

Newsletter

In Players In Players

October 2005

Dates for your diary:

Friday 7th

Fridays 14th, 21st, 28th

Wednesday 26th

Auditions: Jack and the Beanstalk

Workshops: Commedia dell'arte

Playreading: The Birthday Party

Hello All

Thanks to Jon Jordan for providing us with two very nice readings, not to mention an improptu workshop! And thanks also to the staff at Molly Malones for their hospitality during our Opening Season Party. It has been great to see so many people at all these events as we now begin to look forward to our first production of the season and the first of our regular Friday evening workshops.

Membership

Please don't forget to pay your membership fees. We have already begun circulating accept giros at our various events but if you don't have one and would like to begin or renew your membership you can send an accept giro to:

Postbank girokenning	3633494
Ten name van	In Players International Drama Group
Adres	Postbus 11437
Postcode en Plaats	1001 GK Amsterdam

- Please send **40 EUROS** for an individual membership
- Please pay **70 EUROS** for a family membership (the total payment for two or more people in the one household).

Your membership payment not only goes towards the cost of staging plays but also means we can continue to provide a programme of playreadings and workshops.

Bye Henry

This month we say goodbye to Henry Botha, who left Amsterdam in the summer to live in South Africa. Henry served on the committee as chairperson, played in many different productions throughout his years with us and even won the prize for best actor at FEATS. Here, fellow member, Polly Perkins pays her own special tribute: "Henry was the best COCKtail maker ever and he knew how to get old women drunk." Bye Henry and all the best.

Jack and The Beanstalk: The Pantomime



January 11th to 15th, Pleintheater
January 25th to 28th. Ostadetheater,

The InPlayers panto is not only one of the most enjoyable productions to be involved in (partly due to the fantastic scripts of resident writers, Peter and Stuart) but it also offers the chance for the whole group to come together and make a contribution either by **auditioning** for one of the many roles or by getting involved **backstage**. Or even, as Stuart suggests, you may wish to *combine* a small acting role with helping backstage.

I'm looking forward to helping with **the set**, as is Polly. Maybe you'd like to join us. Previously this has involved a group of us meeting up, sharing out the paintbrushes and then getting on with the job at hand (sort of painting by numbers).

Then again, perhaps you might like to help with the **costumes**, which is always a lot of fun with a panto or maybe you'd be interested in assisting with **sound** or **lights**. It is usually the role of **the Stage Manager** to co-ordinate these roles as well as work alongside the directors. I spoke about this with Stuart at the Opening Season Party and he thought it might be useful for the group if this position was *combined* with an **Assistant Director** role. Stuart, who has many years experience, said he would be happy to teach an assistant the fundamentals of directing, or at least as much as knows anyway. Perhaps you could talk to him and see what he's got in mind.

For a full breakdown of what's needed, as well as Stuart and Peter's contact details, please refer to the 'call for backstage help' document that Stuart emailed earlier this week and which I have included again further on in this newsletter along with the 'audition notice'.

Some of you have already responded and I'd like to especially thank Kay for her help.

Auditions

Auditions will take place at the **Spielerij, Rozengracht 73**, on the evening of **Friday October 7th**.

PLEASE NOTE: You need to phone / email in advance to book as there are two different time possibilities (see audition notice further on).

Commedia dell'arte Workshops



A travelling troupe of players, we. A thing of rags and patches. Look out here comes the Commedia dell' Arte gang. Ever wonder where Harlequin with his black face and tights of brightly coloured diamond shapes came from? Well, Italy of course! And Columbine? And Pierrot with his very white face and tiny tear running forever and ever down his cheek? Well, to begin at the beginning, which is over 500 years ago and down to the present day is quite a chunk of history.

The Workshop will use many different techniques and exercises to ease us into the proper shape to learn how to understand and create and improvise and play the characters created so long ago. Getting the basics under our belt will give us the ability to create our own modern Harlequins and Columbines. The more things change, the more they stay the same! We will explore the masks and (God willing) make our own masks. Commedia dell' Arte can be one person with their monologue or a company of 15 zanies jumping around.

It is not required but it is advised to call up on line Commedia dell' Carte, a company which puts out a character analysis, complete with drawings of the characters that they use in their travelling Carte Company. If you can download and print this for yourself, all the better. If you are really serious, "An Actors Handbook!" by John Rudlin can be obtained at the Theatre Bookshop on the Leidsplein. The Central Library has 8 different books on aspects of Commedia and the Theatre Museum also has 8 different books dealing with various viewpoints. There are endless "on line" descriptions of the subject beside the dell' Carte one. So it is easy to get some background and be prepared for the fun and games we intend to play on this voyage into the heart of Commedia dell' Arte.

Svarupa's Commedia dell'arte workshops are at the **Spielerij, Rozengracht 73** at **7pm** on the following **Fridays**:

October

14th

21st

28th

November

4th

11th

18th

Workshops are FREE to In Player members and for prospective members 'trying-out' for the first time. Otherwise the cost is 5 euro per workshop.

Hello,

We're busy finishing writing a pantomime: *Jack and the Beanstalk* which the InPlayers will be putting on from January 11th to 15th in the Pleintheater and in the Ostadetheater from the 25th to 28th January.

We hope to hold auditions in early October and then start rehearsing. Before the rehearsal period begins, we would like have as much of the 'backstage' aspects settled as possible. Please take some time to read this email and see if anything appeals to you. If you have any ideas or suggestions to help, please contact us.

1. **Rehearsal space:** this is one of the most costly ongoing parts of any budget and the InPlayers could save a lot of money to be put into other aspects of the production or other productions if this can be reduced. Does anyone have / know of a space which we could have for free or at a low cost? Any ideas welcome.
2. Some backstage roles need to be filled. If you are interested in any of the roles below, please contact us. By putting your name forward, you will be joining a team and will be an integral and valued part of the production. That's not just PR speak, it's true.
 - a. **Props:** this would include making / finding some props used onstage. Some will be oversized, as befits a giant and the directors' expectations and egos.
 - b. **Music:** Can you play or do you know someone who would like to join a small group for the performance dates?
 - c. **Costumes:** Unless we do a nudist version, the cast is large and will need dressing. Good costumes really make a panto go well. If you're interested in helping with costumes you will be very welcome, we need quite a few people.
 - d. **Stage Management:** The stage manager organises the cast and relationships with the theatres. The best stage managers are simply good organisers. They are very close to the action and attend many of the rehearsals.
 - e. **Set:** If anyone is interested in set design, we'd like to hear from them. We imagine that the set will be designed and then made in the couple of weeks (i.e. weekends) leading up to the first performances. At that time we will need quite a lot of people and a place to make it. Anyone know of a garage / workplace / cellar etc free for a couple of weekends in January?
 - f. **Sound / Lights:** there will be sound effects and lighting effects to work out beforehand, but most of this work will be done in the period of intense technical work before the performances and during them.
 - g. **Sponsors:** do you see yourself as someone who can persuade businesses to advertise in the programme or donate and be included on the poster? Then we'd love to hear from you.

There are many roles available in *Jack* and it will be possible sometimes to combine a backstage role as well as an acting role (costumes and props for example).

Please think about the above and get back to us:

Peter
020 4000105
06 10 16 43 61
peterandirene@wxs.nl

Stuart
020 6120579
06 11 38 40 41
stuart43@xs4all.nl

AUDITIONS

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK: THE PANTOMIME

Pantomime is an old British tradition of musical comedy and has nothing to do with Frenchmen in hooped jumpers and white makeup imagining a wall in front of them.

If you're a woman and have ever harboured a desire to dress as a man, or if you are a man have ever fancied exploring that cross dressing of side of yourself, then pantomime is for you. As for those who see themselves as the back end of the panto cow (Milky Whey), all we can say is – go for it.

There are many roles in a panto, and there are many parts which do not involve cross dressing – if you fancy a less conspicuous part, then you could be part of the chorus which would involve less rehearsal time and yet give you the chance to appear on stage. Whatever part you play, the whole experience of being in a panto is great fun and very rewarding.

Jack and the Beanstalk will be performed from January **11th to 15th** in the Pleintheater and in the Ostadetheater from the **25th to 28th January, 2006**.

Auditions for the panto will be held on Friday, 7th October at the Spielerij, Rozengracht 73. There will be two sessions: early, from 19:30 – 21:00 and a second session from 21:00-22:30. We imagine auditions in small groups involving some reading of the text and some improvisation. Email (both addresses below please and include your telephone number) stating a preference for the first or second session. If one session is full, we may ring you back and ask you to come for the other. Please note the slip below to bring to the audition. For those who cannot make it, we could organise a separate time, email the address or ring the numbers below.

Stuart
020 6120579
06 11 38 40 41
stuart43@xs4all.nl

Peter
020 4000105
06 10 16 43 61
peterandirene@wxs.nl

Please take time to fill in the table below and bring it to the audition. Obviously, you will not know every day you are unavailable between now and January, but you will know some and that really helps to make a rehearsal schedule.

Name: _____ Tel. No. _____
Email: _____ Mobile _____

Fixed days in the week I am unavailable	Days / holidays I will be unavailable



October Playreading

The Birthday Party by Harold Pinter

This month Jeremy Keighley will be hosting a reading of Harold Pinter's *The Birthday Party*. The author needs little introduction, being widely regarded as one of the best and most distinctive playwrights of recent times. Recently though, he decided to finish with playwriting and instead devote his energies to poetry. He has also been active politically especially in his opposition to the war in Iraq.

The Birthday Party is the second of his plays (following *The Room*), his first full length play and was the first to be produced commercially, premiering at The Arts Centre in Cambridge in 1958. When it opened in London at The Lyric in Hammersmith it only played for a week following dreadful reviews, the exception being Harold Hobson of *The Sunday Times* who described Pinter as "the most arresting and disturbing talent in London....."

Synopsis *Stanley Webber is the only lodger in Meg and Petey Boles' seaside boarding house. One morning, while Meg and Stanley are bantering over breakfast, she mentions that two visitors are coming to stay for the night. Stanley immediately grows apprehensive, sensing imminent danger. His fears are confirmed when Goldberg and his partner McCann arrive. Meg announces that it's Stanley's birthday, and even though Stanley insists it is not, Goldberg demands a celebration. After a few glasses of whiskey and a game of blindman's bluff, Stanley's birthday party turns into a nightmare. Goldberg and McCann drag Stanley off to an upstairs room, and by morning they've rendered him a mute.*

Café Carels II
7.30pm, Wednesday, 26th October
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.)

Elsewhere in October.....

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 28th October**. The price is 4.50 euros incl one drink. More info <http://www.treehouse.abc.nl/> Everybody welcome regardless of previous experience or talent.

THE OPEN STANZA,

SUGAR FACTORY, LIJBANSGRAACHT 238, 7PM, SUNDAY 16TH OCTOBER, 9PM

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

THEATRE GROUP TREZOR: THE CRUCIBLE - READING / FUND RAISER

Between November 1st and 6th, Theatre Group Treezor will be presenting Arthur Miller's The Crucible at The Sugar Factory.

Prior to that, and in order to raise funds for the show, they will be reading selected scenes from the play, after which they will be inviting the audience to make donations towards their cause. I expect it'll rather be like being at church.

THE CRUCIBLE SNEAK PEAK FUNDRAISER, SUNDAY OCTOBER 16TH, 5PM, ABC TREEHOUSE, VOETBOOGSTRAAT 11, AMSTERDAM (www.abc.nl)

The In Players in November.....

New In Players member Elham Khalil will be sharing her work with us at The In Players playreading.

Paul Jones will begin a series of workshops exploring characterisation as well as addressing some of the practical considerations of the working actor.

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 lavatory blues, please send your stools to Mike Williams at mwilliams@xs4all.nl or Westerdoksdijk 41a, 1013 AD Amsterdam

In Players Committee

Lud Peters - 06-42515917 *Chairperson, Treasurer*

Ken Kitchen - 030-2947654 *Secretary*

Nathalie Koch natalie.koch@planet.nl 0299 65 69 25 *Membership, Database*

Mike Williams, mwilliams@xs4all.nl 020 - 6230665 *Co-treasurer,*

Playreadings, Newsletter

Johan Muller, johanmuller_nl@yahoo.com

Address:

In Players International Drama Group,

Postbus 11437

1001 GK Amsterdam

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

