



Promptings

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Message from Jean



It has been just over 3 months since the last Promptings newsletter in May, and so much has changed, yet so much stays the same. What has definitely become clear during that time is that we are not going to be getting back to normal procedures any time soon – so, we at LADS have been working hard at producing new procedures in order to continue to provide a society for all our members, to perform and to entertain.

The 2020 portion of our 2019/20 season was curtailed, and the forthcoming 2020/21 season (now to be known as the LADS 2020/21 Covid season) will happen, but “not as we know it, Jim” (one for the Star Trek fans). Thank you to everyone who has supported the *LADS Talking* Monday Zoom nights, as the performances, play-readings, monologues, travelogues, etc... have all helped to inform the way forward. We will rehearse, we will perform and we will entertain audiences.

You should all have received a link for the “Expression of Interest” form by email, and thank you to everyone who has filled it in. We needed to know who would be available to be involved before we could finalise what we could

do – and we are now ready to start. See inside for more details.

In the May Promptings, I asked for members to supply items for Promptings, but to very little avail (apart from Babs, who has supplied the background to her name ... intriguing? I thought so – see inside!) So I shall try one last time Please, please, please think about writing something for Promptings and sending it to Howard (how_platt@yahoo.co.uk). Here are a few ideas to get you going:

- Review of a film, tv programme
- Play you have seen recently
- Where to get the best take-away from
- What books do you recommend?
- Gardening/Hairdressing tips
- What changes have you made at home?
- What are your plans for “afterwards”?
- DIY fixes
- Jokes and cartoons

Jean



Dates for your diary - and all from the comfort of your own home!

Mon 7 th September	LADS Talking - Play-reading – 8pm by Zoom
Mon 21 st September	LADS Talking – Quiz hosted by Howard - 8pm by Zoom
Mon 5 th October	LADS Talking – 8pm by Zoom
1st/2nd week of October	Recording of <i>Listen with LADS – The Memory of Snow and Alone/ Together</i> monologues
Mon 19 th October	LADS Talking – 8pm by Zoom
29 th , 30 th Oct and 1 st November	YouTube presentation of <i>Listen with LADS</i>
Mon 2 nd November	LADS Talking Crit night – 8pm by Zoom
Mon 16 th November	LADS Talking – 8pm by Zoom
Mon 30 th November	LADS Talking – 8pm by Zoom
Sat 12 th December	LADS Zoom Social – Murder Mystery Night
Mon 14 th December	LADS Talking – 8pm by Zoom

LADS Socials



We are continuing to do *LADS Talking* events on Monday evenings – but from 7th September they will be fortnightly, giving time for rehearsals for the October production. So *LADS Talking* will be 7th and 21st Sept; 5th and 19th Oct; 2nd, 16th and 30th November; 14th December.

We are also planning a **Christmas Social on Zoom** and will be producing a Murder Mystery for members to zoom in and participate in. It will be a fun evening, giving people the chance to perform and also socialise with friends (albeit remotely). **The provisional date for this is Saturday 12th December.**

ZOOM MEETING ID: 677 463 8356 – **PASSCODE:** 403078

Rehearsed Reading



Taking part in the rehearsed play reading was a huge amount of fun, there were no lines to learn and no blocking to remember so not a lot of pressure, just the fun of working on a script with friends from the comfort of my own home, with the added bonus of only needing to be presentable from the waist up – fantastic !!

Rehearsals were all done on the Saturday before the reading in various time slots to fit with availability. As with any production, we spent time discussing the play, our characters, the various relationships, and how they all changed as the play developed. It was a gritty play with plenty to get our teeth in to and from our initial discussions it was evident that everyone wanted it to be as good as it could possibly be.

Because of availability, non of the scenes were rehearsed in sequence so before each one we discussed where it fitted, what had happened beforehand and what happened afterwards to try and have as much context as possible. Each scene was read through once followed by notes from Jean and further discussion between us all, then read through again. Each scene was only rehearsed twice, so we all had to work really hard to grasp what we needed to do very quickly. The first time we read it through in sequence was when we performed it on the Monday night.

Performing the reading via Zoom presented several technical challenges that we had to overcome. Had it been a normal production, it would have been evident when a character left the room, or an essential prop was handled but we needed to find a way to convey all this via Zoom. Solving these issues was a team effort and I hope our solutions were effective.

Personally, I found it to be far more challenging that I thought, but ultimately far more enjoyable and definitely far more rewarding. Not having the ability to use any physicality to help convey a feeling or mood and being totally dependent on facial expression and my voice was completely different to anything I'd ever done before. Equally, not being able to physically interact with the other characters to help to demonstrate a moment or change in relationship was difficult so I had to really think about how to achieve what it needed with just my voice, facial expression and upper body.

I knew from the start that it would be enjoyable but because of the extra demands I hadn't considered, I found it much more enjoyable than I imagined and although it was 'only a rehearsed reading' I felt I'd been stretched and I learnt a lot from the experience. I'd definitely recommend being involved if another rehearsed reading is planned for LADS Talking.

Cathy

The LADS Quiz

For many people like myself, Lockdown has meant the resurgence of the Quiz Night. Weekly, we are gathered around our televisions/computers/tablets/phones trying to pit our wits against other teams around the country. Some of us have joined up in Family Quizzes thus ensuring that are still connected with each other even though we cannot necessarily meet in person.

LADS have joined in with this and it has proved a great success with Howard as our Quiz Master Extraordinaire. The first quiz was held on 25th May and was a more traditional type but then he fiendishly changed the format for the next one (13th July). As he stated "it's not a traditional quiz with set subject rounds - more of a 'let's have a calculated guess'" and guess we had to!

Questions such as:

- How many beans are there in a tin of baked beans?
- What is the world record for the fastest time taken to eat three cream crackers?
- What percentage of a Greggs sausage roll is pork?
- The acceptance rate for applications to Harvard University is 5.4%. What was the acceptance rate in 2019 for applicants to appear on ITV 2's Love Island

There were 10 rounds of 3 questions and we had all been placed in teams by Howard. By the marvels of computer technology he was able to divide up 5 couples and 2 singletons into 3 teams of 4.

We were shown the questions 3 at a time and then Howard pressed the magic button and suddenly found ourselves in our 'team room' and able to discuss the questions for 2 or 3 minutes. We all were brought back together to give our answers getting 5 points for a 'nearest-to' and 10 points for 'spot on!' (Do not worry if you are a technophobe like myself – Howard does all the complicated computer technology his end.)

The questions caused endless hilarity, as did the answers some of which were way off. Unbelievably, deciding the winners came down as to which team answered the very last question on the very last round successfully!! Congratulations to the team of Phil and Heather and Sarah and her husband.

Do join us on the next Howard's Quiz on **Monday 21st September at 8.00pm**. Hilarity guaranteed.

P.S. The answers to the earlier questions are:

- 465 baked beans
- 34.8 seconds
- 18%
- 0.04%

Liz

October production

We are producing a radio play of *The Memory of Snow* by Siân Rowland. This is a radio version of the play we produced in 2018 for the Russian evening at Lopping Hall and for the NODA Festival. It is set in 1918 and is about the 4 Romanov sisters during their incarceration in Russia.

Alongside *The Memory of Snow*, we will also broadcast recordings of members' stories written during the pandemic. This is for performers AND writers - you can write and perform; or write something for someone else to perform. The Director will choose the pieces to create a balanced entertainment of 40 minutes.

These will be broadcast on Youtube to an invited audience on 29th, 30th Oct and 1st November (being the dates of our first production).

January and future productions

In January, we are hoping to produce a socially-distanced production at Lopping Hall with a socially-distanced audience. At the moment, amateur production groups are not allowed to do live performances, so this will obviously depend on whether this changes by then. The dates of the production will be 14th, 15th, 16th January 2021 - probably with rehearsals at Lopping Hall on the 11th, 12th and 13th Jan - although this will depend on the type of production.

We will learn from the October and January productions and we will hope to produce more socially-distanced work in March and June.

What's in a name?

Happy to be a proud London Cockney, born at the City of London Maternity Hospital, within the sound of Bow Bells, in 1930. Mum wanted to call me June - the month of my birth - but the Hospital nurses were very anti and said it was bad enough when mothers named their girls after flowers, let alone months of the year and she was put off!

Being the first grandchild on Dad's side of the family, and second - by only three months - on Mum's, both grandmothers declared their names should be considered! Poor Mum was fearful of upsetting anyone in the family and, in an effort to appease, it was finally decided I should be given hers AND the two grandmothers - Ada Rose Beatrice!

Once released from hospital and brought home, I was affectionately called "Baby Ada" throughout the early stages of existence, and even "Bubbles" - since I apparently developed a skill at blowing them! Ultimately, these two nick-names were somehow corrupted into Babs - which has stayed with me throughout!

Babs