

The Marlborough Drama Club wishes you a happy festive season!

We have a few bits of news to share in the run up to the new year when we hope to be fully back to normal with our production schedule.



Copy of the script

2023 Spring Production – DATES!

As mentioned in our last newsletter, we will be putting on a production of Terrence Rattigan’s ‘Variation on a Theme’ in Spring 2023, which will be directed by June Fitzgerald. The show dates at **Brentwood School Memorial Hall** are **13-15 April 2023**. The play was written in 1958 and is a reworking of Alexandre Dumas (fils)’s nineteenth century novel ‘La Dame aux Camélias’. Set amidst the glamorous and exotic society of the 1950’s French Riviera, this play is an emotionally charged story of desire and disillusionment revolving around the tempestuous love affair between Rose, a beautiful and worldly socialite, and Ron, a young ballet dancer with a keen eye for social advancement.



‘Variation on a Theme’ – AUDITION!

The first audition for the 2023 Spring production will be held on 17 December at 10:30am in Hutton. If you would like to come along, please contact the club secretary to advise you will be attending, and you will be given the specific address. To find out more about the roles available, (four female / four male), please visit our website for information. You can find contact and website details at the end of this newsletter. We look forward to seeing club members there!

Report from the 100th Annual General Meeting

Thank you to all members who came to the meeting on 22 November. There are a few updates agreed at the meeting. Firstly, Sue Grandison (Chairperson), Harry Morrison (Secretary), Brenda Le-Surf (Minutes Secretary) and Pat Staley have all resigned from their positions on the committee. The Club thanks them for their stellar service over the years. Sue and Brenda remain on the committee in a general capacity and the new lead members are very grateful that the Club will continue to benefit from their wealth of experience. The Club is pleased to welcome existing committee members to their new roles: Bill Wells (Chairperson), Karol Patten (Secretary) and Juliette Bird (Minutes Secretary). Happily, Mark Watson-Lee was re-nominated as Club Treasurer. Bill Wells will also act as House Manager at our productions, and will call upon other Club member’s support front-of-house as appropriate. Where we are **looking for help**, is a handy person who can take the lead on set-building and some of the heavier manual work at the barn and when building sets. If you, or someone you know, is looking for a new year hobby, please get in touch!

Please turn over for more news from the AGM and the barn...

New Vice President nominated

In recognition of her great service to the Club, Margaret Corry suggested that Sue Grandison be made a new Vice President. The committee agreed with this proposal and Sue was very happy and touched to be nominated, and accepted with heartfelt thanks. Sue’s final report as chairperson was given at the AGM last month and the full text can be found on our website: Members > AGM 2022.



Photo by Juliette Bird

Sue Grandison, Club VP

Donation made in memory of former Vice President

The Marlborough has made two donations in memory of long-term member and former vice president Janet Cass, who passed away earlier this year. (Please see last newsletter.) Janet’s family requested that any donations in her memory be made to either The Lewy Body Society or the South Essex Wildlife Hospital. The Club donated £25 to each which was received with thanks by the organisations and Janet’s two sons.

The Barn: Clean & Tidy Day

The committee went to the barn on 29 November, where a skip had been delivered, and proceeded to give the barn a thorough clean after many of the contents had been soiled when pigeons were roosting earlier in the year. Brenda and George made sure all were kitted out



Juliette, George, Brenda, Sue, Harry and Bill

Photos by Juliette Bird

properly to stay clean in the process. Furniture stocks were reviewed and culled if broken and there is a plan to return in Spring to carry on the good work looking through props!

Reminder: membership renewal

Your membership fees are due for renewal in January 2023. Look out for your renewal instructions and thank you for your continued support!



Left: a half-full skip, early on in proceedings

Above: A tidier corner of the barn where the 'flats' are stored.

Contact us:

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Visit our website: www.marlboroughdramaticclub.uk

Contacting you: If you received this newsletter by post and would prefer to receive it by email (or vice versa), or would prefer not to receive it at all – please let us know using the contact details above.