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"LADS
TALKING"



My first stage
experiences



NODA
AWARDS



Promptings
Needs You!

Message from Jean



Hello. Welcome to the first COVID-19 Promptings Special, and thank you to Howard for putting it all together for us. Our last Promptings came out in February and so much has changed, I am having problems knowing where to start. I have been trying to keep everyone up-to-date by email, but you will find an article inside which gives a synopsis of "where we have been, and where we are hoping to go". As with everything, nothing can be planned with any degree of certainty at the moment, but that doesn't mean LADS won't plan ... just be prepared for the plans to change.

I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard for "A Tale of Two Cities", and had to deal with the disappointment of not being able to perform in March or October, and now knowing that it will be at least until January before we would start rehearsing again with the view of performing in March 2021. I can't promise anything, but I guarantee that I will do everything I can to ensure all your hard work does not go to waste, and we will perform ToTC as soon as we can.

It was very sad to hear about the passing of John McCall, John Lowe and Marion Barnett during this period, and I am sure their families have all been in our thoughts over the past weeks.

It has been great to see people over Zoom and by Skype, and to chat with you all on the phone. Everyone is experiencing this challenging time in different ways – some are very, very busy whilst others have to find ways to fill the hours; some haven't stopped working, whilst others are fearful that their jobs may not be there afterwards; some are isolating all alone, while others wish they were ... whatever your experience, it is a worrying time for all and please be assured that the LADS family is here for you. Let us know if you need help, and we will be there for you.

Jean



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

Mon 25 th May	8pm Zoom "LADS Talking" – Quiz hosted by Howard
Mon 1 st June	8pm Zoom "LADS Talking" – Isolation stories – Stories, poems, songs from LADS. Participate and/or watch
Tues 2 nd June	8pm LADS Zoom general committee meeting
Mon 8 th June	8pm Zoom "LADS Talking" – Group reading – Act II "Second from last in the Sack Race"
Sun 14 th June	NODA London Virtual AGM and Awards
15 th , 22 nd , 29 th June	8pm Zoom "LADS Talking" – subjects to follow
Mon 6 th July	8pm LADS Virtual AGM.
MORE TO FOLLOW....	



Baby News!

We are so excited to announce that Sarah and Scott have had baby Lucy and Clara is very excited to have a baby sister.



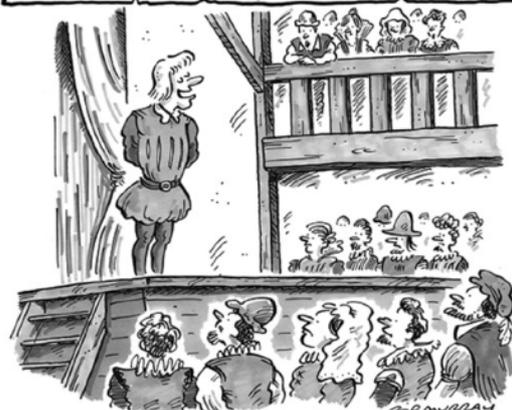
And.... Dave and Tina have had baby Archie, a super little brother for Aiden



Theatre online

The Whats On-Stage website is one of the best to keep you informed of theatre you can watch from home: www.whatsonstage.com/guide/free-online-streams-theatre-drama-musicals. "Theatres might currently be on shutdown with us all cooped up at home, but our guide will keep you up-to-date on accessing amazing theatre online (often for free) along with fun stagey features and interviews to keep you entertained – from the comfort of your own sofa! We'll make sure you don't miss a thing."

THE GLOBE THEATRE, 1601



"The following play contains scenes of treachery, fratricide and indecision, which some viewers may find upsetting..."



LADS Talking

At the time of writing, we have had two “LADS Talking” Zoom socials. The first one on 14th April was a bit of a try-out before organising our weekly meets. It went well with about 6 of us coming together to read something we like on the theme of “love”. However, it highlighted the need to organise and prepare for the evening. So, we are now planning weekly meetings and will try and cover a variety of activities (most of which will be theatre/drama related). On the 25th, we held our first group reading with 11 participants (and one audience member) – act I of the script was emailed out in advance and parts allocated so that on the evening everyone was prepared with what they had to do. It was a great success with very few glitches - no surprise guests or pets and only a couple of ‘freezes’ (of the technical kind, not of the stage-fright kind). We will be doing the second act on Mon 8th June, so let me know if you want to be involved.

On Monday 25th May, Howard is hosting a Quiz for everyone. If you haven’t signed up to be part of this, please consider it – you don’t have to be a team on your own, Howard will put you into team and provide “virtual rooms” where you can discuss your answers. Go on – give it a go!

We need you to put on your creative hats for Monday 1st June when we will be meeting up to read stories, monologues, poems and perform songs (hopefully) about experiences in isolation. I have already had four people say that they want to do something, so it is definitely going to happen. Let me know if you want to participate and I can create a running order for the event. If you have something, but don’t want to actually perform, then let me have it and someone else can read it. WAITING TO HEAR FROM YOU.

NODA Workshops

www.noda.org.uk/training. There are now several workshops that are on the site: Sarah Osborne’s Vocal Regimes (parts 1 and 2); Sarah Day’s “Learn a Dance Routine in an hour”; Jon Dixon’s “Mask Making” – Beginners and Intermediate; Stewart Charlesworth’s “Costume Design and working with Restrictions” – parts one and two; Coming Soon – Tom Jordan’s Stage Combat videos. There will be no excuses for not being better at our craft when we come out the other side!

NODA Awards

LADS have been awarded the following:

Shortlist - Shinfield Players Scenic Award - **PYGMALION**

District 6 Winner - Sybil Conway Award for Best Female in a play - **Fiona Delves as Kay Summersby in Pressure**

District 6 Winner - The Pat Redhead Award for Best Drama - **Pressure**

Congratulations to **Fiona and to Christian** and everyone involved in Pressure and Pygmalion, and to **Garry** for the amazing Pygmalion set and to everyone in LADS.

For those that are new to the NODA awards - under normal circumstances, there would be an Awards ceremony with the NODA London AGM at the Radlett Centre, at which the District Winners would be awarded certificates and find out if they had won the overall Regional Award.... however these aren't normal circumstances, so, see below from NODA London:

All District Winners are eligible to be considered for the Regional Awards which will be announced on Sunday 14th June on the NODA London Facebook page, as part of our virtual AGM. District winners and nominees certificates will be posted to the respective society over the next few weeks. We hope to be able to present Regional winners trophies and certificates in the near future. Watch out for details of this in the coming weeks.

So, please tune into the Virtual AGM at the NODA London Facebook page (www.facebook.com/NODA.London/) on 14th June and find out if LADS have scooped up any more awards.

LADS Update Synopsis

A Tale of Two Cities has been postponed until March 2021 (25th, 26th, 27th).

The Actress may be produced for the June 2021 production (10th, 11th, 12th)

The play selection committee are being flexible about what we can do during 2020/21, and are looking for monologues, or work that will not need payment for rights – so either new writings or out of copyright plays.

We will have LADS Zoom meetings every Monday at 8pm doing a variety of activities, which will feed into the October “event”.

We have cancelled the planned AGM, but will have a virtual AGM on Monday 6th July. See article in Promptings for more details.

The end of season event has been cancelled. But we are still hoping that we may be able to do a Burns Supper on Saturday 23rd January 2021, if restrictions allow.

My first stage experiences - Liz Adams

When I was asked to write about my background in drama, I thought long and hard and concluded that I probably started at about the age of 5. However, it was no great performance that I was involved in but those children’s-type of entertainments whereby my cousin and I sat our relatives down at family get-togethers and forced them to watch our ‘grand shows’. Hands up those parents in LADS who have done or sat through exactly this kind of thing – thought so, hands down!

My first proper foray into acting was something that ended up being traumatic and left me

scarred for many years. When I was about 9 I had joined, along with a couple of friends, a very small drama group run by a local lady from her house, who decided to that we would stage a revue show to our relatives. I was chosen along with another girl, Amanda, to perform a duologue from *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Amanda was Gwendolen and I played the part of Cecily and we were to re-enact the scene where they first meet. We rehearsed diligently over the next few weeks and all was fine till the actual performance. The ‘stage’ was set in the owner’s living room at the rear of the house. I took a deep breath, walked on - and all I could see were the rows of faces of the mothers in the audience looking at me. Stage fright overwhelmed me and I duly forgot everything I had learnt. Amanda entered as Gwendolen and gave what I still can recall as a brilliant and energetic performance whilst I had to have virtually every single one of my lines being prompted by the drama teacher. Utterly destroying! Needless to say, after this I vowed never to act in any school production but sang my heart out in the choir safely cocooned with the others girls.

All changed when I joined LADS. Many people know that I was asked by my music teacher at school to help her turn the pages of piano music whilst she played during a production of OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR in 1980. Show week was amazing, the audience reaction stupendous and the showbiz bug well and truly bit me!

I wanted to be part of this magic but not on stage, no, no, I was very happy to be backstage. For the next few years doing Props for LADS was my life, utterly hard-work and rewarding (never knock these backstage roles!). To help create the magic without the fear of forgetting your lines!

Then in 1985 the Casting Committee decided to spice things up. I was allocated the role of Props for *A Coat of Varnish* but was also cast in the actual play as Police Stenographer. Terror - I had to go on stage and even worse, remember a line!! A LINE OF 9 WORDS. I still remember the first night walking on to the Lopping Hall stage with all the lights beaming down and sitting down at a side table. My hand was shaking so much during the scene of the police

interrogation of the suspect, that it would have been impossible for anyone to have read my shorthand. Suddenly, the interviewing policeman came to my cue and fired at me, "What did he say?" I summoned up my courage and responded clearly, "He said it was rather more probable than not". I have acted in many plays over the last 35 years but have never remembered my lines as easily as I did that first one for LADS.

And the rest, as they say, is history. I progressed to playing a maid in *A Doll's House* (pictured below) and Schoolgirl in *The Happiest Days of Your Life* (pictured below) to larger and meatier parts and my confidence grew all the time. I even began to enjoy myself. One thing remained though. I was also determined to learn my lines "inside out, back to front and upside down" so that I never again would have to endure the mortification of having to have every single line being prompted to me!

Liz



A Maths problem...

Hi guys - thought you might like this, by Leigh Mercer:-

A dozen, a gross and a score,
Plus three times the square root of four,
Divided by seven,
Plus five times eleven,
Is nine squared and not a bit more.

Let me know how many seconds it took you!

Babs

Promptings Needs You!



We will try and produce Promptings more often during these challenging times, but to do so, we need more input from the membership. 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 tips
- Hairdressing tips
- What changes have you made at home?
- What are your plans for "afterwards"?
- DIY fixes

Over to you guys ...

Takeaway recommendation

. I will start you off with a great “takeaway” I had from Bombetta. Bombetta is a restaurant (bombettalondon.com) in Wanstead which is a favourite of our son and daughter-in-law, that we went to last year with Andrew and Karen. We had a wonderful evening, eating fabulous Italian food and drinking far too much scrummy Puglia wine.

Unbeknownst to me, it is run by the son of our very own Graham Milne, which I only found out by having an email chat with him about families in lockdown. Graham let me know that Bombetta were delivering foodboxes full of delicious Italian delicacies, and as Andy and Kate live with us and love the food so much, I couldn't resist.

For £60, we received a veritable feast of pasta, pesto, anti pasti products, cheeses, cured meats, salami, olives, bread, various condiments and a bottle of wine. It was all of the best quality, and even after sitting down to a feast for the four of us, there was plenty left over for snacking during the week. They will deliver to E4, E7, E10, E11, E12, E17, E18, IG6, IG7, IG8, IG9, IG10, CM16.

To order, just send an email to hello@bombettalondon.com or phone 0203 871 0890, and they will contact you and sort out any preferences you have.

Jean

AGM - Monday 6th July 8pm by Zoom

At the beginning of June, Val will email/post the AGM notice and nomination form to all members. Complete nomination forms will need to be returned to her by Monday 22nd June. We will have 3 members from the play selection committee standing down and 1 member from general committee which we will need to fill - do not hesitate to contact me if you need information on the roles or how to nominate. Please note that committee meetings are going ahead at the moment by Zoom.

On Weds 24th June, Val will email/post all the information regarding the AGM (agenda, 2019 minutes, officers' reports) and invite people to

comment/question. These comments and questions will be read out at the meeting and will be dealt with then. NB: Reports will not be read out at the meeting, so they should be read in advance. This way, people will have all the information in advance, so if they feel unable to join the AGM by Zoom, they will not have missed out.

Jean Cooper

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<http://www.lads.org.uk/>