



THE EMERALD ROOM

They Came to See the Wizard...

In honour of the 83 members and friend who came together to make *The Wizard of Oz* such a spectacular success, this edition of *The Green Room* has been gratefully and suitably (but temporarily) renamed...well done to everyone...and thank you to the eight hundred and seven who came and saw the show.



Photos by Jack Rogers

WADS CALENDAR

5th March

WADS Wednesday 8:30pm
The Grasshopper on the Green

18th March

WADS AGM 8:00pm
Westerham Hall

9th April

WADS Wednesday 8:30pm
The Grasshopper on the Green

7th May - 10th May

The Cherry Orchard
Westerham Hall

Chairman's Welcome

Welcome to the second edition of our Newsletter - and a belated Happy New Year!

First of all, may I add my thanks and congratulations to everyone involved in *Oz*. My only regret was that as I had a small part, I never got to see the show and judging by the compliments from so many of the audience, I know I missed something rather special.

Our next show in the spring - Marli Bailey's production of Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* - has just been cast following the best attended auditions for quite some time. The enthusiasm among our acting Members for the production bodes well.

Meanwhile, Tom and Ellie Stiles have started the preliminary work on our next Christmas production - *The Snow Queen*. Tom and the WADS Youth team is also working with the National Trust on a project for this autumn that will see our youngsters once again performing at Quebec House.

And, of course, 2014 will see the first Studio WADS events and our regular monthly social get-togethers - more on which inside.

An exciting year awaits us!

Best wishes,

Judy Duffield, Chairman

PS: Don't forget the AGM on March 18th - details further on!

Judy Duffield



The Cherry Orchard

Our Spring 2014 production is Anton Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* directed by Marli Bailey. We will be using Tom Stoppard's acclaimed 2009 Old Vic translation which keeps to the original setting but injects the language with fresh insights and brings out the comedy that Chekhov always insisted was integral to his play. In short Chekhov for a modern audience.

The play takes place at Madame Ranevskaya's ancestral home. She is returning home after five years living abroad. Everything appears just as she remembers but hers is a diminishing world. The extensive and beautiful cherry orchard is soon to be sold off to pay her mounting debts. The insistent warnings of Lopakhin, a peasant's son and now a wealthy business man, go unheeded. It soon transpires that more than the family estate is at risk. In the words of Trofimov, the eternal student, "the whole of Russia is our orchard".

Chekhov's final and best loved play is a poignant reminder of the slow-rolling change that came to a head with the Russian Revolution in 1917.

Performance dates: 7th - 10th May at Westerham Hall.

Join WADS' Costume & Wardrobe Team

For as long as any of us can remember, the WADS Costume Team has maintained an extraordinarily high standard and deservedly takes its share of the credit for the continuing popularity of our shows.

The secret is teamwork and camaraderie – costuming is labour intensive but many hands really do make light and enjoyable work. So, if you fancy sewing on the odd button or carrying out alterations; selecting costumes from our own extensive collection or from professional costumiers such as The Oast Theatre in Tonbridge; designing and making bespoke costumes, styling an entire show or simply lending a helping hand (someone has to help get the pantomime dame into his next frock), you will be warmly welcomed.



And don't worry if you're not ready for The Great British Sewing Bee – the more experienced Members will take you under their wing.

Interested? Please contact Judy Duffield on 01959 565178 - judy.duffield1@btinternet.com.

PS: WADS is absolutely an equal opportunity Society: the Costume Team welcomes everyone – men, women and young people of either variety!

WADS Wednesday

Following several comments that Monday was not the best day of the week for us to meet, we have moved our monthly get-together to Wednesday, the venue remains the same, The Grasshopper on the Green where Ann and Neal look forward to welcoming us. Nibbles will be served.

WADS Wednesdays are open to both Members and friends and their family as well. Its a perfect place to introduce possible new interested people as well as catch up with old friends in between shows. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Studio WADS

WADS has been approached by the **Town Partnership** with a view to being involved in the plans for Westerham's commemoration of the start of WW1, The Great War. This neatly dovetails with Studio WADS' planned performance of readings of selected First World War poetry and songs, as well as, of course, WADS Youth's planned collaboration with Quebec House in October which will centre on that period of the life of Quebec House when it was transformed into a bandage factory for the nearby Orpington Hospital that cared for casualties of the trenches. We will be announcing dates of future events in the next issue of **The Green Room**. If this has whetted your appetite to organise or even just suggest a Studio WADS performance, or get involved with one already in planning please contact Mark de Angeli (01732 866443 / deangeli@hotmail.co.uk).

Contacts

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WADS has a fascinating heritage and as we get ever closer to our 100th anniversary, we have asked our longest standing Members for their reminiscences of when they were first bitten by the WADS bug. We will be featuring these (in no particular order) in future editions of *The Green Room*. We start with Rosemary Pearson...

My First Production

Rosemary Pearson

My earliest memory of being on stage was when I was about 4 and played a chicken emerging from an egg, clad in a yellow fluffy suit. I've never quite got over it!

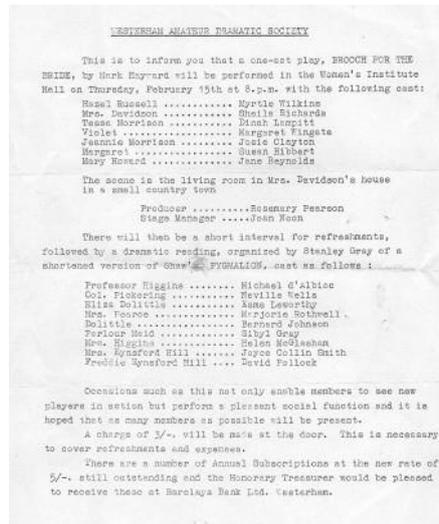
This led to my brother and I writing and acting in small plays during the school holidays. Our audience was our parents who were always most encouraging and on one occasion our father composed and performed a haunting tune for the violin to accompany our latest production – a ghost story.

When older, I joined The Strolling Players in London, quite a serious amateur society for whom I played a few small parts, now all forgotten.

In 1954 I came to Westerham and immediately joined WADS. The first involvement I can remember was as Producer (what we called Directors back then) of **Brooch for the Bride**, one of two one act plays. It was performed at the old WI Hall, our then venue. The programme stated:

"...occasions such as this not only enable members to see new plays in action but perform a pleasant social function. 3/- to cover refreshments and expenses."

I also produced **Isolation at Eyam**, a great little one act play for nine women. After that I did a very frivolous piece with Stanley Gray and Robert Field, a half-sung melodramatic farce that was performed after the AGM. It was



enormous fun, but Mary Quirke, a talented and formidable lady who was also our main producer, was heard to say:

"That the WADS should have come to this."

I enjoyed being in a number of productions between 1954 and 1996, but the three I remember most vividly are **The Crucible**, in which my husband Michael (Francis Nurse) and myself (Rebecca Nurse) were both put to death. Our youngest daughter, Miranda, burst into tears of relief at seeing us alive afterwards in the green room.

Another good memory has to be **Hedda Gabler** in 1974, a wonderful and serious play; I was the maid – I was often the maid. Finally, I have to mention the last play I was in and the last play we staged at the old hall: Noël Coward's **Waiting in the Wings** (1996). It was such a great cast – the play gave us ladies of a certain age so many wonderful characters to play.

Certainly, the WADS has enriched the lives of our members and, I hope, of our audiences for many years. I hope it long may it continue to do so and be the source of shared effort, creativity and the wonderful camaraderie we all treasure.

The AGM & WADS Committee

WADS is looked after by its Committee which is elected every year at the AGM. The Committee works on behalf of the Members to ensure the continuing prosperity of the Society. This involves discussing, planning and implementing the Society's activities including our two main productions as well as social and other events.

Any Society depends on new ideas from new people to maintain its momentum and therefore we are putting out the call for some fresh faces to join the Committee. You don't need to be a theatrical expert – enthusiasm and a belief that a thriving WADS is something well worth striving for is all that's required. With WADS Youth now such a strong and integral part of the Society, parents of WADS Youth members would be most welcome.

The work is not onerous - the Committee meets every six weeks or so and the workload is evenly spread. There are also two specific Committee positions that will shortly fall vacant...

Secretary and Minute Secretary

Both our Hon. Secretary and our Minute Secretary have announced that they must stand down at the AGM. To paraphrase dear old Oscar: "To lose one secretary may be regarded as a misfortune; to lose both looks like a predicament."

We split these two vital roles a few years ago to spread the load so that neither incumbent would be burdened with too much to do. So, please do get in touch if you feel that either of these positions would suit you.

If you are interested in joining the Committee in whatever capacity and/or would like to find out more, please contact Robin Sturmey, the



