

**I**t's congratulations to Jane Brough whose play, *Nearer to Shakespeare*, has been chosen for a rehearsed reading with professional actors at the Watermill Theatre, Bagnor.

Jane's play was one of four winners from a field of 47 in the theatre's Raising Voices competition for new writers. The judges described the play – which debuted in Peppard Hall in 2008 – as 'beautifully put together.....writing extremely accomplished and story-telling superb.'

So – in a few years' time when Jane's collecting her BAFTA, remember: it all started here!

The performance takes place next Wednesday, March 31 at 7.30. Tickets are £8 (£5 concessions). Details on [www.watermill.org.uk](http://www.watermill.org.uk)

Jane, who should now hold the title of Writer-in-Residence, will be showcasing more of her creativity in this summer's murder mystery. She says that the title will probably be *Murder at Peppard Grange* and is set in the very stylish 1930s. Noel Coward meets Agatha Christie perhaps? Performances will be on Friday and Saturday, July 23 and 24 and it will have the same outcome each night so if you have friends coming on both nights, tell the Friday bunch they are under pain of death not to divulge the ending to those coming on the Saturday!

Tickets will be £10 each and will include a ploughman's supper and dessert. More details later.

**M**eanwhile, *Table Manners*, under the directorship of Jenny Titchener, is coming along nicely and we are confident of good audiences on April 21, 22, 23 and 24. As most of you know, we are a very small society and have no big-budget advertising fund (there is, in fact, no such fund) and are therefore dependent on free publicity wherever possible. We do our bit with getting items in local media but getting those bums on seats also requires some help from the membership. Tickets are £7 and available from Occasions, Wood Lane, Sonning Common or 0118 972 3628.

\* Some props are still required for this production: see sidebar.

**W**hat a busy year the Players are having! Spring play, a summer production and now a one-act play which we are entering in no less than three festivals. We may be a small society, but there's no holding us once we get the bit between our collective teeth.

The play chosen is *The Extraordinary Revelations of Orca the Goldfish*, a two-hander by David Tristram. It will be a challenging piece of theatre, not least because Rosemary House and Peter O'Sullivan, playing a couple locked in a humdrum marriage, each take on the personae of around a dozen characters as they fantasise about the what-might-have-been. Well within both actors' capabilities, of course. John Evans will be making his directorial debut so he has challenges too.

Props required include a goldfish bowl (with optional goldfish) Offers to John on [beagrove@btinternet.com](mailto:beagrove@btinternet.com)

*Orca* has been entered into the following festivals: Didcot (May 25-29,) Abingdon (May 30–June 5) and Wallingford (June 13-18.) Actual performance dates will be publicised and we hope as many of you will come along and support. It's planned that the final dress rehearsal on May 21 will also be open to Players.

## PROPS ALERT CAN YOU HELP?

For *Table Manners*

- ❖ Sideboard (1970s style or before)
- ❖ Small carpet or rug, preferably patterned
- ❖ House plant, as big as you like – possibly rubber plant or Swiss cheese variety

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For *Orca the Goldfish*

- ❖ Goldfish bowl
- ❖ Goldfish (optional)

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For *Table Manners*, contact Serena Jones on [sfjones@lastprayers.co.uk](mailto:sfjones@lastprayers.co.uk)

For *Orca*, contact John, [beagrove@btinternet.com](mailto:beagrove@btinternet.com)