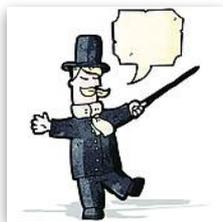




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Message from Jean



Wow – what a start to the season – a psychedelic, pop-art, crazy 1960s world, brought to life and laughter by an inspirational director and a stellar cast. Well done to everyone involved in *Boeing Boeing* and a special thank you to Dolly on her debut as a LADS' director ... with tickets sold at 364 (82% of tickets available), our 2018/19 season has opened with a bang (well, several bangs what with the fireworks heard on Friday and Saturday nights).

Onwards and upwards, *The Lion in Winter* is in rehearsal with another debut director. Adam has put so much preparation into his "baby" before rehearsals, he must certainly reap the rewards now he has started. The marketing machine has started again, so please help out by telling as many people as possible about the play, and giving out handbills and leaflets. There are plenty at the hall – just pop along on a rehearsal night and collect some. You can also use the information sent to you by email to forward to your friends and encourage them to come along and watch. It is a popular play with a wonderful cast, so your friends will thank you!!

Check out the calendar in Promptings and make sure you have all the dates firmly marked in your diary/phone/computer. Our next social is on Saturday 1st December from 7.30pm – Our annual **Xmas Social in the Bar** – held in the Lopping Hall Bar – no need to book, just turn up, bring along a few nibbles to share and enjoy some Christmas cheer with friends.

Jean



Dates for your diary

1st December	Xmas social in the Lopping Hall bar
7th January	Set up for <i>The Lion in Winter</i> - 9:30 am start
17th - 19th January	Production nights for <i>The Lion in Winter</i>
19th January	After show party - Jean and Garry's 28 Woodland Way, Woodford Green
20th January	Set Down - 10:00 am start
21st January	Crit and curry – 7.30pm start
24th January	Read through for <i>Handbagged</i> - 8:00pm Small Hall
28th January	Rehearsals start for <i>The Lion in Winter</i>



Members' News

We would like to welcome the following new members to the LADS' family: Laura Smart, Franky Semerdjian, Freddy Parker (cast in *The Lion in Winter*) and Melanie Clark (cast in *The Lion in Winter*). We would also like to welcome back Peter Galloway, who acted with LADS in *My Boy Jack* and *Why Me* before going off to university – we are very pleased he is back and acting in *The Lion in Winter*.



30 Years in LADS

In November 1988, I walked into the Willingale Room for the first time to attend the crit night of "The Sunshine Boys". I had moved to Buckhurst Hill in 1985, just before the birth of our first son, Danny and we then had Andy in 1987. Having always been involved in amateur drama, at school and then as a member of Hackney Players (my last job being squeezing into prompt corner whilst 8 months pregnant to prompt for "Spring and Port Wine"), I was looking for a group to join ... it had been far too long a gap in my "drama life".

I saw a poster for "The Sunshine Boys" in the window of Arabesque in Buckhurst Hill, and went along to see it. I was really impressed with the production, and phoned Sally (the then Secretary of LADS) and she said to come along to the crit night. It was a bit daunting, but I came in and made myself known, and gave my contact details. The next morning, I received a call from Val Parker, "Hi Jean, my name is Val from LADS, I am directing the next play "I am a Camera" Ooh, I thought, my mind racing ahead, they need a Sally Bowles ... Val continued "would you be prepared to do prompt?". Not too disappointed, and happy to get involved so quickly, I said "yes, please, I would love to do prompt". It was a great production and I was made to feel very welcome. The rest, as they say, is history.

I would like to thank all my LADS' friends, past and present, for the fun, laughter and hard-work of being a member of LADS brings. It is a real family, giving support and friendship and a real sense of belonging! And thank you Garry for understanding how important it all is to me.

Jean x

Do You Remember?

25 years ago: January 1994: *A Month of Sundays* by Bob Larbey

Directed by Karen Harris (Rogers). Cast included: Bill Caldwell, Liz Holt (Adams), Marguerite Wheatley, Michael Brandon, Irene Elkins, Simon Kettley.



10 years ago: January 2009: *And a Little Love Besides* by Alan Plater

Directed by Lisa Maule. Cast included: Andrew Rogers, Howard Platt, Roger Barker, Jean Grover, Marilyn Sovitch, Sophie Robertson (Gilbert), Martin Howarth, Laura Wheadon.



5 years ago: January 2014: *A Lie of the Mind* by Sam Shepard

Directed by: Iain Howland. Cast included: Paul Caira, Sylvia Zilesnick, Sophie Robertson (Gilbert), Dean Bartholomew, Frances Chalkwright, Tom Donoghue, Camilla Steel, Jon Gilbert.



Accents Masterclass



Following the success of last year's workshop, we have invited Gemma Wright, who is a leading voice and accents coach, to run another workshop for us on Saturday 9th February between 7pm and 9pm. Gemma will be covering Cockney and Received Pronunciation (RP) to help those involved in both *Pygmalion* and *Handbagged*. Jean is very keen for everyone involved in *Pygmalion* to come along and although *Handbagged* is still to be cast, if you are available for the production, Cathy would also love you to join us.

The workshop is open to all members so if you are not going to be involved in either production, it will still be very useful for roles you may tackle in the future. LADS will be paying for course, so to help with the cost we are asking for a £5 donation from all those that attend. Places at the workshop will be limited so please contact Jean at lads.chairman@gmail.com to book your space.

Boeing Boeing

Unfortunately, the NODA crit was not available in time for this edition of Promptings. We will send out a separate e-mail to all members as soon as it is received. In the meantime, here are messages of congratulations from the Mayor and from Margaret and Jim Godfrey, which speak for themselves!

Dear Jean

I have just returned from this evening's performance.

I thought it was excellent and I haven't laughed so much in a long time.

The whole production was in my opinion very professional and once again confirmed my existing opinion on how lucky Loughton is to be able to watch live drama in our town thanks to the talents of your company.

Do please pass on my congratulations to **every member of your team**, front of house, back stage, the cast, the refreshments team and the technical and set teams.

Thank you for your invitation and I am sure your final evening tomorrow will go well.

Stephen Murray

LOUGHTON TOWN MAYOR 2018/19

Darling Jean,

We just wanted to register in writing how much Jim and I enjoyed the play on Friday evening. We understand the great effort put into pulling off a very successful farce, and the cast, director and production crew did a great job.

Do pass on our congratulations to everyone involved. I know we saw several people on Friday evening in the bar, but for those we didn't get to say well done, please pass on our congratulations.

Lots of love

Margaret and Jim (Godfrey)



My first stage experience - Babs Oakley



My first stage appearance took place at the age of four at the then newly built Hackney Town Hall, near to the famed and still-going-strong Hackney Empire in East London. The new Town Hall had been built behind the old one, which was then knocked down and replaced by attractive forecourt gardens. To commemorate the new building, local 'theatre' groups were invited to participate in an entertainment for residents and dignitaries.

At the time, my parents had recently enrolled me in a small dancing troupe - not because I had shown any particular talent or interest but, as the story goes, in an attempt to counter my extreme shyness! The class was run by twin sisters, whose local claim to fame was because they were exponents of the then craze for 'tap-toe dancers', where a small disc 'tap' was fitted to the toe-block of a ballet shoe. It didn't flourish, mainly because the protagonists looked ungainly - rather like Disneyesque ostriches!

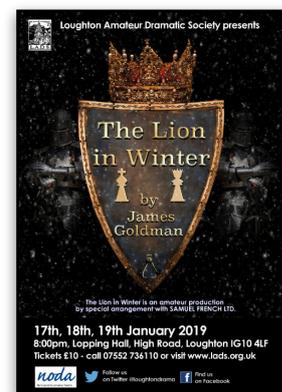
For our contribution to the concert, the stage represented the top of a lady's dressing table including a face powder bowl which had an escape door at the back. I was to be the powder puff with a gorgeous pink ballet dress with a satin and sequined bodice and numerous net skirts, each alternate one edged with white swansdown. For my 'part', I was placed into the powder bowl from backstage. One of the twin dancers then went on stage, removed the lid of the box and lifted me onto the stage - I did my routine and then she came back

on stage, replaced me in the bowl and I was helped to escape by the back door. Sadly, I have no recollection of appreciative applause, but my parents revelled in relating the story for many years!

As a sequel to this momentous occasion, my parents decided that a studio portrait of me in costume and 'en pointe' was a justifiable expense and we duly visited a local photographic expert. You have to realise that this was in the days when timed exposure was essential for a good photograph and it soon became apparent that I was not going to be able to be on my toes and still enough for a good picture. Somehow, the photographer managed to erect a half-hoop support against the wall which encircled my waist under the dress - and as you can see from the print, success was achieved.

Babs

The Lion in Winter



Rehearsals are now underway for The Lion In Winter By James Goldman and directed by Adam Rabinowitz.

Tickets are also now on sale - please tell all your friends and family about our second production of this season of 'comedies'.

The play will be known on the back of the popular Oscar winning film starring Katherine Hepburn and Peter O' Toole. This will be an especially exciting production as the majority of the young cast are new to LADS!

We are in need of the following for this production:

A 'throne like' chair

Adam