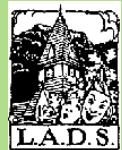


# PROMPTINGS



ISSUE 92 - FEBRUARY 2017

WWW.LADS.ORG.UK



Dear All,

I said in the last Promptings that *The Thrill of Love* was a fantastic piece of drama ... and boy, was I right. I had audience members stopping me in the street during the following week, asking me to pass on congratulations to everyone involved for a wonderful evening of drama.

You will find the NODA crit in Promptings by Michael Monk, who was equally as impressed. Unfortunately, the sudden cold snap during show week did have an effect on ticket sales – with 22 returns on Thursday night and potentially fewer tickets sold on the door – resulting in the total number of seats sold being lower than normal at 328. This obviously has an effect on money earned, so let's make sure we make it up on *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

Rehearsals have started for *Streetcar*, and are going well. There is a plea inside Promptings for props and furniture for the production, so please read and get in touch if you can help. We particularly need a 1945/50s-style fridge or fridge door (an unusual request, I know, but keep your eyes open). Flyers for *Streetcar* can be collected from Lopping Hall on rehearsal nights, and as always please share and re-tweet our posts and

tweets on social media and spread the word! If you are not a member of LADS Facebook group – the link is: [www.facebook.com/groups/2399580967](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2399580967). Twitter is @loughtondrama.

I would like to say a few words about the play selection committee who are coming to the end of the mammoth task of reading plays and choosing our 2017/18 season. They have been working through around 50 plays, which is more than normal as LADS' members have suggested many plays to them (just a note on this – please supply a script with your suggestion, if possible – as this makes it easier for the committee). Play selection is a very difficult job, as the committee has to consider many things – balance of play genres, actors' ages and genders, availability of directors, set challenges and much more – so I applaud you all for your time and expertise. There will be 3 people coming off play selection at the end of this season, so should you be interested in joining the committee in September, and would like to know more about it, do not hesitate to talk to Karen or me about it.

Check the calendar below and make sure you have put LADS events in your diary – the next social event is the LADS wine-tasting and cheese evening and social on Sat 4th

*Jean*

## LADS DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>Friday 17 February</b>	Workshop - Small Hall 8pm - book place first
<b>Saturday 4 March</b>	Wine tasting social - Lopping Hall bar 7pm
<b>Sunday 26 March</b>	Set up for <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> - 9:30am
<b>30, 31 March, 1 April</b>	Performances - <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>
<b>Saturday 1 April</b>	After show party - Liz and Malcolm's - 49 Hilltop, Loughton
<b>Sunday 2nd April</b>	Set down 10am
<b>Monday 3 April</b>	Crit and Curry - 7:30pm in Small Hall
<b>Thursday 6 April</b>	Rehearsals start for <i>Dial M for Murder</i>
<b>Sat. 3 and Sun. 4 June</b>	NODA Awards weekend
<b>Sunday 11 June</b>	Set up for <i>Dial M for Murder</i> - 9:30am
<b>15, 16, 17 June</b>	Performances - <i>Dial M for Murder</i> (party on Saturday 17, venue tbc)
<b>Sunday 18 June</b>	Set down 10am
<b>Monday 19 June</b>	Crit and Curry - 7:30pm in Small Hall
<b>Thursday 22 June</b>	Read through for 1st play of 2017/18 season
<b>Sunday 25 June</b>	End of season social - walk and pub lunch - see information inside
<b>Monday 3 July</b>	AGM - 8pm Small Hall
<b>Saturday 30 September</b>	Start of season event - info coming soon

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## MEMBERS NEWS

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We are very pleased to welcome the following new members:

Jo Keen, Tom Ratican, John Orton, Janis Moore, Millza Zohuri, Elena Rudakova, Olivia Barton-Fisher and Jasmin Gray. John and Elena were very helpful at the set up for *The Thrill of Love*, and Jasmin will be helping backstage for *Dial M for Murder*. We hope to involve everyone else in future productions and welcome you all to all our social events very soon.

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## FARMERS MARKET

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We will have a stall at the May Farmers' Market in Loughton on Sunday 7th May – from 9am to about 1pm. Help with handing out leaflets and talking to people about LADS and Lopping Hall will be appreciated. Please put it in your diary.

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## END OF SEASON EVENT

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Our end of season event will be on Sunday 25th June and will be a group walk around Upshire, followed by Sunday dinner at The Horseshoes pub in Upshire. You can join the walk and/or the pub lunch. We have provisionally booked 20 spaces at The Horseshoes, so we do need you to confirm your space for the meal. If you wish to book for the meal, please email me ([lads.chairman@gmail.com](mailto:lads.chairman@gmail.com)) or phone 07896910214.

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## THEATRE TRIPS

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Roger is planning the LADS annual trip to the wonderful Rutland Open Air Theatre in the historic grounds of Toletorpe Hall ([www.stamfordshakespeare.co.uk](http://www.stamfordshakespeare.co.uk)) and will be purchasing tickets for the matinee performance of "Midsummer's Night Dream" taking place on Saturday 15th July.

This is a lovely day out. We car-share, so that not everyone has to drive – and we stop off at The Sibson Inn Hotel on the A1 for a late breakfast and then drive onto Toletorpe Hall for the 1.30pm matinee. After the show, we tend to go to The George in nearby Stamford for dinner. The tickets are £19 each, but obviously the cost of the meals are on top. If you wish to come along, please let me ([lads.chairman@gmail.com](mailto:lads.chairman@gmail.com))

or Roger ([rogerbarker23@gmail.com](mailto:rogerbarker23@gmail.com)) know as soon as possible.

ALSO, Liz is going to try and get a group together to see "Stepping Out" - which is on at the Vaudeville Theatre with Amanda Holden. Watch out in emails for further information on this one.

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## GARAGE CLEAR OUT

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We will be doing another garage clear-out over the weekend of 29th and 30th April. If you think you can help, please let me know ([lads.chairman@gmail.com](mailto:lads.chairman@gmail.com)) – this will be the costume and small props garage, so it will be like going into "Aladdin's cave"!...

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## LADS CHEESE AND WINE TASTING

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LADS cheese and wine tasting evening is on Saturday 4th March in the Lopping Hall bar from 6.30pm – tasting starts at 7pm. Cost is £6 per head.

The wine tasting will be run by Steve from Majestic Wine, and will last about an hour and a half. At 8.30pm, we will open the LADS bar and the evening will be a general social until 11pm. If you aren't interested in the wine tasting, do please come along to the social part of the evening from 8.30pm.

Spaces are limited on the wine tasting, as we can only get so many people seated in the bar area.

To book your space, please send £6 per person to Martin Howarth with the names of the people attending as shown below (Martin Howarth, 16 Marjorams Ave, Loughton, IG10 1PT). On receipt of the payment and information, Martin will confirm your space by email (preferably) or by telephone.

Payment can be made by cheque, or by BACS payment (quoting "wine" and your name). If you pay by BACS, please inform Martin you have done so by email ([martin.anthony.howarth@gmail.com](mailto:martin.anthony.howarth@gmail.com)). BACS payment details are:

LOUGHTON AMATEUR DRAMATIC SOCIETY,  
sort code: 40-52-40. Account number: 00017610

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**NODA CRIT. FOR  
'THE THRILL OF LOVE'  
MICHAEL MONK**

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This being my first visit to LADS, and after hearing such good reports about them, I had very high expectations for this evening's production of *The Thrill of Love* by Amanda Whittington. I am very pleased to report that I was not disappointed. Number 350 for LADS but my first and hope not the last!

Director – KAREN ROGERS, assisted by MICHAEL LEWKOWICZ - Many congratulations, on a terrific job well done. In delivering such a true story always adds to the difficulty in getting it just right. My wife and I thoroughly enjoyed the whole production. Feel very proud indeed. It was at times, affecting, poignant, witty and very moving.

Set Design and construction – ANDREW ROGERS – Simplistic and clever design, moving from one club to the other – genius, which made the play move along with great pace.

Stage Management – MARTIN HOWARTH – was well executed with smooth running of all cues throughout.

Wardrobe by LIZ ADAMS were all in keeping with all the characters and suitably apt for the 50's period.



Lighting Design by TERRY TEW, Sound Design by KAREN and ANDREW ROGERS and both operated by DEAN BARTHOLOMEW was well executed and very much on cue throughout the play. The attention to detail for the sound recordings and record stuck effect added good ambience.

The attention to detail for all props and set dressings were very well managed by JEAN

COOPER, ably assisted by SHARON HAFFENDEN.

Ruth – ELISA THOMAS – To play the part of a real person, from relatively recent history, must have been very daunting indeed. Ruth is quite a complex character but you showed maturity with your insight and understanding for her soaring and plummeting emotions as she went from frivolous joy to despair in her tricky love life, whilst showing compassion for the women friends she was closest to. Your performance on Friday evening did have a few lows when you had some scary dialogue blanks. However, you recovered well and got back on track swiftly. I felt at times, in the more intense moments, that you shouted a little too much in such a small venue, as we could not then understand what you were saying. That said, you can congratulate yourself on a fine performance – a job well done.



Jack – HOWARD PLATT – A very competent performance throughout. You managed to portray his solemn characterisation whilst giving us a glimpse of how Ruth's case had really got under your skin and the unease you felt with the stark evidence, when you felt there was more to her story. You narrated the story to the audience with a comfortable and easy tone of voice. Clever direction to keep you onstage throughout most of the other scenes.



Sylvia – SARAH HUDSON – A fabulous and very strong performance from a very accomplished actress. Diction was clear and very natural. Great stage presence throughout – great chemistry with all your other cast members especially Ruth. Excellent facial expressions throughout the play



you never stopped acting from start to finish.

Vickie – KATIE CLARKE – What a gem of a role! Strong performance from a very accomplished comedic young character actress. Be careful not to wear headgear too low over your face as it covered your very expressive eyes in your opening scene. The transition into playing the prosecuting council was a very clever moment, with only one little slip in your new accent!

Doris – STEPH ADLEMAN – A very heart-warming performance. You captured Doris's kind and caring personality presenting a lovely contrast to the other characters. Great chemistry with Ruth throughout. Diction and delivery were very good, especially the aplomb with which you delivered some of the best one liners in the play.

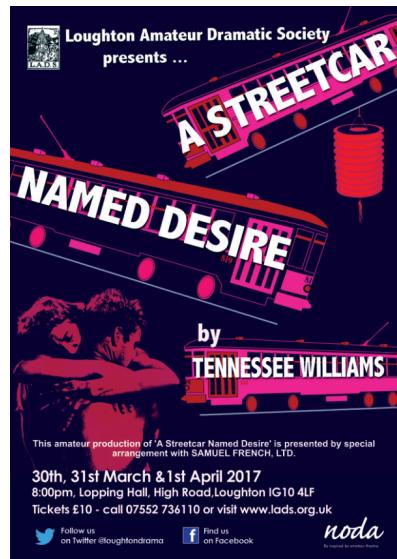
HOWARD PLATT also presented a lovely programme packed with information and nice photographs.

Best wishes for your future production *A Street Car Named Desire*.

Thank you for the very kind welcome.

**Michael Monk**

## A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE



We have only had 4 rehearsals at time of writing, but all is going swimmingly ... all the actors have been researching their roles and learning lines early ... we have had a physical rehearsal learning how to "fight" safely and realistically ... and the accents are all traveling down to the south of the US - at different speeds, but I am sure everyone will eventually arrive at the destination! The backstage crew are working hard already, making lists, collecting props, finding costumes and designing the sound ... I feel very blessed to have such a hard-working crew. There is a list of props we need for the play elsewhere in Promptings. Also, we need a fridge/fridge door of the 1940s/50s style, so please keep your eyes open for something.

Streetcar is a big emotional challenge for everyone, but I am loving the intricacies of the play and the opportunities it gives for team work and physical theatre.

**Jean**

(Please see props requests on next page)

**PROPS WANTED FOR STREETCAR**  
**Can you help?**

- ★ Any drinkers of Southern Comfort and/or Jack Daniels – please save the bottles
- ★ Palm leaf fans
- ★ Large suitcase/trunk - old style, not with a zip (Babs: we'll come and look at yours)
- ★ Jewel box – pretty and, ideally, heart-shaped
- ★ Tiara
- ★ 'Pretty' 'fussy' cushion covers (maybe pink??) – with flounces
- ★ Perfume bottle with spray (vintage atomizer) e.g.



- ★ Tin deed box (see below)



- ★ Tin lunch box (see below for 1940s examples)



- ★ Small, narrow console table – hall-style, with a couple of drawers to use as dressing table.

- ★ Free-standing table top mirror
- ★ Small armchair – Wendy, your pinkish one might do