



# HIADS Newsletter

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February 2022

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## Dates For Your Diary

|                                         |                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 19 February<br>10 am                    | Coffee Morning<br><b>HIADS SOCIAL EVENT</b>                         |
| 2 March<br>7.30 pm                      | <b>READING:</b> Around the<br>World in 80 Days<br><b>HIADS PLAY</b> |
| 7 and 9 March<br>Both at 7.30 pm        | <b>CASTING:</b> Around the World<br>in 80 Days<br><b>HIADS PLAY</b> |
| 16 to 19 March<br>7.30 pm               | The Hothouse<br><b>HIADS PLAY</b>                                   |
| <b>21 March</b><br><b>7.00 for 7.30</b> | <b>HIADS AGM</b>                                                    |
| 25 and 26 March<br>7.30 pm and Saturday | IDF: 5,6,7,8 Dance!<br><b>VISITING COMPANY</b>                      |
| 6 to 9 April<br>7.30 pm                 | Normal<br><b>HIADS PLAY</b>                                         |
| 22 April<br>2.30 pm and 7.30 pm         | Military Wives<br><b>FILM</b>                                       |
| 25 April<br>7.30 pm                     | <b>READING:</b> Ladies Day<br><b>HIADS PLAY</b>                     |
| 29 April<br>7.30 pm                     | <b>CASTING:</b> Ladies Day<br><b>HIADS PLAY</b>                     |

## The Hothouse

Rehearsals for our March production of Harold Pinter's 'The Hothouse' are now well underway.

Rebecca Weaving ('Will' in 'Hansel and Gretel') is bringing her directing experience to her first HIADS play. She leads a cast of familiar faces (James Wood as 'Roote', Rebecca Welch as 'Lush', Jack Smith as 'Tubb' & Jo McHugh as 'Fred') and new ones (Sam Goodall as 'Gibbs', Dylan Parkes as 'Lamb', Melissa Hoare as 'Cutts' and Marcus Pingriff as 'Lobb').

"The Hothouse is one of Pinter's best plays... richly pleasurable and boundlessly funny," (Michael Billington). Set in a suspiciously vague 'rest home', the play charts the events of Christmas Day amongst the variously incompetent and bureaucratic staff. Flustered tinpot tyrant Roote is in charge, or at least he's been told he is, while his smooth-talking subordinate Gibbs clearly has plans of his own. The raucously insubordinate Lush seems to delight in nothing more than poking at everyone's vulnerabilities, while the sensually manipulative Cutts tries to play all sides. Wide-eyed newcomer Lamb only wants to help, and The Ministry is only too happy to take advantage.

It's a smart, funny play that veers from slapstick to political satire and back again in the way Pinter does so expertly. It's on Wednesday 16th - Saturday 19th March. Tickets are available at [stationtheatre.co.uk](http://stationtheatre.co.uk), by calling 0333 666 3366, or at the theatre box office each Saturday 10am - noon.

## Hothouse needs FOH!

HIADS members and friends are always needed to support our **Front of House** team. We pride ourselves on audience care and the friendly and welcoming members that support our theatre. If you can offer and evening during our next play then please contact Rosemary.

Please refer to our Facebook page for details:  
**Station Theatre FOH Booking**

## Don't forget the AGM!

If you wish to put propositions to the meeting please submit them to the Hon. Secretary by 19 February. All **nominations for Executive Committee positions** must be with the Hon. Secretary, Andrew Thompson, by 11 March.



## Desperately seeking Susan or Sharon!

Or Alison.. Or anyone really!

HIADS Director, Jason Christopher is looking to get back to normal as soon as possible after his recent hip replacement, which he was in desperate need of.

This is a little bit ironic because he is now in desperate need of a replacement actress for his upcoming production called 'Normal'

'NORMAL' is a new award-winning play by Australian playwright, Katie Pollock. It was due to have it's European premiere at The Station Theatre last October, but had to be postponed until 7th April 2022 due to the October Covid lockdown extension.

Between then and now, Jason has had difficulties keeping the cast together - for one reason and another, and has had to make many cast ad-

justments along the way, but throughout the period he has kept it ticking over by holding regular zoom rehearsals - mainly because some of the cast have been away at University.

However, he once again finds himself one cast member short, and like Jason, 'Normal' could be on it's last legs unless a replacement can be found soon.

So if anyone would like to have a read of the script with a view to getting involved, he is looking for someone to play the part of the School Principal, Ms Holt.

Get in touch with Jason asap if you are interested on 07900 492712 or email:

[jase.christopher1967@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jase.christopher1967@yahoo.co.uk)

## HIADS WELCOMES!

### NEW MEMBERS:

Tina Chilton  
Rodney May  
Wendy Sherrington  
John Sommerville  
Rebecca Weaving  
Pippa Wood

## The walking wounded!

Last Saturday morning we were delighted to see Jason Christopher following his hip replacement operation . Bouncing about on stage with a crutch (no parrot), and the lovely Sarah with all her bones now back in place!

Dave Barlow also made an appearance looking very well following his recent kidney operation. Activities limited but bright as ever!

Dave Ellis is also back home following—well almost every operation going! Now waiting for an advisory role in 'Holby City'. We look forward to seeing Dave back on stage again as soon as his health permits.

We wish them all the very best.

## Queen's Platinum Jubilee

We have applied for a grant from the 'Lets Create' Jubilee Fund to participate in this year's celebrations to raise our profile among local groups and double as an open day for the theatre at no additional cost to ourselves. The project would be led by HIADS members Clare Jefferson Jones and Paul Jones, local artists who have received Arts Council funding in the last four years.

It will involve one or two open days at the theatre to showcase the results of puppetry-related workshops run in

the preceding weeks by the artists in the local community, such as children's groups (scouts etc) and the visually impaired, and possibly the U3A via the play reading groups that we host. Puppets may be designed and made, stories written and judged and then puppet shows performed by the creators during the event. The bank holidays will be held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

Vicky Fox

## Theatre auditorium seats

Rather than replacing the existing theatre seats we have considered reupholstering them. This is because the current seats are comfortable and have just become shabby with wear especially on the arm rests. What we have seen of new seats indicates that they tend to be flimsier and more cheaply constructed whilst costing in the region of £25,000. Full reupholstery would cost approximately £13,000.

Our seats comprise a hard wearing dralon fabric and the backs and seats

are in good condition. Concerns have been raised about some wear on the joints but they do seem to have more life in them and as a compromise we have agreed to repair and reupholster the arm rests and clean the seats and check the frames thoroughly.

We will have the same number of seats as before with less upheaval and can be removed one row at a time and replaced in time for the next show on 16<sup>th</sup> March. People who have paid to sponsor a seat will be offered a refund.

Vicky Fox

## Stage Lighting

The theatre stage lighting is currently under review. There are a number of reasons for change and update. One being the change in all lighting systems from filament lamps to LED and other low energy units. Another is safety: we will try to install a more standardised system to avoid climbing ladders for every show. Finally it's simply to keep up with modern technology. The vast range of colours, effects and movement that now can be achieved from a single static stage light means improved safety, reduced running costs and less rigging time. We thank the expertise of Rob King, Phil Hanley and Ian Pratt for supporting this project.