

# Newsletter

# In Players In Players

September 2004

## In Player agenda:

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September

Opening Season Party

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September

Play Reading

Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> September

"Merry Wives" Workshop

Hello All,

Hope you've had a wonderful summer and are ready for another great year of excretion with the In Players. The fun begins at the **opening season party** on 18<sup>th</sup> September, continues on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with our first **play reading** and reaches a climax on the 24<sup>th</sup> with the first in a series of **workshops** on the Merry Wives of Windsor.

### Also, in this newsletter:

- Which In Player has made a film in China about to be premiered in Amsterdam?
  - Which In Players are about to play in a no-holds barred production of *Bedroom Farce*?
- AND.....
- What do you call a goat at sea?
  - Billy Ocean.

But first of all .....

## The In Players Opening Season Party

In what has been a busy Summer behind the scenes I can announce that discussions have taken place to put up decorations at this year's Opening Season Party. However, *please note*: this matter remains at the discussion stage and awaits confirmation. - don't arrive disappointed.

I'm hoping that the pub quiz will still go ahead as planned despite the sad fact that one or two of the answers have gone missing. I'm not expecting anything suspicious at the moment although I have prepared a new set of questions just in case!

Meanwhile, negotiations are still underway regarding a spread and here I don't expect any unwelcome complications. It will be great to see you all again. Don't forget to pay for your drinks.

Details: Café Carels II, Saenredamstraat 32, Saturday September 18<sup>th</sup>, 8pm (pub quiz at 9pm).

PS The bingo has been cancelled due to a lack of numbers.

## Play reading - *My Mother Said I Never Should* by Charlotte Keatley

Charlotte Keatley's first mainstage play, *My Mother Said I Never Should* was premiered in 1987 at The Contact Theatre, Manchester and in 1989 at London's Royal Court. It has been translated into twelve languages and is performed across the world. The play moves back and forth through the lives of four women, and sets the enormous social changes of the previous century against the desire to love and be loved.

It is a very interestingly devised play and this is what Charlotte has said about her approach:

*'The rhythms and pace of the play are created by the structure, not the plot. I think of playwriting as close to music, and three acts, like three movements in a symphony, provide three overall approaches to the same themes'*

Whilst this is a female only play, as Charlotte says, its themes are universal:

*'From reading classics I understood that plays are metaphors; so I didn't write a play about four women to be read as for and about women. I saw the mother-daughter relationships as a lens through which to look at huge themes which concern all people'*

Come and join us for what should be a lovely playreading. It takes place on **Wednesday 22nd September at 19.30 (starting at 20.00)** at Café Carels II, Saenredamstraat 32 in Amsterdam Oud Zuid.

Carels Café II is 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.



Is there a play you would like to hear read? If so, contact Mike Williams

[mjw41a@hotmail.com](mailto:mjw41a@hotmail.com) (020) 623 0665

In general we arrange the place to be and the practical things around the play reading, the only thing you as a participant need to do is participate and pay for your own drinks in the bar.

## *The Merry Wives of Windsor Workshops*

Since the last newsletter Svarupa has continued with her preparations for The Merry Wives of Windsor workshops. A part of this has been adapting some of the script to music. The workshops promise to be a lot of fun and it will be great to be back at the Speilerij on Friday evenings.

For those of you planning to come along, please try and get hold of a copy of the play and read it beforehand - this will save us so much time during the workshops and mean that we can get down to enjoying it as soon as possible. Also, as Svarupa has begun work on adapting/cutting some sections of the play, please don't forget to bring a pencil and some paper!

See you there!

***Details Friday September 24th at 7.30pm (starting at 8pm) at The Speilerij, Rozengracht 73 FREE to In Players members; 2 euros for non-members***

## ***THIS WEEK! Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> - Going to Changma***

I got an interesting email from Louis Spoelstra recently, telling me that he had been to China and made a film! It seems very interesting - about the personal experiences of different people during the various cultural changes that have taken place. If you wish to see the film you can contact Louis who may have a few free tickets to give away on a first-come first-served basis. Full details below. It also features another In Player, Stuart Idell, who has narrated the film.

### **GOING TO CHANGMA 60 minutes DVcam - Pal 16:9 2004**

Production      Aiyon Peverelli  
Direction        Louis Spoelstra  
Narration        Stuart Idell  
Produced by     Carthago Media & Art tel: 035 6935787

*'All China seems to have fallen under the spell of the greatest leap forward ever in history. In cities like Shang Hai and Beijing times are changing as fast as they can. However, have these changes reached the farthest corners of this immense country? A Chinese woman was sent to the remote and primitive village of Changma in the Gobi dessert during the Cultural revolution. Now, 25 years later, she wants to go back to see if the new Great Leap Forward has affected their lives as well.*

*So we catch a train for two days traveling towards the end of the Great Wall. And from there for one day more through the dessert. We're going to Changma!'*

#### text fragments:

I was born in Beijing during a period in which China was completely isolated from world history. The Great Wall, two thousand years old, meant to ward off foreign invaders, had never had a more symbolic meaning. Nobody could enter the country, but neither could anyone leave. Until times changed.

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One year before I should have entered middle school, The Cultural Revolution broke out. Our school was looked upon as the 'breeding ground of capitalist sprouts', it should be closed immediately. After staying at home for 2 years, I was told to go to a middle school. Study was not encouraged. Most important was your political attitude. One and a half years later my parents were sent to the countryside for re-education, 2000 kilometers away from Beijing. That year I was 15.

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After Mao proclaimed that 'the Ministry of Health had only been working for 15% of the Chinese population, the focal point of the health services and medicine should be in the countryside. Medical teams had been sent to the most remote poverty areas. I became a member of the 9th one in '76.

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The team of 50 people traveled in a separate carriage that was coupled to the train For three days the steam engine spat out black smoke, panted through plain and hills before reaching the vastness of the Gobi dessert. Destitute desolation was my first impression of Gansu.

Aiyon

***Details Rialto, Centuurbaan 338, 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2200hs (one performance only)***  
***Louis: 035 693578722***

## The Queen's English Theatre Company presents *Bedroom Farce* by Alan Ayckbourn

Prior to their December performances at the Crea (details to come in an upcoming newsletter) The Queen's English Theatre Company are staging two 'try-outs' of their interpretation of the popular Alan Ayckbourn play, *Bedroom Farce*. From what I have heard, rehearsals have been going very well and I have just seen their flyer which looks absolutely fantastic. Playing in the shows will be In Players **Annika Groeneveld** and **Polly Perkins**. The September shows are at 8.30pm on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at the COC and are priced at 6 euros. Tickets can either be booked via the theatre - 020 626 3087 or through the QETC's website - [www.qetc.nl](http://www.qetc.nl) Nudity. Birds as well apparently.



### 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 dates are 9 September & 14 October.

Open Stanza Info: [www.wordsinhere.com](http://www.wordsinhere.com)

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

### Open Mike Night

The ABC Treehouse on Voetboogstraat has a regular open mike night for singers, poets, musicians' etc which is generally on the last Friday of the month - 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 so presumably the next date is Friday 24<sup>th</sup>. The price is 4.50 euros incl one drink. "No entry fee for performers but beverages are your own responsibility". It's a little bit difficult to know which is the better deal! But anyway, more info <http://www.treehouse.abc.nl/>

### Workshop Commedia Dell'Arte

On the 8th, 9th and 10th of October 2004, Barry Grantham (performer, director and teacher of Commedia from London) is coming to Amsterdam to give a workshop. The course is open to everybody regardless of previous experience. It takes place in the Crea studio and costs 175/165 euros.

This info comes from In Player Janet Cratchley who says "I can thoroughly recommend the course; I took part in 2001 and found it so interesting and enjoyable that I went to his summer school in Oxford the next year."

**Contact Evelien Juten 020 4711977, [e.juten@hccnet.nl](mailto:e.juten@hccnet.nl).**

*There are only 20 places so don't hang around!*



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Send C.V, Photo to [info@englishcasting.com](mailto:info@englishcasting.com)

### Deadline for Next Newsletter

If you would like me to include an item in the next newsletter please contact me by September 30th. [mjw41a@hotmail.com](mailto:mjw41a@hotmail.com) / Westerdoksdijk 41a 1013 AD Amsterdam. I would be particularly interested in stories of revenge or suffering.

Meanwhile, have a great fall,  
Your editor  
**Mike**

### In Players Committee

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