

Newsletter

In Players In Players

March 2005

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 15th

Tuesday 29th

Wednesday 30th

Workshop (Marnie)

Workshop (Polly)

Play-reading

Corrections and Clarifications

In February's newsletter we incorrectly stated that the forthcoming *Merry Wives of Windsor* production will take place from June 19th and 22nd. In actual fact the play will be staged from May 19th to 22nd. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused

Dear All

We're happy to announce the first in a series of workshops at The Spielerij, beginning on March 15th. This will be hosted by Marnie Neve who has a background in both yoga and theatre. In two workshops (the second in May) you will learn how yoga exercises and yogic breathing can be helpful in preparing for rehearsal and performance. Marnie has agreed to do these two workshops free of charge for In Players members and I fully recommend them. Meanwhile, on the 29th, Polly Perkins holds the first of two *Duologues* workshops.

Please see inside for the full programme.

Also this month, news of an exciting new production by In Players member Daniel Cohen. *Zwart Bloed* (Dark Blood) is an original musical play, described by Daniel as a homage to sixties psycho-thrillers like *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane*.

The Merry Wives of Windsor

We've just had our first musical rehearsal, which turned out to be extremely enjoyable, partly because Frank had the foresight to bring along his banjo. As we twanged along I felt as though we were beginning to turn into two bearded middle-aged folksters but as I looked at Frank and then he at me I realised that this had been the case all along.



Also present at the rehearsal was Johan, who joined us straight from his choir practice. The production is being written and developed as we go along - we now have fourteen musical numbers so it was nice that Johan was able to come up with some excellent vocal ideas for the closing song.

Also this past month we have welcomed on board Bobbie Grimwood. Bobbie has had quite a bit of experience working as a stage manager and production manager in Sydney and we are very glad that she has joined the production team for *Merry Wives*.

March Play Reading

What The Butler Saw by Joe Orton

Thanks once again to Leslie Hirons for hosting last month's playreading of Oscar Wilde's *Lord Arthur Saville's Crime* as adapted by Constance Cox. Once again it was nice to see so many people, all of whom seemed to enjoy what is a very funny and delightful play.

It is with some logic that we proceed to our next playreading because Joe Orton (1933 - 1967) has often been compared to Wilde. Not only did he possess the same acerbic wit, he also suffered a similarly tragic life. His death, at the hands of a jealous lover, preceded the staging of his final play, *What The Butler Saw*, a comedy considered to be the equal of Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Here is a brief synopsis:

The chase is on in this breakneck comedy of licensed insanity, from the moment when Dr Prentice, a psychoanalyst interviewing a prospective secretary, instructs her to undress. The plot of *What the Butler Saw* contains enough twists and turns, mishaps and changes of fortune, coincidences and lunatic logic to furnish three or four conventional comedies. But however the six characters in search of a plot lose the thread of the action - their wits or their clothes - their verbal self-possession never deserts them.



"Joe Orton's last play, *What the Butler Saw*, will live to be accepted as a comedy classic of English literature" (Sunday Telegraph)

7.30pm, Wednesday March 30th
Saenredamstraat 32, Amsterdam Oud Zuid.

(Situated between Hobbemankade 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.)

In Players Workshops March – May 2005

March 15th

Yoga and Performance

Marnie Neve MA, RYT

In *Yoga and Performance* you will learn ancient yoga principles to facilitate spontaneity, ease of movement and optimum creativity in your craft as a performer. The first of two workshops aimed at integrating breathwork for voice control and awareness, developing warm up / relaxation techniques, and developing concentration and creativity. Marnie holds a degree in Drama and is a member of The International Society of Yoga Therapists.

March 29th

Duologues Part 1

Polly Perkins

Your chance to explore characterisation using specially selected duologues. Polly has directed two plays with the In Players, one of which she took to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Polly has asked those interested to email her in advance so she has an idea of numbers and male/female ratio pperkins@xs4all.nl

April 12th

Duologues Part 2

Polly Perkins

In the second part of *Duologues* you will be encouraged to improvise, write and perform your own short duologue.

May 10th

Yoga and Performance

Marnie Neve MA, RYT

Second part of above.

Prices: FREE for In Player members

5 euro per workshop for non-members (to cover the cost of rental space).

Time / Location: Each workshop is staged at The Speilerij at 7.30pm. Please arrive promptly.

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The Open Stanza



If you are interested in watching or performing English poetry, there is The Open Stanza. The Open Stanza generally consists of 4 invited poets and a musician. NB this is not an open mike! The next Open Stanza date is on 17th March and is set to continue on the third Thursday in every month.

Open Stanza Info: www.wordsinhere.com

Submissions to openstanza@wordsinhere.com or contact Jeremy Keighley (020-770 4984)

Playing in March.....

ZWART BLOED

Een muzikale thriller

Muziek: Frans Heemskerck

Script & liedteksten: Daniël Cohen

Choreografie: Suzanne Heijne

Spel: Sabine Beens & Sabine Dekker

Regie: Daniël Cohen

Piano: Frans Heemskerck

ZWART BLOED is een muzikale psycho-thriller met humor en suspense, een hommage aan zulke beroemde Hollywoodgriezelfilms als "What ever happened to Baby Jane", waarin beroemde sterren op retour (zoals Bette Davis en Joan Crawford) elkaar het leven zuur maakten.

Vera en Simone zijn tweelingzusters. Ooit waren zij kindsterretjes bij de Nederlandse Revue, maar hun carrière is in het slop geraakt. Na de mysterieuze verdwijning van haar echtgenoot heeft Vera vijf jaar in een inrichting doorgebracht. Nu, in 1965, keert zij terug met haar zuster naar het oude revuetheater van hun vader voor een nieuwe start. Maar duistere geheimen uit het verleden steken weer de kop op, met als gevolg een wervelwind van waanzin, moord en goena-goena. Wat is de vloek van Zwart Bloed?

ZWART BLOED is een nieuwe, originele Nederlandse musical speciaal geschreven voor de actrices Sabine Beens en Sabine Dekker, die in 2003 afstudeerden aan de Frank Sanders Akademie voor Musicaltheater.

ZWART BLOED is te zien van 2 maart tot en met 21 april, iedere woensdag en donderdag om 20.30 in Het Perron, Egelantiersstraat 130 in Amsterdam.

Kaarten à € 12,50 zijn te reserveren via telefoonnummer 020 330 70 35 of via info@hetperron.nl

Many of you will know Daniel from some of the wonderful plays he has staged with The In Players such as *Faustus* and *Death of A Salesman*. Recently he directed *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* for *Carnival Productions* and *Assassins* at Amsterdam Parade.

English Casting seeks Native English Speaking Actors/ Performers

Tel: (020) 4270301 / (023) 5577989

Send CV and Photo to info@englishcasting.com

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 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 25th March**. The price is 4.50 euros incl one drink. More info <http://www.treehouse.abc.nl/> Everybody welcome regardless of previous experience.

Restaurant Watch - *Burger King, Nieuwendijk 218, Amsterdam*

 *Restaurant Watch* is a new feature to the newsletter in which we look at the best places to eat in and around Amsterdam.

Burger King is a lively cosmopolitan restaurant situated in a cosy corner of the Nieuwendijk. It has an interesting menu consisting mostly of traditional American fayre as well as some British and Dutch specialities.

For our main meal I went for their current speciality, the Tendercrisp Bacon Cheddar Range and I have to say that the combination of cheddar paved streets and tumbleweeds of bacon was not a disappointment. My companion, who has since been admitted to hospital, went for The Angus Steak Burger, only to complain about a nasty film on the roof of her mouth. Happily though, she felt much better after she had washed her mouth out with a Strawberry Shake and spent a short time in the rest room.

But not only does Burger King have great food, it also has great service. Unlike many restaurants what I have frequented, you don't have to sit waiting at a table for your food to arrive. Instead you can go right up to the counter and order whatever you like from one of their very friendly members of staff, each of whom wears fancy dress.

All in all, an evening not to forget especially for my friend who died on Thursday.

What I Hate About The Dutch

In another new feature to the newsletter you get the chance to tell us what it is about the Dutch that gets right up your nose.

This month Martin Gripes tells us why he hates it when it rains...

"I hate it when it rains in Holland because you can always guarantee you'll get a at least one Dutchie who'll come up to you and say something like "Oh, I see, you've brought your British weather with you!" It's ridiculous! If anything, it rains even more here than it does in England otherwise they wouldn't go round wearing those horrible plastic trousers."

Thanks for that Martin but if you come from the north or west of England you may have to tolerate the Dutch - even if they do get on your nerves. Average annual rainfall in places such as The Lake District or The Pennines is more than twice that of The Netherlands. However, if you come from London or Essex you can tell your ignorant cloggie to shut his cake-hole because where you come from boasts less rain than Rome, Sydney or New York! And Amsterdam!

Next month Polly Perkins tells us why she hates Dutch voices.

Movie Crossword No. 1 - Answers

Across

1. On the waterfront
8. Long Good Friday
10. Time
11. Dr No
13. Rope
15. Conan
16. Tigger
17. Can
18. Anger
20. Max
22. Saved
23. Biscuit
26. Roman Polanski

Down

1. Orlando
2. High Noon
3. Wood
4. Today
5. Rare Footage
6. Rod Steiger
7. Nay
9. Peter Coyote
12. Tin Drum
14. Anna
17. Closer
19. Omega
21. Judi
24. Ian
25. Up

Would you like to submit something for the next newsletter?

If you would like me to include an item in the next newsletter please contact me by March 31st. I would be particularly interested in hearing about anything that has caused you to dwell on the past.

In Players Committee

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