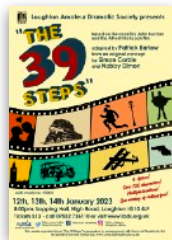


Promptings

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Message from Cathy



Welcome to the latest edition of Promptings full of news, information, dates for your diary and much more so read on with excitement and anticipation!

please let me know and I'll arrange to get some handbills to you.

I'm aware that I sound like a broken record but we are still struggling to fill all the Front of House jobs so please make a note of the production dates and do your best to be available to help. We are increasingly reliant on a small number of members and this really shouldn't be the case so I would urge you to support your group and help where you can. Jenny would also be grateful if you could reply to her request for volunteers, even if you are unavailable. Chasing people takes an inordinate amount of time so to know your availability would be helpful.

And finally, make a note of all the dates for your diary. There are plenty of things to get involved with so I look forward to seeing you all there.

Cathy



Dates for your diary

Fri 16th December	Xmas get together - Buckleys Bar, Lopping hall at 8:00pm
Sun 8th January	Set Up for <i>The 39 Steps</i> - from 9:30 am
Thur 12th - Sat 14th January	<i>The 39 Steps</i>
Sat 14th January	After show shindig in Buckleys Bar - all welcome
Sun 15th January	Set Down - 10:00am start
Mon 16th January	Crit. At 7:30pm in Small Hall followed by curry - all welcome
Thur 19th January	Read through for <i>A Bunch of Amateurs</i>
Mon 23rd January	First rehearsal for <i>The Father</i>
Sat 25th February	Directors' Workshop - Lopping Hall

Member News

We are delighted to welcome Joey Bornman to LADS. Joey is helping backstage for 'The Father' and we hope that will be the first of many productions with LADS.

Crit. And Curry

As you may be aware we're mixing it up this season by having some invited crits and some in house discussions for our Monday night post production soiree. The discussion for Bracken Moor was well attended and enjoyed by all. It provided an opportunity for the production team and cast members to share their views and discuss their opinions on various aspects of the production which was both interesting and informative. **Please remember that our Monday night debrief is open to all members and not just the production team. It would be lovely to see more audience members giving their valuable feedback so we can continue to learn from each other and grow. Attending the curry isn't essential and again, everyone is welcome. If you would like to be included for the curry, just let me know before set down and I'll add you to the booking.**

Director's workshop

As a society, LADS is always very keen to invest in the future of the group and the development of its members. You may remember that prior to the COVID carnage we offered several workshops for members all of which were extremely successful and very well received. Following on from these, the Committee has arranged for Sarah Osborne to run a Director's workshop for us on Saturday 25th February 2023 from 9.30am to 4.30pm. Sarah is an experienced practitioner and having run several courses for NODA over the years comes highly recommended. The aim of the workshop is to enhance the skills of our existing directors as well as developing and encouraging more members to take the plunge into directing. Even if you have no desire to direct you would still be very welcome to come along for what will be a fun and informative day. The workshop is open to all members at a cost of £20 including lunch and

refreshments. Spaces are very limited so please let me know if you would like to reserve your place.

Cathy

Pre-theatre supper - India Grill

As mentioned in the previous edition of Promptings, Wendy has negotiated a Pre Theatre Supper deal for our audience members.

India Grill (a stone's throw from Lopping Hall) is now offering an exclusive deal to our audience members each night of the run. The deal is 20% off food on bookings between 5pm and 5.45pm (Please note the discount applies to food only, not drinks and Service Charge is not included.) They are situated at 159a High Road, Loughton, Essex, IG10 4LF. Find their website at www.indiagrill.co.uk

Please call 0208 508 7799 to book your table, stating that you are a LADS pre-theatre party.

NODA Crit. - Bracken Moor

Alexi Kay Campbell's dark drama about the aftermath of a tragic accident is a very thought-provoking piece of theatre.

The single set was well constructed and appeared in period although the curtain rail was too modern. LX plot included some dramatic effects. There was an angular shadow cast onto the back of the set by the teaser. When the doctor was recalling his experience with the healing woman, the lighting could have been brought down a little to intensify the atmosphere.



The copious amount of stage smoke, accompanying Edgar's appearance in the final scene made for a very atmospheric ending.



Costuming was excellent. Of particular note was the ladies' day wear in the final scene. Both outfits were striking with Vanessa's being a little more modern than Elizabeth's, as one would expect.

Terence's hair style might have been the cause for some comment in the late 1930s but his black pyjamas would have been the height of fashion.



Entrances and exits were well handled. Eileen walking through the hall, burdened with luggage, was an amusing touch. Terence's dramatic appearances from behind the double doors very effective.

Direction from Andrew Rogers kept a good pace. Groupings looked natural and sightlines were always clear. The opening duologue between Pritchard and Bailey looked slightly awkward with Pritchard, in particular, having little to do during some long speeches.

Paul Arber gave a solid performance as John Bailey. A pleasingly halting delivery when presenting what the character must realise is a doomed proposal to the owner. His speech about the Shaw family did indeed paint a provocative picture. There was a noticeable change of his demeanour when talking to Eileen at the head of the second act.



Howard Platt maintained an imperious air as Harold Pritchard. He appeared always in control in scenes with the Avery's and looked every inch the mine owner. His unspoken reaction to Terence's climactic scene with Elizabeth was masterfully done. His restrained breakdown towards the end of the piece was nicely judged.



Jamie Mudle's portrayal of Terence Avery was something of a tour de force. The character has a lot of dialogue including some lengthy monologues which he delivered with intelligent phrasing – always engaging with the audience. The part demanded much in the way of physical performance, and he used his considerable stage presence to good effect. A good change of voice when speaking Edgar's words in scene two.

The fussy and sensitive Vanessa Avery was a very credible portrayal by Karen Rogers. I liked

the steel in her voice as she was remonstrating with an increasingly distracted Elizabeth. She was very well matched with Paul Stratton, who gave a quiet and thoughtful performance of Geoffrey Avery. A man who, one assumes is used to dealing with his well-meaning wife. A lot of his dialogue serves to lighten the dark mood of the drama and was performed with good timing.



Elizabeth Pritchard, played by Jean Cooper, is the character that is most transformed by the end of the play – although it may be argued that the whole of the cast experience a change in outlook during the course of the narrative. Her opening scene, appearing frail and absent contrasted well with her appearance in the final scene, now more fully in control and beginning to rebuild her life. I liked her critical speech with Vanessa in the first scene and her heart-rending bewilderment at Terence's trances. Very well played.

Eileen's scene with Bailey at the head of the second act mainly serves to inform the audience what has happened off-stage but it does give the character some impressive expository dialogue which Lisa Kirby performed with feeling and some charm.

Dr Gibbons, whose compelling ghost story sets the scene for the Act I drop was a sound performance by Nick Charles.

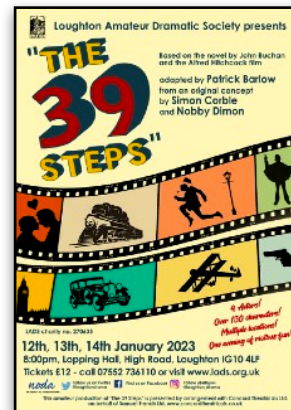
The programme was neatly laid out and easy to read with a lot of interesting information. Thank you for crediting NODA, it is appreciated. Please consider including the short "introduction to NODA" which is available from the website.

This was a provocative and intriguing production which I greatly enjoyed.

Many thanks for your invitation and your kind hospitality. I look forward to seeing future presentations by your society

Paul M Holgate
Regional Representative District 6
NODA London

Our next production



At the time of writing we are 3 weeks into rehearsal and the production is taking shape very well despite being disrupted by COVID. It's an extremely physical play and the cast are throwing themselves into the challenge with enthusiasm and bravery! Lines are well on the way to being completely learned and the whole team are working incredibly hard to ensure we have another LADS success. Don't miss it, it'll be awesome!

Cathy

Props - can you help?

We are looking for a couple of props for The 39 Steps and hope that someone may have just the thing so please let me know if you can help

We're looking for a vintage milk bottle holder if anyone has one. It can be wooden or metal but not plastic. (See examples below)



We also need a small Christmas tree.

Finally, we need plenty of shredded paper or scrap paper which we can put through a document shredder.

If you can help with any of the above, please get in touch with Cathy on 07968 486484.

Christmas Social

Our annual LADS Christmas social is on Friday 16th December at 8pm in Buckley's Bar. It's always a lovely evening to catch up with friends so bring your nibbles, Christmas cheer and Santa hat if you have one and celebrate the festive season.

ALSO - Howard has a number of CDs with photos from past productions over the last 12 years or so. He will bring these on the 16th, just help yourself, first come first served, no charge!

Do You Remember?

5 years' ago - Jan 2018

Lion in Winter by James Goldman.

Directed by Adam Rabinowitz.

Cast included: Andrew Rogers, Melanie Clark, Ian Russell, Alex Roth, Peter Galloway, Karen Rogers, Freddy Parker



10 years' ago - Jan 2013

Benefactors by Michael Frayn.

Directed by Andrew Rogers.

Cast included: Tom Donoghue, Sophie Gilbert (nee Robertson), John Gilbert, Roz Gerrie



25 years' ago - Jan 1998

Communicating Doors by Alan Ayckbourn.

Directed by Marguerite Wheatley

Cast included: Andrew Rogers, Amanda Smith, John Haylett, Jean Cooper, John Howard, Ginnie Holliman

