. Filmed in 1952, starring Olivia De Havilland and Richard Burton, it won Burton a Golden Globe Award for 'New Star of the Year'. A subsequent TV adaptation starred Geraldine Chaplin and Christopher Guard.

Finally Mike Leigh's most famous suburban situation comedy, **ABIGAIL'S PARTY**.

Originally written for the stage, it was shown in 1977 as part of the BBC's Play for Today season. Starring Alison Steadman as Beverly. It was ranked 11<sup>th</sup> in the '100 Greatest British Television Programmes' voted by the BFI in 2003 and was revived for the West End in that year. In 1999 the original cast were reunited for a performance of the play at the National Theatre. Our production will mark a memorable end to an exciting season.



## *...and Tony is celebrating, too*

**Anthony Falkingham, Co-Artistic Director, writes...**

We begin our 2010 season (can you believe it) in a truly celebratory style. **COWARDY CUSTARD** is the story of one of our most famous playwrights told through his own words and

music. First premiered at the Mermaid Theatre in London on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1972, as part of the City of London Festival, it ran for over a year with a total of 405 performances.

Coward himself suggested the title *Cowardy Custard* having rejected *This Is Noël Coward* as being too like *This was Noël Coward*. Devised by Wendy Toye, Gerard Frow and Alan Strachan and with an original cast that included; Patricia Routledge, Una Stubbs and Jonathan Cecil, it includes most of his best-loved songs: *If Love Were All, I'll See You Again, Why Must The Show Go On* and over thirty more. Come and have 'a Marvellous Party' at our opening show.

Next up, in what has become the Thriller Spot, is **DANGEROUS OBSESSION** by N.J. Crisp. Written in 1987 it was filmed in 1999 as *Darkness Falls* and starred Ray Winstone.

N.J. Crisp, a writer always known only by his surname and

## Linda Connah

We are very sad to report the death at the end of last year of Linda Connah. She and John loved the Summer Theatre and were very active and supportive *Friends*. Linda was also active in many other organisations including the Royal British Legion (Women's Section), Save the Children Committee, the League of Friends of Aldeburgh Hospital and Macmillan Nurses in Aldeburgh of which she was Chairman.

Linda had been Secretary to the Royal College of Physicians until she retired in 1982 to become a 'seaside landlady'.

After 24 years living in Aldeburgh, last August she and John bought a house in Chester and planned to start a new life there. Only six weeks later, however, Linda was diagnosed as having cancer and its progress was rapid. She died peacefully on 7th December at the Hospice of the Good Shepherd in Chester.

Our heartfelt sympathies to John and the couple's extended family.

## Alister Cameron to be our AGM guest speaker

**D**on't miss the FESPA AGM this year. It's on 23 April at 6.30 for 7.00 at the Walberswick Village hall as usual and it is our first big get-together of the year - a chance to meet old friends over a glass of wine and to have your democratic say about FESPA's business.

Best of all, business done, settle down to enjoy our guest speaker. This year it is an actor and director who regards himself as a 'founder member of the Jill Freud Company'. Alister Cameron and Jill attended a performance by the Joan Shore company at St Edmund's Hall in 1983 and, he says, whispered to her "This could be the place for you." Next year it was!

Alister will recount something of his distinguished career in film, theatre and TV and especially his long association with our Summer Theatres. The latter includes parts in *Educating Rita*, *Ten Times Table*, *Charlie's Aunt* (first time round), and twice in *Relatively Speaking*. He also directed the highly successful Richard Harris comedy *Outside Edge*.

At present he tells us he's writing a short play which he hopes to put on as a lunchtime production in Southwold this summer.



*Alister Cameron as Sir Terence Pitch in King of Hearts by Alastair Beaton, directed by Max Stafford-Clark at Hampstead Theatre last year*

## NAME THAT SET FOR A BOTTLE OF BUBBLY

**C**an you name the play for which Maurice Rubens designed this set? Write 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, Southwold, Suffolk, IP18 6LD.**

The winner of the bubbly will be the first correct entry selected at random on 5 April 2010.

The answer to November's puzzle was *Dick Barton, 2007*.



## FESPA SUMMER THEATRE FETE Sunday 27 June 2010

**O**ur most important fund-raiser of the year is now under the able new management of Ben Mariner with Val Anderson, who has organised the event spectacularly well for many years, now playing an only slightly less frantic second fiddle.

We badly need more volunteers to man stalls and help set up and take down tables, gazebos and other equipment. This year there are special pleas for volunteers to help on the bottle stall, man the tea tills and help generally in the tea barn, take money at the gate and help supervise car parking.

Ben's got some exciting new attractions lined up for this year's event, but more fun means more work so, if you think you'll be able to help, give Ben a call on **01502 722488** - sooner rather than later!

The biggest money-spinner of all is the Grand Draw which, once again is being masterminded by Michael and Joy Venn. We will be keeping the price of a ticket to £1 but a number of Friends have said they would be happy to buy (or sell to friends) more than the two books we normally send out. So this year, as a trial, we will be enclosing three books inside your May issue of FESPA News. It costs us hardly any extra to print and you should feel under no obligation to buy. It's just a way of maximising our sales. Just chuck away any that you don't need.

See you there and fingers crossed for blue skies!

### FOR YOUR 2010 DIARY

**Monday 8 March** - *Friends'* advance booking opens for Southwold. See page 7 for details

**Friday 23 April** - FESPA AGM. Walberswick Village Hall. 6.30 for 7.00. See above.

**Tuesday 4 May** - *Friends'* advance booking opens for Aldeburgh. See page 7.

**Wednesday 5 May** - Joyce Grenfell's 'Letters from Aldeburgh' - a luncheon performance by Sidi Scott with Jonathan Rutherford at the piano in the Wentworth Hotel, Aldeburgh. See back page.

**Friday 25 June** - *Friends'* Evening at Westons. 6.30. Bring a plate of eats. Collect your supply of programme cards.

**Sunday 27 June** - FESPA Theatre Fete at Westons. Gates open at 1.00 pm

**Thursday 8 July** - Southwold Season opens

**Friday 23 July** - Aldeburgh Season opens

**Saturday 28 August** - Last night in Aldeburgh

**Saturday 11 September** - Last night in Southwold

### FRIENDS' FORUM

**"The Summer Theatre is an important part of my year."**

*Wendy Smith emailed us to say:*

Thank you for my copy. I, too, am happy to receive it on-line in the future.

As ever, we really enjoyed the 2009 season; just hope our move to Suffolk (we live near to Saffron Walden in Essex at the moment) comes quickly then we'll be able to attend every production!

Thanks to everyone involved. Looking forward to the 2010 season (its an important part of my year!). Best wishes.

*Wendy (Smith)*

# CONTINUING THE STORY OF SOUTHWOLD'S THEATRE

## Part 2 – the 1930s to 1960s by Michael Rowan-Robinson

In our last issue, Paul Scriven wrote about the first stirrings of theatrical life in Southwold during the 19th and early 20th centuries. By the late 1930s, for the first time, the town had a new parish hall big enough to accommodate an audience of 360. But it wasn't until after the War that St Edmund's Hall came to resemble anything like a functional theatre. This was largely due to the vision of actor, writer and director Christopher Rowan-Robinson. His son, Michael has been interviewing his father on our behalf and recording his memories of those days.

**I**n 1937 my father, Christopher Rowan-Robinson, brought a repertory company to Southwold for a summer season, performing in the old Stella Peskett Hall. In 1938 he brought the company for a second season, this time at St Edmund's Hall.

One of the plays performed was *Mary Rose* and the photograph below shows the company posing outside the entrance of the Hall with my father centre front. To the right of the group is a poster for the following week's production, Noël Coward's *Tonight at 8.15* (sic).

He had started to work in the professional theatre in 1936 and acted in numerous rep companies and in Donald Wolfitt's touring company. He also worked from 1938-9 in some of the first plays to be broadcast on television from Alexandra Palace, including Moliere's *L'Avare*.

My father knew Southwold well because, from 1920, when he was five years old, to 1930, my grandmother leased half of Sole Bay House, Gun Hill, and spent part of the year there.

It was during the 1938 season that my father, needing playscripts typed, heard that Mr Pierson Loftus, the local MP and erstwhile head of Adnams Brewery, had an ace secretary, and so he met my mother. They were married in December 1939, just after the outbreak of war.

After the war, my father, now having a wife and four children to support, was not able to return to the professional theatre. He ran a bookshop in Chelsea and edited two theatre magazines, the *Masque* and the *International Review*. His theatre critic was Lawrence

Durrell. Following the death of my grandfather, my grandmother moved to Southwold and in 1947 we all moved there too. My father started the Solebay Bookshop, on the site of what is now the Black Olive delicatessen, and in 1949 he started the Aldeburgh Bookshop, still running successfully today.

One of his crucial contributions to Southwold life in these post-war years was to persuade the St Edmund's Church Council to rebuild the bombed St Edmund's Hall as a proper theatre, with wings, lighting and dressing rooms, a project which was completed in 1952. He organized professional one-night shows there in 1949 and 1950 and also directed amateur productions like *The Happiest Days of Your Life*, in which he also acted.

To celebrate the Festival of Britain in 1951 he wrote a review called *Festival Fever* which was performed to great acclaim to about 1000 people over two nights at the cinema in York Rd.

Perhaps his greatest triumph was to bring the Players Theatre to Southwold for a summer season in 1952. *Take It Easy*, directed by Clive

Dunn, was a typical seaside review, with a dozen sketches that might vary from night to night. The star of the show was Clive Dunn, who was a superb and hilarious music-hall artist. He later achieved well-deserved fame in *Dad's Army*, but that programme did not do justice to the range of his comic arts, which we were lucky enough to see in Southwold. I was fortunate, aged ten, to see it twice during the season.

Another of my father's productions in 1953 with local actors was *Gaslight*, in which he played the wicked husband. I found it disturbing to see him convey this evil character so convincingly.

In 1954 my parents moved to London and, a year later, to Yorkshire, as my father pursued a new career as a school-teacher and headmaster. Jane Davey took over direction of the Southwold Drama Group and ran it until 1966.

Meanwhile, my parents acquired a Southwold holiday house on North Parade and in 1965 they returned to live in Walberswick. My father started the sports shop, Pinkneys (where Queen Street Pharmacy is now) and, in 1967, took over Mumfords.

That same year saw his last appearance on stage at St Edmund's Hall. From 1937 to 1954 he had been at the heart of Southwold theatre life. Aged 94, he is now living in Littleport, near Ely, frail and not very mobile, but in great mental shape.

*Take it Easy, Southwold, 1952, with Clive Dunn, Joan Sterndale-Bennett and other greats from the legendary London Players Theatre. Programme reproduced courtesy of Southwold Museum & Historical Society.*



*The cast of Mary Rose in 1938. Christopher Rowan-Robinson is in the middle of the seated group. Can you help to identify any of the others?*

TAKE IT EASY			INTERVAL		
2nd Edition			PART 2		
PART 1					
1	Overture	at the Piano Joyce Jackson	13	Start with a Song	The Company
2	Take it Easy	The Company	14	Michael Darbyshire in trouble	
3	The Company	tell you what they would do if they were not upon the stage	15	Business is Business	Joan Sterndale Bennett, Clive Dunn Joan Ryan, Clayton Adams
4	Ursula Medley	exerts her personality	16	David Sharpe	—our pet choir-boy
5	The Toxophilites	Clive Dunn, Anthony Bateman Michael Darbyshire	17	The Soft Shoe Shuffle	Anthony Bateman Ursula Medley, Michael Darbyshire Joan Ryan, Clive Dunn
6	Joan Ryan and David Sharpe		18	Joan Sterndale Bennett	—Hotel Piece
7	Missing the Bus	Clive Dunn, Joan Sterndale Bennett Michael Darbyshire	19	Granada	The Singer : David Sharpe The Dancers : Ursula Medley and Anthony Bateman
8	Anthony Bateman	rings the Bell	20	Joan Ryan	
9	House to Let	The Company	21	Clive Dunn	will waste some valuable time
10	Joan Sterndale Bennett	—The Rather Merry Widow	22	The Prize Distribution	The Company

# ST EDMUND'S HALL THEN & NOW

**F**riend, Sheila Miller, contacted us in response to our appeal for memories and pictures relating to the history of theatre in Southwold.

Sheila's father, Hubert 'Dick' Palfrey, was the Southwold builder responsible for constructing St Edmund's Hall in the '30s. The somewhat tattered photo she kindly sent us shows



her father and his team proudly posing in front of the newly completed hall in August 1934. (Hubert is the one in the natty trilby, centre-front).

In a Lowestoft Journal cutting for February 1934 which Sheila also sent us, we learn that the Earl of Stradbroke had laid the foundation stone just six months earlier, to the accompaniment of a "biting snowstorm" and the hymn 'O God our Help' gallantly sung by the Church choir. The Vicar, the Rev. R N Pyke spoke of the "Urgent need of a parish hall for Southwold." which at that time had a population of 3000, nearly three times what it is today. The total cost of the hall, including fixtures and fittings was to be just over £2,550 much of which was raised by public fund-raising and interest-free private loans with an additional loan from the diocese of £500. In the event, it was £200 over budget! As can be seen from the picture, the original structure comprised simply the auditorium which was accessed from Cumberland Road via a covered walkway.

£300 was still owing on the diocesan loan when, in late May 1941, the Luftwaffe dropped 500 incendiary bombs on Southwold. In the early hours of Friday May 16 there was a particularly concentrated attack consisting of high explosives and incendiaries which fell in a swathe from the school to Easton Bavents. Much of this area was soon ablaze and several houses were destroyed although, on that night, at least, no one was killed. One oil incendiary scored a hit on St Edmund's hall which was burnt out. Local resident, John 'Wiggy' Goldsmith, remembers going into the charred shell of the building which, he says, had lost its roof but had most of its brickwork still intact.

In the Southwold Parish Magazine the following month, the Vicar wrote:

*St. Edmunds Hall is no more. It has gone the way of the Constitutional Club. We are thankful that in the attempt to set our little town on fire there were no lives lost and only one casualty ... St. Edmunds Hall died - or rather was murdered - very young. It had a life of less than 7 years ... It was used for all sorts of purposes, both grave and gay, and though it had so short a life, it acquired a sort of personality of its own. Many were the dramatic performances there, for the*

5

*stage accommodation was particularly good for a hall of this type and size ... Well, a new St. Edmunds Hall must rise on the ashes (quite literally) of the old ... Until this terrible war is over, the loss of St. Edmunds Hall will not bear very heavily upon us, as our parochial life is smashed to pieces. What we shall do when we return to sanity I do not know at all.*



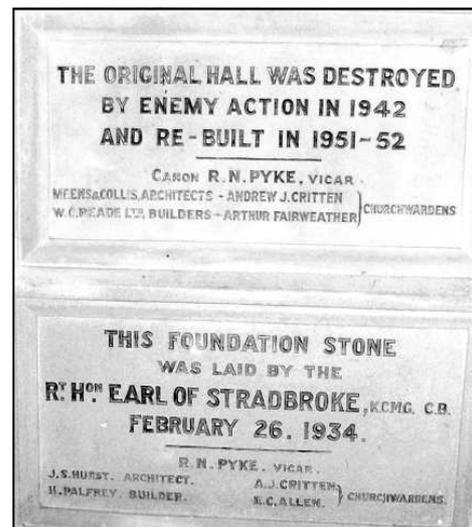
*The interior of St Edmund's Hall in the 1930s. Postcard reproduced courtesy of Southwold Museum and Historical Society.*

It was, in fact, 11 years before the hall was rebuilt with a two-storey addition including a foyer. Despite the Vicar's warm comments about the original hall's suitability as a theatre, visiting companies had often complained, particularly about the lack of proper dressing rooms. So, at Christopher Rowan-Robinson's insistence, some of the basic facilities required by a working theatre were incorporated into the new building.

Tiered seating, however, had to wait another three decades for the advent of Jill Freud & Company.

The two-storey front extension to the hall, incorporating the main entrance, front foyer and Doris Hatfield Room above, was not added until the early 1990s.

Still an elusive thespian dream is a means for actors to exit stage-left and re-enter stage-right without suffering the indignity of the notorious 'graveyard run'.



*Two commemorative stones in St Edmund's Hall. The year the hall was bombed is here given as 1942 although contemporary accounts date the event to the early hours of Friday May 16 1941. As Vicar, RN Pyke presided over both stone-layings and had become a Canon by 1952.*

We are most grateful to Sheila Miller, to Joan and John Goldsmith and to Southwold Museum and Historical Society for their help in preparing this article and for the loan of documents. If you have any memories of the early days of theatre in Southwold or Aldeburgh, we'd love to hear from you.

Keeping feet on the ground, rubbing shoulders with stars...

# CHARLOTTE REPORTS ON HER FIRST TERM AT RADA

**C**harlotte Barker, from Carlton Colville was the recipient of one of our 2009 FESPA Bursaries (FESPA News November 09). She had beaten hundreds of applicants to win a coveted place at RADA on their one-year Foundation Course in acting. We caught up with her as she was just beginning her second term. Here's her progress report.

"My first term at RADA has been absolutely fantastic. We've managed to put on two plays both really challenging in quite different ways. One was Shakespeare's *King John*, the other *Our Country's Good* by Timberlake Wertenbaker. It's a modern play but set in an 18<sup>th</sup> century Australian penal colony where the prisoners put on a Restoration comedy. It's based on a true story but it is really a play about the role of theatre in a community so there are fascinating layers of meaning. We had two really inspiring directors who had worked with the RSC and The Globe, and they drove us hard on both plays with loads of rehearsals – the goal being to learn how to communicate the text, making it accessible to the audience.

But it's not all plays... At the moment I'm preparing a monologue which I will have to present to my year. And I've really been enjoying learning skills that are completely new to me – like Show Dance, Social Dancing and Musical Theatre. There's going to be a big RADA Summer concert which I'm really looking forward to. I'm beginning to realise that, if you want to succeed as a performer you need to have a wide range of skills and be able to apply them to



Charlotte outside the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.

TV, Film and Radio as well as traditional theatre.

Originally I was a bit worried that everyone on the course would have more experience than me but we all seem to have strengths and weaknesses in more or less equal measure and we are always encouraged to support one another and give each other constructive criticism.

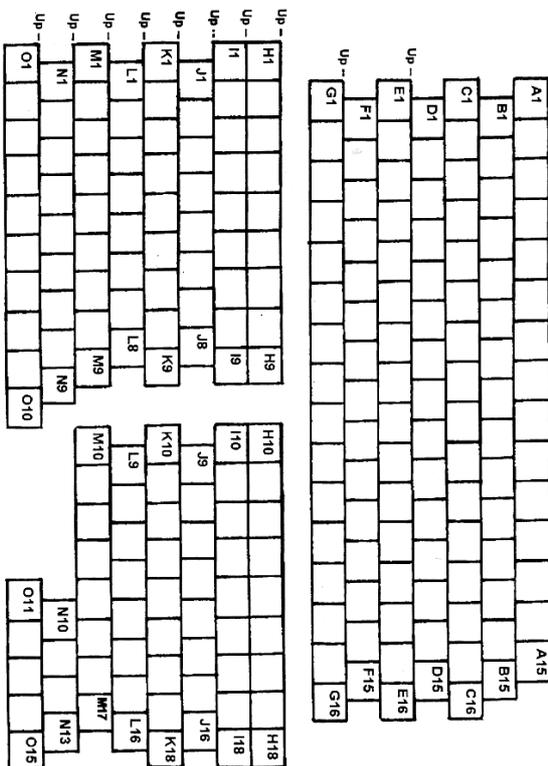
This term we have loads of theatre visits planned. We get lots of discounted offers emailed to us as students but the prices are still astronomical! Living and working in London is such a contrast with Lowestoft. Life never stops – especially for us. For example, yesterday evening I had technical classes in interview and TV technique and didn't get home till 11.00.

Our big project for the year is a play which has been written specially for us by graduates of Goldsmith College scriptwriting course. They have met us all one by one and got to know us, and the parts have actually been created for us individually. Can you imagine!

One of the great things about being at RADA is that you get to meet – and learn from – some real stars. They are always in and out. I met Alan Rickman and Kevin Spacey last term and the other day Billy Piper and Laurence Fox just walked into the studio we were in. By chance, just across the street from the house we share in Muswell Hill, lives John Simm ( Sam Tyler in *Life on Mars*). He's a good role model in a way - really successful, really hard-working but not a huge celeb, and living in an ordinary house in an ordinary suburban street. It gives me something realistic to aim for somehow."

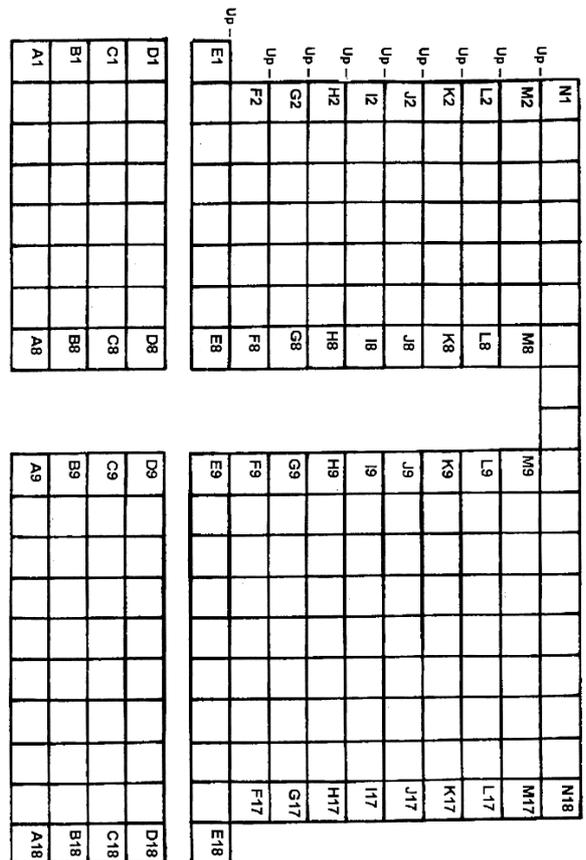
## FRIENDS, TAKE YOUR SEATS FOR THE 2010 SUMMER SEASON

### ST EDMUND'S HALL SOUTHWOLD



STAGE

### JUBILEE HALL ALDEBURGH



STAGE



# The Jill Freud Company



## SOUTHWOLD & ALDEBURGH SUMMER THEATRES 2010

### SOUTHWOLD

ST EDMUND'S HALL, SOUTHWOLD

### ALDEBURGH

JUBILEE HALL, ALDEBURGH

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July

### Cowardy Custard

From the works of Noel Coward

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July

### Dangerous Obsession

by N.J. Crisp

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> August

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> August

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August

*Extra matinee on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> August*

### Holiday Snap

by Michael Pertwee & John Chapman

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August

*Extra matinee on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August*

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> August

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> August

*Extra matinee on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> August*

### My Cousin Rachel

by Daphne du Maurier – adapted by Diana Morgan

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August

*Extra matinee on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August*

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September

*Extra matinee on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> September*

### Abigail's Party

by Mike Leigh

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> August

*Extra matinee on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> August*

### SOUTHWOLD BOX OFFICE

From 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH – 28<sup>th</sup> MAY

Mon – Fri : 10am – 1pm - ROSEMARY DIGBY

**01502 722638**

*P.O.Box 61, Southwold, IP19 1AG*

### ALDEBURGH BOX OFFICE

From 4<sup>th</sup> MAY – 19<sup>th</sup> JUNE

Mon – Fri : 2pm – 5pm – MERWYN CUNLIFFE

**01394 382199**

*Bealings Brook, Bealings Road, Martlesham, IP12 4RW*

### MAIN SOUTHWOLD BOX OFFICE OPENS SAT 28<sup>th</sup> MAY

**Daytimes** (from 28<sup>th</sup> May) Tel: **01502 724441**

*Tourist Information Centre, 69 High Street, Southwold, IP18 6DS*

Mon – Fri : 11.00am – 4.00pm & Sat : 11.00am – 3.00pm

### MAIN ALDEBURGH BOX OFFICE OPENS MON 21<sup>st</sup> JUNE

**Daytimes** (from 21<sup>st</sup> June) Tel: **01728 453007**

*152 High Street, Aldeburgh IP15 5AX*

Mon – Fri : 11.00am – 4.00pm & Sat : 11.00am – 3.00pm

**Evenings** (from 8<sup>th</sup> July) Tel: **01502 722389**

*St Edmund's Hall, Cumberland Road, Southwold, IP18 6JP*

Mon – Fri : 5.00pm – 9.00pm & Sat : 4.00pm – 9.00pm

### MAIN

### BOX OFFICE

**Evenings** (from 23<sup>rd</sup> July) Tel: **01728 454022**

*The Jubilee Hall, Crabbe Street, Aldeburgh, IP15 5BW*

Mon – Fri : 6.00pm – 8.15pm & Sat : 4.00pm – 8.30pm

# FESPA helps to support the North Suffolk Youth Choir

The term 'performing arts' encompasses more than theatre alone and the Trustees have recently been delighted to help out a local choral group with a small grant.

The North Suffolk Youth Choir was the inspiration of Vetta Wise who, before moving to Suffolk a few years ago, was one of Cape Town's most respected choral directors and teachers. The choir is aged between 12 and 22 and first performed in 2008 as guests of the Pakefield Singers. Since then they have delighted audiences in Oulton Broad and Southwold with their varied repertoire performed from memory. Their vocal quality and youthful energy led to an invitation to help inaugurate the new Hoffman Building at Snape Maltings last May and more recently to sing at the BBC Suffolk *Children in Need* concert.

They draw members mostly from the Waveney Valley area and meet every three weeks or so to rehearse and develop their musical skills. The subscription is kept as low as possible in order to attract and retain promising voices. Because of this, grants like the one FESPA has made, are vital to help cover venue and publicity costs, as well as professional fees.

This year's engagements include an entertainment at the Waveney District Council's Holocaust Reception, entry in the Norfolk County Music Festival, a concert in Southwold in



The choir posing in their new tee shirts sponsored by Morlings House of Music

March and participation in a concert as part of the Aldeburgh Music Festival in June.

#### Details are:

**Southwold Methodist Church, East Green - Sunday**

**March 28 at 3.30 pm**

**Aldeburgh Festival Concert at Orford Church - Sunday**

**June 20 at 3.00 pm**

You can visit the choir's website at [www.nsync.org.uk](http://www.nsync.org.uk)

## Letters from Aldeburgh

Special luncheon performance at the Wentworth Hotel  
In aid of FESPA



Performed by **Sidi Scott**  
With **Jonathan Rutherford** at the piano  
Directed by Julia Sowerbutts

When Joyce Grenfell visited the Aldeburgh Music Festival during the 1960s and 70s she always stayed at the Wentworth Hotel in Aldeburgh. From there, she wrote copious letters to her friends, exercising her characteristic keen observation and engaging wit. A collection of these letters has been edited by author, Janie Hampton, under the title 'Letters from Aldeburgh'.

Many of us were entranced last year when our own Sidi Scott brought the Grenfell persona to ebullient life in a performance of a selection of the letters as one of the Summer Theatre Lunchtime shows in Southwold. She was joined by Jonathan Rutherford at the piano.

This year, there is another chance for *Friends* to catch Sidi's and Jonathan's hugely successful show at a luncheon performance - this time at the Aldeburgh Wentworth Hotel itself! All profits from this very special performance will benefit FESPA funds.

#### Letters from Aldeburgh

**Is on Wednesday 5 May 2010**

**12.00 noon for 12.30**

**Buffet lunch followed by the performance at approximately 1.45, concluding by 3.00 pm.**

**Price, including buffet £17.50 per person**

**Cash bar will be available. Raffle.**

Advance booking exclusively for *Friends* until Monday 15 March, then available to the public.

All ticket enquiries, please, to Ken Hanham on 01728 453745.