

# The Rep

The Newsletter of Lancing Repertory Players.

Number 61

Spring 2010

## **Improbable Fiction by Alan Ayckbourn. 15-17 April 2010 at Lancing Parish Hall**

Improbable Fiction is best described as a surreal comedy. It is set in the present, with a group of would-be writers having their regular writers' group meeting at Arnold's house. The group discuss what each member is writing and how they are progressing. This is interrupted occasionally by Arnold's bedridden mother. The meeting ends, the first act closes with a thunderstorm, which heralds Act 2 and the surreal incarnation of their fictional characters.

First performed in Scarborough in 2005, this follows Alan Ayckbourn's recent style of play, using time shift and a somewhat surreal environment as a vehicle for his skill in writing good comedy for the stage. This play, although only recently written, has been produced by a number of amateur groups within the UK already. It provides a challenge for both cast and technical presentation, with fast changes and complex lighting and sound requirements.

It has been great fun directing this play and, at the time of writing, we are progressing well through the rehearsal process. There is some strong comedy as far as the characters and the situations are concerned. We welcome three new actors to the group – Jenni Acton, Simon Birks and Paul Jones – as well as a number of new and very necessary back stage crew, to help our stalwarts in constructing the set and with props and costume during the performances.

We all look forward to you coming along to see just how well all these elements come together in what should be a very funny evening's entertainment whatever happens. So don't forget to book your tickets – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April.

Ian Black, Director

## **SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS OF SOCIAL EVENTS**

### **Diary Dates: Meetings and Fund Raising**

**11 – 18 April: Spring Play helpers urgently needed.** If you can help with painting and building the set, please contact Karen (phone as below). On play week we will need help getting the set to the Parish Hall and erecting it on Sunday 11 April. From Monday 12 – Saturday 17 April a larger than usual team will be required backstage to take charge of props and costume changes. On 15-17 April we would welcome volunteers for Front of House duties. On 17 April, when the last performance ends lots of help will be needed to strike the set. On the morning of Sunday 18 April we will need help to get the set back to Rep HQ. All offers of help to:

**Ian (01903) 603423 or Karen (01903) 609507** for help with the production  
**Rosalind (01903) 521221** for Front of House.

### **20 April: Committee Meeting**

**26 April: Post Production Meeting and AGM** Please show your support for REP by volunteering for one of the posts on the Committee. Any one of the current post holders would be happy to stand down for a new member. **NOTE:** The Public Relations post will be vacant as Peter and Marion are standing down with effect from the AGM. A replacement for this post is urgently needed. If you would like to know what the Public Relations Officer does, why not phone for details **Peter & Marion (01903) 761455**

**8 May: Charity Table Sale.** This will be at the Youth & Community Centre in North Road, Lancing. Volunteers are asked to spare an hour or two helping to man our table. If you can help, or if you have any good quality items that might be suitable for sale, contact **Julie (01903) 537985.**

**22- 24 July: Summer Play.** This year we are planning three One-Act plays to be directed by Mary and Marlene. Details of the plays, audition dates and requests for help will be available in due course.

**Directors are urgently needed.** If you have never directed a play but would like to try it, or if you have not directed for some time and would like another opportunity, we would love to hear from you. We cannot present plays unless we have a sufficient number of directors and without productions we will not be able to continue. If you would like more details about what would be involved, contact **Marlene (01903) 243558.**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

As many of you will know, subscription renewals are due from 1<sup>st</sup> January. Although many people have already sent their renewals, there are still a number outstanding. It would help REP funds a great deal if you would pay without the need for a reminder letter.

Send your renewal with your name and the type of membership you require for 2010 to:

Mrs R. Dickinson, 32, Burnside Crescent, Sompting, BN15 9TJ or tel. **Rosalind Dickinson (01903) 521221**

**Annual Subscriptions:** £20 for full members; £10 for associate members; £7 for juniors under 16.

Patrons, whose support we greatly appreciate, pay £20 and receive two reduced price tickets for one performance of each production.

## **100 Club Winners**

December	Mrs J. Ennever, Miss J. West, J. Dowse, Mrs J. Sarfas	£5
	Mrs S. Kirk	£10
January	Mrs M. Malandain, I. Black, Miss M. Hawkes, Vacant number*	£5
	No prize, number not sponsored*	£10
February	M. Cumber, P. Dickinson, P. Norton, Mrs S. Pickett	£5
	R. Craney	£10

\*You will see that in January two numbers were drawn that have no current sponsor. Therefore we could not award one £5 prize or the £10 prize. If all our numbers were sponsored, we would be able to pay out all prizes every month and also raise more money for REP. Numbers cost just £8/year and Wendy arranges a draw at a rehearsal, social event or meeting every month.

To buy a number contact:

**Wendy Norton (01903) 241392**

## **Message from Our Chairman**

How do you like the new schedule of our productions, ie. April, July and December? The feeling at the pantomime Post Production meeting was positive, and that it was a great advantage to have the panto in December. Many Companies only do two productions a year; we struggle sometimes with three, but let's give it a go and see how we get on.

Negotiations over the Hall next door continue, and I suspect will do so for some time. If we don't move in the end, we shall have to spend quite a lot of money on our present HQ, which is definitely now showing its age.

Don't forget the **April play** and the **AGM and Post Production meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> April.** Lets have a well attended meeting and some volunteers for the committee, especially PRO, a post which will become vacant at the AGM. Peter and Marion will be a hard act to follow! Why not give them a ring and find out what is involved!

**Philip Norton, Chairman**

## **Treasurer's Report for 2009**

Financially 2009 was an exceptional year for the Players. Obviously, two pantos in the same year made a big difference to our finances and for the first time we had a turnover of close to £10,000. Also, this meant we had an income over expenditure profit on our Statement of Balances for the first time in a few years. A full report on our Accounts will be presented at the **A.G.M. on 26<sup>th</sup> April.**

After ten years I am retiring as Treasurer. I have seen a number of ups and downs in our finances. Only a year ago at the beginning of January 2009, we had only £400 in the bank and bills for more than that on the file. However, Aladdin did well and after that we certainly didn't look back. All our productions in 2009 made good profits. But it wouldn't be me if I didn't say one last time that we have to be prudent and not spend money as if there is no tomorrow! We rely on Ways and Means and Socials to bring in those extra pounds but they can't support the Players without your support. So often we have looked around a social group only to wonder where all the 'actors' are. It isn't fair to expect the others to make it possible for the same few to enjoy just what they like to do (act), and not join in to help the Players in other ways.

As a member of 49 years now coming to the end of my close contact days with the Players, I was thrilled to see so many new faces at the Post Production Meeting after Merlin. Also Karen backstage has been joined by a new group of keen new members to help with sets. The Players look like carrying on for years to come and I shall be tottering along to see their results more and more like 'Connie Shore' for those who remember her!

I thank Steve Budd for being prepared to take over as Treasurer and am sure he will keep a strict eye on expenditure. Best wishes Steve.

**Mary Macpherson**

## **DON'T FORGET THE AGM ON 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL AT REP HQ.**

### **Ways & Means**

If you have any unwanted presents or nice 'bits and pieces' that you no longer want, would you please consider donating them to raise money for REP? Just give Julie a ring, or contact any of the people whose details appear in this newsletter and let us know. Alternatively, leave a note on the Notice Board at REP for Julie's attention. However, we would ask you not to bring the items to REP HQ until you have spoken to Julie.

If you have anything you think we might use in productions, please tell Marlene or Julie about it before you bring it. If our move to the Hall next door takes place, we will have less storage space and with that in mind we are planning a spring clean and general assessment of the props and furniture we already have in store.

**Julie Petrie (01903) 5537985**  
**Marlene Tincknell (01903) 243558**

### **Do you have an email address?**

If so, you could save the REP stationery and postage costs by agreeing to receive your newsletter by email. Many of you have already done this but, if you are a new member and/or if you have not already asked for your newsletter via email, please contact me. My details are at the bottom of Page 4.

**Wendy Dowse**

## **Chaperones Urgently Needed for the Future of our Pantomimes**

Although next December seems like light years away, we are already planning our Pantomime for week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> December. You may remember that last year we had problems with West Sussex County Council and their requirement that we have chaperones for children under 16 in our shows. Thanks to an error by the County Council department responsible, we were able to present our panto in December 2009 without fulfilling all their criteria. Susie Pickett fought for the show and won the day, but we will not be so lucky this year.

We need volunteers to be trained as Chaperones for our pantomime children. Each Chaperone can only be responsible for 10 or 12 children, either girls or boys, not a mixed group. They must all attend the three hour training course provided by the Council and obtain a Criminal Record Bureau certificate acceptable to the County. It doesn't matter how well qualified you are with children; you must satisfy the County Council's criteria.

The same rules about 'working hours' are being applied to us that are applied to drama school pupils in professional shows. While we feel the rules are unnecessarily rigid for children who are taking part in our shows as a hobby, we must comply or stop having children in our pantomimes. It is imperative that our Chaperones are booked into a course fairly soon because places are very quickly filled and we would like all our volunteers to attend the same course on the same day. If you would like to help and require more details, please contact

**Susie Pickett (01903) 879211**

## **DON'T FORGET THE AGM ON 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL AT REP HQ.**

## **SOCIAL EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY**

**20 March: Race Night.** This will include a ploughman's supper of Cheese or Ham. £7 per head. Starts at 7pm.

**12 June: Shuffleboard Evening.** You can choose Chicken or Fish with chips for supper. £7 per head. Starts at 7pm.

**31 July: Pat & Michael's BBQ.** Further details to be confirmed. £8 per head at Pat & Michael's home.

**18 September: Beetle Drive.** Date and details to be confirmed. Likely to be a chicken or fish supper with chips. £7 per head. 7pm start.

Christmas Party to be arranged, watch this space.

**NOTE: It is important that you book your places at the Race Night as soon as possible so that food can be arranged. Please let Julie know to make it easier for catering.**

Julie Petrie (01903) 537985

### **P.R.O**

If you have received this newsletter by email and cannot open the poster, or if you would like further paper copies, please contact one of the people whose telephone number appears below. If you have a garden where you could display a larger poster please talk to Peter or Marion Taylor.

### **Congratulations**

To Tracy Bowdery and her husband on the safe arrival of their baby son. Very best wishes from everyone at REP to the newly enlarged Bowdery family

#### Useful Telephone Numbers:

Ian Black (Director Spring Play)	01903 603423
Wendy Norton (100 Club)	01903 241392
Rosalind Dickinson (Membership)	01903 521221
Julie Petrie (Ways & Means and Social Events)	01903 537985
Karen Howell (Backstage Team)	01903 609507
Peter & Marion (P.R.O until AGM)	01903 761455
Marlene Tincknell (Play Selection & Directors)	01903 243558
Susie Pickett (Chaperones)	01903 879211

**DON'T FORGET THE AGM ON 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL AT REP HQ.**

**Dates of shows from now until December 2012 are displayed on the Notice Board**