

The Chiltern Player



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As everybody is no doubt aware, rehearsals are now in progress for *One on One*, an evening of three one-act plays on Friday, May 4.

The programme includes *The Edge* a gripping psychological drama by Steve Carley which is the Players' entry for drama festivals in Henley and Abingdon. The intriguing scenario played out by John Evans, Peter O'Sullivan and Tiffany Saul involves a stockbroker who claims he can see into the future, his business partner and a psychiatrist. A cunning final twist turns this into a fascinating study of the human psyche. Making her debut in the director's chair is Jenny Titchener, whose long experience with the prompt book in the wings has equipped her with a unique understanding of how to draw the very best from her cast. This night will also be an opportunity for the actors to perform the play before an audience prior to the Kenton Festival which takes place the following week.

The other two plays are *The Bear*, a romantic comedy adapted by Bernard Lawrence from Anton Chekhov's play of the same name and *Miles Away*, a charming vignette evoking memories of a wartime romance written by our very own Di Soden.

All in all, an evening not to be missed.

It has been decided that there should be limited advertising so it is vital that all Players try and sell as many tickets as possible. The performance takes place, as usual, in Peppard Memorial Hall at 8 pm. Tickets are £5, available on the door or by phoning me, Carol

Evans, on 0118 972 3628. Light refreshments will be available but as there will be no bar, punters are encouraged to bring along their own alcoholic drinks if they wish.

It is no secret that casting for our plays is usually rushed. (Oh, to be organised and have enough actors so that while one drama is underway, another has already been read and cast!)

We would now like to streamline this often somewhat hasty process to ensure that no-one gets left out.

After discussion at the last committee meeting, it is hoped in future to announce in advance the chosen play and invite all those interested to inform the nominated director if they want to be considered for a part. Then, on a specific evening, there will be a reading (nothing as formal as auditions!) so that the director, together with a committee member, can cast the play.

This will ensure that the casting process is observable to everybody, especially new members who may have been used to more rigorous auditions elsewhere.

The new routine will be put into practice for the autumn production. Readings to choose a play will begin directly after the summer festivals.

At the time of going to press, we still have no further news on the student movie that was filmed in Peter O'Sullivan's home studios last summer.

Sadly, director Sean Daniel's father died during the production which has accounted for the delay.

Open air productions have a special magic about them. But for an added touch of mystery and menace too, then *The Hound of the Baskervilles* should just about fit the bill. Touring company Illyria will be presenting the classic Conan Doyle chiller at Greys Court on Saturday July 21. Tickets cost £15, available by phoning 0870 428 8933 or via website www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events.

Arrangements will be made nearer the time for all those who have purchased tickets to meet up beforehand for a picnic in the grounds.

Still with the supernatural, let's not forget that Helen McCutcheon is starring as mischievous ghost Elvira in the Goring Gap Players' production of the comedy classic *Blithe Spirit*. Performances take place March 21-24 at the Morrell Rooms, Streatley and tickets are available from 01491 873530.

Peter O'Sullivan is planning to organise a theatre trip after the festivals. Details later.

Chiltern Players Youth will be performing *Monkey Soup*, a farcical comedy, at Peppard Memorial Hall on April 13/14 and 20/21. Tickets are £6 (£5).

People have often asked what happens to the video recordings of Chiltern Players' productions. Basically, the answer is 'not much.' But all that is set to change. The O'Sullivan Boys, Peter and Matt, are compiling a selection from the Players' canon and will be holding a special 'compilation evening' in the near future. Sean Daniels is to be asked if an uncut version of his film will be available then.

A working party has been arranged on Sunday, July 1 for a general sort-out of Chiltern Players paraphernalia at Peppard Memorial Hall. Please try and come along: the more people who can help, the quicker the work will be completed.

This year's autumn production will be held on November 23/24 and November 30/December 1. Technical and dress rehearsals will be on November 11 and 18.

Looking ahead, performance dates have been arranged for 2008. They are: April 18/19 and 25/26. November 21/22 and 28/29.

That's all folks.