

# Newsletter

# In Players In Players

February 2006

## Dates for your diary:

Fridays, 3rd, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17th and 24<sup>th</sup>, Workshops - Commedia dell'arte  
Wednesday 8th, Playreading, The Miser

## Congratulations!

T

Congratulations to everyone involved with **Jack and The Beanstalk!** Two wonderful runs, great performances all round, really funny script, beautiful costumes and set, lovely music and singing and some absolutely unforgettable moments!! I hope it was as enjoyable for you to take part in as it was for the rest of us to watch!



DORIEN~1.JPG

## A Virgin Treading the Boards

The last time I appeared on stage I was a female librarian who had to scream and tell the Head of Fiction that there was a dead body in the travel section. I was 13. Now I am a little older, but just as youthful, and was told by my best friend Edwin to go to audition for a panto last October as he was going for it as well. Sat in a room full of Inplayers was daunting, but fortunately I didn't have to do much, so I was amazed to get a phone call a few weeks later from the director giving me a 'big part'. (Wink Wink! - see how panto has affected me!)

The rehearsals started in November, and slowly I gained confidence (the directors had cast me because I have a beautiful voice, not knowing I can't act to save Rose from the Giant). As an actor, the best part has been the rehearsals, being directed in a relaxed, natural way that has made it so enjoyable; as a bloke, the best part has been meeting and drinking with the large cast over the past couple of months.

Even though I can't act, everyone has been really supportive (apart from Edwin who started a popularity contest amongst cast and crew about who they would sleep with - him or me - results to be published in the next newsletter!). Even with all the long hours and hard work that went into this production, we have all had a good laugh, especially the scenes with Branwen as a rubber glove fetishist, Anita flashing her ring, Dorien discovering she's a lesbian princess, Dan's obsession with ploughing vegetable plots, Ron admitting he likes licking soldiers, me being caught in the loo, pants down, with another cast's member, and being thoroughly grounded by Christine as a true thesp. Can I act after all these months? Well, several people have said to me, "You've never acted before, have you?", which I take to mean that they are amazed by my empathy and stage presence. Of course I would do it again, but I think I might be the back end of the cow next time, to allow others to shine in my place. Panto, OK!

Rupert Springfield



RIJ-ZA~1.JPG

*Our Next Production!*  
*Our next Playreading! Wednesday February 8th*

*Moliere's The Miser (L'Avare)*



*The Miser* is a five-act satirical comedy by French playwright Moliere.

The plot, involving a rich money-lender whose feisty children long to escape from his penny-pinching household and marry their respective lovers, is a comedy of manners to which the 17th-century French upper classes presumably objected. It is less savage, however, and somewhat less realistic than Moliere's earlier play, *Tartuffe*, which attracted a storm of criticism on its first performance.

The play is also notable for the way in which it sends up certain theatrical conventions. Many comedies from the Elizabethan period and onwards contain asides which are delivered by characters to the audience and which the other actors ignore. In *The Miser*, however, characters generally demand to know who exactly these asides are being delivered to!

The play's ending is also self-consciously ridiculous, mocking the pat endings of many comedies that end in sudden revelation and marriage. Fortunately this joke is preserved for modern audience of a certain age because the conclusion of the play is now rather reminiscent of the emotional climax of the *Star Wars* trilogy, namely that an unexpected character turns out to be everyone's father.....

***February Playreading***

Café Carels II

7.45pm, Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> February

Saenredamstraat 32, Amsterdam Oud Zuid.

(Situated between Hobbemakade and Ferdinand Bolstraat. Trams 16, 24 and 26 pass nearby. Look carefully on the map, as there is another café with the same name in Amsterdam.)

***Auditions for the play will take place in March. The play will be performed in May and also in June at The FEATS Festival in Luxembourg.***

**Returning this FRIDAY NIGHT!**

## **Commedia dell'arte Workshops**



**We are back. We are back  
The Commedia del' Act  
We are most rude and often lewd  
But never, never, never booed**

**Yes we are back for another six  
weeks of exploration into the world  
of Pierrot, Harlequin, Columbine .**

**The workshop is open to both old  
and new members. We shall have a  
short review of the characters already  
covered and then hitch that up to our  
*new way* of using that information.**

**Also we will immediately begin  
with our approach to  
the mysteries of the mask.**

***Now* is the time to start collecting those  
weird and wonderful newspaper clippings  
and observing the faces and actions around  
you of the descendants of the Commedia.**

**Wear comfortable clothing and be ready  
for work and fun!**

***Every Friday for six weeks starting February 3<sup>rd</sup>.***

***Spellerij Complex, Rozengracht 73, Doors Open 7.00pm  
Workshops Begin 7.30pm.***

Two-Day *Liquid Love* Workshop in March  
(hosted by Teresa Merilainen and Frank Ogilvie)

SUNDAY MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup> 2pm-5pm; MONDAY MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup> 7pm -10pm

*THE CREA THEATER, TURFDRAAGSTERPAAD 17, AMSTERDAM*

This unique two-day workshop will experiment with a piece of new writing, a work-(a play!)-in-progress, entitled *Liquid Love*, written by TM. Some of you might remember it from an InPlayers reading January 04.

In the workshop, I'd like us to explore selected scenes from the play - experimenting with how the dialogue comes to life or not, how specific desired atmospheres (futuristic, urban, chaotic) can be created, finding the intense phase or dynamics between the characters that I have imagined/intended to express in/with the play. I'd also love to see how with improvisation characters might still grow...

I'd like the participants to read/scan the play before the workshop although this is of course not obligatory. (*PLAY ENCLOSED AS AN ATTACHMENT TO 'EMAIL' MEMBERS*) I would also very much appreciate it if you emailed me before so I would get an idea how many actors are planning to turn up. It would help us to plan better and for me to send you additional material closer to the time. I am very much looking forward to playing with you.

[teresam@gmail.com](mailto:teresam@gmail.com)

*this two-day workshop, as with others, is free to in player members*

Also in March

Method Acting Workshops by Jon Jordan

Fridays 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> 31<sup>st</sup> March and 7<sup>th</sup> April

Speilerij Complex, Rozengracht 73, Doors Open 7.00pm  
Workshops Begin 7.30pm

Method Acting is an approach to acting conceived by Russian director Konstantin Stanislavski just over a century ago. Using this technique, actors "attempt to replicate the emotional conditions under which the characters operate in real life."

Over the last hundred years, the approach has been modified by teachers and actors, but the objective remains the same: to create real and authentic characters on stage.

During this four-evening seminar led by Jon Jordan you just might change the way you think about what it means to be an actor. By the end of the workshop, you will understand how you can include method acting techniques in your repertoire.

*(MORE INFO ON JON'S WORKSHOP WILL APPEAR IN NEXT MONTH'S NEWSLETTER)*

Congratulations  
to Victoria Pope and Nick Walker on the birth of  
Olivia Madeleine Walker.

Olivia was born on January 11th at 4.55pm  
(Central European time).

The birth went extremely well; in fact the time  
of 4 hours 20 minutes represents a new British  
and Commonwealth record as well of course being a  
personal best for Victoria.

The uncomplicated birth was largely down to the  
lovely the surroundings Victoria and Nick had  
prepared for the event. Olivia was born at home  
in a specially erected bath! The pool was huge,  
big enough, in my opinion, to have hosted a  
rather enjoyable In Player cocktail party but  
Victoria rather selfishly decided to keep the  
pool to herself.

Congratulations Victoria and Nick! And welcome,  
Olivia!



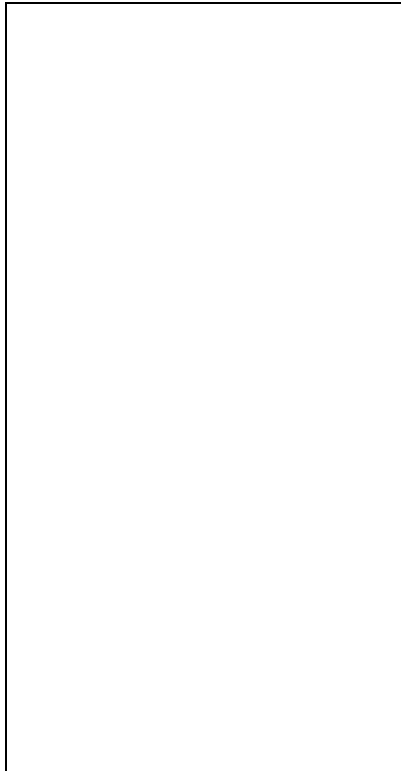
## Those Bloody Props!



It all started with the growth of a realistic bloody stump!

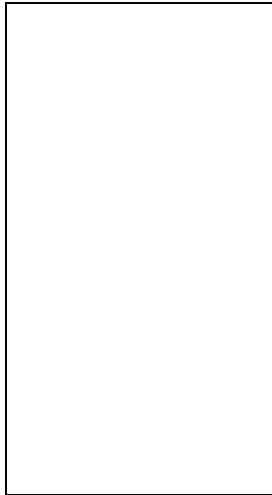
For those who saw the QETC's *Curse of the Werewolf* production will know that ghastly Frau Gessler (me) arrives on stage with only one feeler, the other having been bitten off and eaten by the werewolf. The big question was how to make that stump realistic, being on a mini budget for props, as usual. After many attempts with cardboard, paint and knives, and having lost at least a couple of pints in the process, I decided to plead defeat and buy a bottle of artificial blood.

Success! The stump looked horrifically realistic, almost ready for the butcher's slab. The artificial blood smelt and felt real and, after throwing up a couple of times. I felt ready to perform.



(continues.....)

But these things become addictive and having worked Frau Gessler up into a frenzy, I decided to gnaw away at the bloody bone, which at most performances did throw up a laugh or two. Pictures of bubbles of blood dripping from my mouth filled my wildest dreams but all I managed on stage was a few smears down the chin which looked as if I had licked my make-up off. Enter Karen, our super prop girl who had two blood capsules at home. "You just pop them in your mouth and they react with your saliva which will drip like real blood down your chin".



There were two performances to go. It was now or never!

#### Test 1

Where to hide the capsule so that I could retrieve it and pop it undetected into my mouth? Where does a gal hide this kind of things? Down ye cleavage, silly!

Two seconds before my 'blood' scene the capsule is in situ. The scene goes well. I approach and mount the podium and as the moon rises I collapse on top, thrashing about as the evil werewolf Gessler should - so much so that out pops the capsule from between the tits, rolls across the podium and despite desperate efforts, falls off the end.

#### Test 2

Last night! It just had to succeed. This time I tuck the capsule under the edge of the bandage which half covers the bloody stump.

Two seconds to go - Capsule in situ!

The scene goes well. The capsule remains hidden until the big moment. I tear the bandage with my teeth and get the capsule in my mouth. But where's my saliva? Vanished with an upsurge of nerves! My mouth is as dry as a bone.

"Dissolve, you bastard, I scream silently as I thrash and, at last it does. But without saliva I can't make it drip and, as I open my mouth expecting a huge laugh, the bloody mess evokes a cry of revulsion from the audience and a frozen gob-smacked stare from the cast!

## Polly



## Balloon Debate!



When I joined the InPlayers, back in 1978, one of the first things I got involved in was a Balloon Debate. It was so much fun, that I wondered, why we haven't done one of these since.

Here's the deal:

The suggestion is that a certain amount of people have to travel in a balloon. The problem, however, is, that there is one place less in the basket, than there are candidates for the trip. The available candidates will have to explain why they have to travel instead of the others.

The candidates can be cartoon characters, famous people (dead or alive), historical figures, you name it. Anything is possible!!

We can also forget about the classification of the characters, so we might end up with a very interesting mix of for example:

Napoleon, Donald Duck, Mohammed Ali, Frank Zappa, and George Bernard Shaw, to name but a few.

Considering, that we have only one evening (19.30 - 22.30), I would suggest having a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 8 characters to compete. An audience will have to decide which one of the candidates is going to be left behind and WHY!!!

Each candidate will have an equal amount of time to convince the audience.

Interested? Please let us know!!!

Luud Peters - 06 42515917

## Monologue Festival.

A couple of years ago we had the idea of putting on 5 monologues. Unfortunately, for practical reasons (in the end only one monologue remained) this plan fell through. I would like to put it on the agenda again.

Plan: 5 people choose a monologue and a director aiming at performances over a period of one 'slot'. (4 performances).

All 5 will NOT be performed on one evening, don't worry, but, for every evening, a different selection of 3 out of the 5.

The Committee will see to the theatre. Help in finding monologues and/or directors also available.

Anybody interested? Please let us know!!

Luud Peters - 06 42515917

## Play of the month.

Every month the ACA (Amsterdam's Centrum voor Amateurtoneel) elects a 'play of the month' out of all the amateur theatre performances in Amsterdam. For the month of January they picked our 'Jack',

This means that we have been watched by members of the group having had the honour of producing last month's edition of 'play of the month'. Their review will be published in the next ACA-newsletter. As soon as it has been, we will of course make this a special feature in (probably) our next newsletter.

It also means that members of the InPlayers will have to review the performance of a fellow-amateur theatre group, to be elected the next 'play of the month' by the ACA. Obviously the ACA will let us know which performance that will be.

We will have to pay for our own tickets, though.

Anybody interested to be part in the above, please let us know!

Luud Peters - 06 42515917

## Henry Botha

We have received best wishes for the New Year from Henry Botha from South Africa. Apparently he cannot leave the theatre alone. He sent us a programme of the show he was involved in in December 2005.

And the show was (drumroll.....): 'JACK AND THE BEANSTALK'!!!

He played the part of Simple Simon.

Apart from the programme he also sent a separate card with the following text:

*Dear InPlayers,  
With all good wishes for the Festive Season and the coming year.  
Good luck with Jack and his Big stalk! Hoge Hoop and love,  
Henry + Stoffer.*

I'm sure I speak for everyone that knows Henry and Stoffer when I say how good it is to hear from them!!

Anybody interested in contacting them, here's the address:

Henry Botha  
P.O. Box 2995  
5205 East London  
South Africa.

Luud Peters

## OPEN MIKE NIGHT

The ABC Treehouse on Voetboogstraat has a regular open mike night for singers, poets, musicians etc - if you would like to perform or attend please contact [curatorsclub@abc.nl](mailto:curatorsclub@abc.nl) or 020 - 5352573. Apparently anyone can perform but you do need to arrange with them beforehand. They are scheduled for the last Friday of every month, the next date being **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February**. The price is 4.50 euros incl. one drink. More info <http://www.treehouse.abc.nl/> Everybody welcome regardless of previous experience.

## NEW DATES FOR THE OPEN STANZA,

SUGAR FACTORY, LIJBANSGRAACHT 238, 7PM, SUNDAY 5TH FEBRUARY, 9PM (DOORS OPEN 8PM)

Wordsinhere have set a new date for their Open Stanza evenings, now every first Sunday of the month. The Open Stanza offers you the chance to either read your poetry or see others perform theirs. It generally consists of 4 invited poets and a musician. NB this is not an open mike!

If you would like to perform at an Open Stanza event, email [theopenstanza@wordsinhere.com](mailto:theopenstanza@wordsinhere.com)  
For more info, visit <http://www.wordsinhere.com>

## Would You Like To Write Something For the Next Newsletter?

If you would like to contribute something for the newsletter, be it news, views or something confused, please post your displeasures to Mike Williams at [mwilliams@xs4all.nl](mailto:mwilliams@xs4all.nl) or Westerdoksdijk 41a, 1013 AD Amsterdam

### In Players Committee

Luud Peters - 06-42515917 *Chairperson, Treasurer*

Ken Kitchen - 030-2947654 *Secretary*

Nathalie Koch [natalie.koch@planet.nl](mailto:natalie.koch@planet.nl) 0299 65 69 25 *Membership, Database*

Mike Williams, [mwilliams@xs4all.nl](mailto:mwilliams@xs4all.nl) 020 - 6230665 *Co-treasurer, Playreadings, Newsletter*

Johan Muller, [johanmuller\\_nl@yahoo.com](mailto:johanmuller_nl@yahoo.com)

### Address:

In Players International Drama Group,

Postbus 11437

1001 GK Amsterdam

<http://www.inplayers.org/home.html>

