

Between the Devil and the Deep Blue....

It is no coincidence that Riverside Players should have chosen this year to mount a Terence Rattigan Play. Rattigan is a popular playwright and his play 'The Deep Blue Sea' is a particularly popular though complex play dealing as it does with powerful passions, emotions and issues of social ostracism. Moreover, 2011 is the centenary of Rattigan's birth and consequently Riverside Players wish to pay their own tribute to this most influential word-smith.

The centenary of Rattigan's birth has not passed unnoticed in the theatrical world and at least two professional companies have had the same idea as Riverside Players, having revived the play this year in honour of him. Also, the closing film of this year's London Film Festival was Rachel Weisz' adaptation of the play which the Daily Mail unfortunately condemned as 'bafflingly downbeat' and 'dreary'.

Not that the Riverside production under the directorial hand of Betty Adlard will be anything other than a 'tour de force'. The cast contains a number of experienced actors and in particular we welcome Eric Lewis from Bebington Players who has come to join us. At present the whole cast are struggling with absences due amongst other things to the onset of autumn flu and I have heard that they are definitely finding the cacophony from the Childrens Play rehearsals diffi-



Eric Lewis and Caroline Kay

cult to manage. But none of these 'slings and arrows' should prevent this being an excellent evening's entertainment in November and a perfect homage to Mr Rattigan's play writing skills.



James and Caroline Kay



Jacqui Wenden, Caroline Kay and Janet Reed

Dates For Your Diary

The Deep Blue Sea

22nd - 26th November 2011

Heswall Hall.

Curtain Up: 7.30 pm

Auditions

Calendar Girls

Sun 27th Nov

One for the Road

&

The Unexpected Guest

Tues 29th Nov & Thurs 1st Dec

All at 7.30pm Richmond Hall

Yuletide Celebration

Sat 10th Dec

Heswall Hall.

7.30 for 8.00 pm

Jason & The Argonauts

Get In: Sun 8th Jan 0900

Richmond Hall

Performances: 11th -14th

January 2012

Heswall Hall.

Curtain Up: 7.30 pm

Matinee Saturday 2.00pm

Riverside Players at the HESWALL ARTS FESTIVAL



The Heswall Arts Festival has been and gone and by all reports has been widely acclaimed as a success by organisers and audiences alike. That Heswall can mount such an undertaking and contribute to the artistic life of the local community in West Wirral is due at least in part to the contribution of Riverside Players who figured significantly in the festival fortnight and in two pieces in particular. First came "An Evening of Comedy Sketches and Monologues" of which Marjorie Griffiths writes:

"At the AGM one of Ann Warr's ideas was to take theatre out into the community in a variety of ways. Wendy Lee-Forrester then came up with the proposal to perform some sketches written by local playwright Roz Moruzzi.

An initial difficulty was finding a venue, but with Heswall Methodist Church fundraising for their building development fund a partnership was born! Unfortunately due to ill-health Wendy had to hand over the reins to Ann. Nevertheless, a group of about a dozen Riversiders put on a comedy evening of rehearsed readings, storytelling, monologues, and songs by Janet Bird accompanied

by John Sones The whole evening was introduced and eloquently narrated by Ann. There was a wonderful atmosphere and the audience thoroughly enjoyed the entertainment at the same time over £600 was raised for the building fund. This is a wonderful example of Riverside Players going out into the community and creating a new fantastic shop window through which to attract prospective new patrons.

A big thank you to everyone who so willingly took part in this venture, which maybe we can repeat sometime in the future, perhaps in a slightly different format. Your efforts and talents are greatly appreciated."

A further contribution to the Festival came in the form of "An Evening with Oscar Wilde" which took place over 2 nights at Heswall Hall with audiences, seated at tables in cabaret style and plied with food and drink. The first half consisted of sketches about and readings from Oscar Wilde including excerpts from his play, poems and writings performed by various members of Riverside Players. Based loosely around the theme of 'This is Your Life' and devised and written by Charles Riley (with some help from the collected works, wit and wisdom of Oscar Wilde) this was a clever glimpse into Wilde's wit wisdom and the pathos of his life, loves and ultimate fall from public favour. The cast was a bit under-rehearsed and at times some relied on barely concealed scripts. Nevertheless they were all able actors and entered into the spirit of the evening with gusto. Ruth Rundle's virtuosity in switching from Constance Wilde to the young child Virginia in the excerpt from 'The Canterville Ghost' was notable. Martin Riley clearly enjoyed himself as Oscar Wilde although his ability to judge the audience's rendition of Wildean

(and other) 'bons mots' left a lot to be desired. The only criticism one might level came from Oscar Wilde's character when, after a Monty Python sketch he opined "Have the standards of comedy writing fallen"? In comparison with Wilde I suspect they have.

The audience were certainly put in the right mood for the second half which was given over to excerpts from the recent lavish Riverside production of Wilde's 'Lady Windermere's Fan' (see last month's CentreStage - Ed.). This is the sort of production which Riverside Players do so well and the audience were clearly captivated by the ballroom scene. The cast looked relaxed and comfortable even though the dimensions of the acting area must have been different from Gladstone Theatre. In particular, Val Marshall's Mrs Erylne was superb.

Surely, more of these sorts of productions whether as part of an Arts Festival or just to 'bring theatre to the people of Wirral' can only be a good thing.

"An Evening of Comedy Sketches and Monologues by Riverside Players and Friends"

A fun evening including readings from the works of local writer Roz Moruzzi.

Tickets £8 from:

**Marjorie Griffiths 0151 348 4969
Jean Schroeder 0151 342 6453**

**Wednesday 19th October
7.30 pm**

Venue: Heswall Methodist Church, Telegraph Road

Will you be a Calendar Girl?



When Annie Clarke's husband John dies from leukaemia at an early age, her close friend Chris Harper, anxious to purchase a comfortable sofa for the visitors lounge in the hospital where he was treated, hits upon the idea of printing a calendar featuring some of the members of the Knapely chapter of the Women's Institute discreetly posing nude. A genial comedy with wit, pluck and not much heartbreak.

Cast

*Cora	Should be able to sing 'Jerusalem' and play the piano (a bit).
*Chris	Hyper, full of fun and determined, the 'leader of the pack'
*Annie	Quieter, but supportive (it is her husband who dies)
*Jessie	The eldest of the group, outspoken and 'bolshie'
*Celia	Posh, plays golf, holidays in the Maldives, but very 'game'.
*Ruth	Introvert; a determined mixer always rises to the challenge
Marie	Chairman of the W.I. self important; delusions of grandeur.
Brenda**	Comic cameo
Elaine	Dolly bird, make up artist, all mouth, no brain (1 scene)
John	Annie's husband, sympathetic, kind, good husband. Dies
Rod	Chris's husband, fed up with her commitment to the calendar
Lawrence	The photographer, a Hospital porter, more interested in the photographic composition than bare flesh, a comic cameo.
Liam	A go getting whiz kid producer, upwardly mobile and hasn't got a lot of time for 'ladies'. Another cameo role. (1 scene)
Lady Cravenshire**	Big hat, gracious, little to say

* These ladies will have to disrobe.

** These 2 parts can be done by the one actress if necessary.

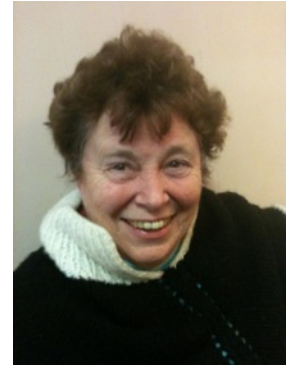
All the ladies, apart from Jessie and Elaine need, ideally, to be between 40/60 years. Jessie must be older 70 plus, and Elaine must be young, and glamorous.

The men's roles need to complement the the 2 wives regarding age. Liam, should ideally be young, Lawrence really any age, but must be able to do comedy.

Anybody interested, but unable to make the Auditions, please ring Wendy Lee Forrester on 0151 677 3100 as near the date as possible. Scripts will be available from Caroline Kay on 0151 647 1903 at the beginning of November.

Rehearsals will start **mid June** and the production will be at Heswall Hall from Sunday 9th/16th September 2012.

Chairman's Chat



AS Chairman I should like to thank all those who have contributed to the start of our 2011-2012 season. Our resources have been pushed to the limit, but everyone has been so willing, giving of their time and talents, that events such as 'Lady Windermere's Fan' and 'An Evening with Oscar Wilde' have been successful with many complimentary remarks coming from regular Riversiders, but even more impressively from people who previously knew little of the Society. Are we reaching out to new audiences?

You have all been magnificent and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Meanwhile may I wish those working on the next play in the season 'Deep Blue Sea' and on all future plays, happy hours of rehearsal and convivial company.

Ann

Wedding Bells!

Reluctant though they may be to let it be known, the editor's Beagle eye has spotted that congratulations are in order to John Sayers and Ann Lloyd who, in a quiet ceremony surrounded by a few close friends, recently married.

I am sure I speak for all Riversiders in sending love, best wishes and congratulations to the couple.



Riverside Christmas Greetings

Yes it's that time of year again! The carollers at the door, the Yule log in the grate and Katie Welshman exhorting us all to attend the Riverside Christmas Party (see below - Ed.). Therefore it will come as no surprise to you all that Brian Jones is also using his persuasive charms once again to encourage you all to send Christmas greetings to one another via the good offices of CentreStage and at the same time make a donation to a worthy cause.



This year's charity is Marie Curie Cancer Care so please send your donation by cheque (made out to Marie Curie Cancer Care) to Brian Jones, 8 Harrock Wood Close, Irby CH61 3XY by Wednesday 7th December 1st December with together with a short greeting which can be conveyed to all your Riverside friends in the December edition.

Don't donate too little or too late!

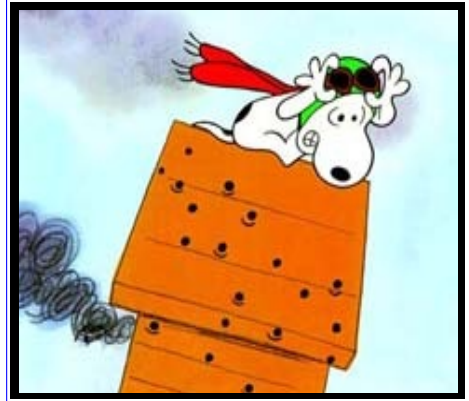
THE RIVERSIDE PLAYERS' YULETIDE CELEBRATIONS
SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER
 7.30 for 8PM
RICHMOND HALL
TICKETS £8

Includes a Superb Supper and Entertainment

Call Katie Welshman on 0151 632 4923 home
 Or 07591759610 mobile

VLADSTUDIO

Errata - mea maxima culpa



I'm not sure if it was Galileo Galilei or Antonie Van Leeuwenhoek who first developed the microscope but I am aware that Riversideers who continue to receive the newsletter by post needed such an instrument to read the tiny printed version they received last month. The problem lay with inattentive printers and I can only apologize to you for the result and say that you would not want to have been the manager of Prontaprint after Helen Ash finished with him. We have secured an alternative firm to print the newsletter in future and this problem will not reoccur - hopefully!

For those of you ostensibly receiving the newsletter by email, can you please check your spam filters? Alarming numbers of fully paid up members are still button-holing me to say you are not receiving the monthly email. Spam filters are very severe with emails sent from 'Webmasters' so please check. In the meantime, I am going to nail the next newsletter to the door of Richmond Hall in true Lutheran tradition. I hope Patrick Gee doesn't find out it was me!



Bringing Theatre to the People of Wirral

www.riversideplayers.org

The Riverside Players is a Registered Charity No. 514741



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Deadline for the next Edition:

Sunday 11th December 2011