

# Stage Direct

*The magazine for the Sheringham Players*

## Say “Allo Allo” to your new magazine

Welcome to the very first edition of ‘Stage Direct’, the magazine for the Sheringham Players.

The aim is to keep you up to date with what’s happening in the Sheringham Players fold and also about other local activities that may be of interest to our members.

First of all, there are congratulations due to June Cooper for the phenomenal success of “Allo Allo” which apparently broke Little Theatre box office records for an amateur production. We achieved sell outs for each of the 4 evening performances and were only a few tickets short of repeating the feat for the matinee. A big well done, therefore to all involved. Although it would be wrong to single out individuals in a team triumph, special mention must none the less go to Graham Blyth—an excellent Rene around whom the success of

the production hangs—and Bernice Escott who overcame personal worries to excel as Edith, the hapless Rene’s wife. It was nice to welcome some new faces, Shai



**Bernice Escott, Jo Kirk and Graham Blyth in a scene from the successful summer production—“Allo Allo”.**

Ashkenazy and Martin Gill did us proud, and nice to see the return of some old faces in Neil Batchelor and Jo Kirk. I don’t mean to suggest that their faces look old, although in Neil’s case, well... but definitely not you, Jo!

Don’t forget our website and why not join our Facebook group, where you will find,

amongst other interesting items, photos from the rehearsals. You can also join in our on line conversations regarding forthcoming

ing productions etc.

Remember, we are always looking for new producers and suggestions for plays we might like to consider, so don’t wait for the committee to make decisions and then complain about them. Get in touch and tell us what you want.

## The Thoughts of Chairman Bull...

To mark the 45th anniversary of Sheringham Players, the committee has put in motion a wave of ideas to improve our image and efficiency, starting with the revamp of the newsletter. Instead we will put out a quarterly magazine to which

we hope all members will contribute. Editor David Starling is already looking forward to receiving items for inclusion in the January issue. There will be regular flyers to inform you of auditions, fun readings etc. The committee is also to be

reorganized. We will have a business manager to be backed up by each member taking on a specific role. There will obviously be an opportunity for the membership to explore these changes further at the AGM.

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- David Bonnington has cast his autumn production now and rehearsals will be starting shortly. Kindertransport will open on 19/11 and run till 21/11. If you’re not involved, please come and visit The Cottage on Tuesday and Thursday evenings to watch rehearsals or just for a drink and a chat. They serve a great coffee if you have to drive.
- See web page or Facebook for full rehearsal schedule
- See page 2 for a review of a recent professional production at the Cockpit Theatre.

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## Kindertransport (as reviewed in the Independent by Paul Taylor)

A key part of good parenthood is being there for your children. Diane Samuels' drama explores the consequences when this ceases to apply. Before outbreak of war, the Kindertransport movement saw the evacuation of nearly 10,000 Jewish children from Germany to England, most of whom would never see their parents again. Shifting between that period and the 80s, this drama shows the price paid by succeeding generations. The setting is an attic where a mother prepares her 9 yr old daughter for the escape. On the other side of the room, we witness the echo from the 80s, as a neurotic mother helps her daughter

pack now that she's flying the coop. Neither mother wants her child to go. It slowly becomes apparent that the chilly English mother was once the impetuous German girl with whom she shares the stage. The play explains how that change came about. Scenes in which a resentful Faith lambasts her mother for racial denial are intercut with episodes that chart the growing independence of the German refugee, and explains why, when her mother does finally arrive, in the girl's eyes she has assumed the character of the ratcatcher, the fairytale figure who leads children to their doom. It's as though the



mother has come back from the dead to punish the girl for surviving alone. The intricate geometry of the scenes is as impressive as the directness of the emotional impact.

Paul Taylor

**Diane Samuels' Kindertransport packs a hefty emotional punch**

## Social Events

Thanks must go to Jane and Carl Hodson for hosting the summer barbecue. The weather was kind to us and all who attended enjoyed the occasion.

The fringe events proved exciting. Shai appeared certain to be crowned swingball champion but a late burst of energy from Joan Spall wrested the title from her grasp.

The "cute as a button" award was won (as usual) by Nigel and Carol's children but

they did have fierce competition this year from Derek and Val Bull!

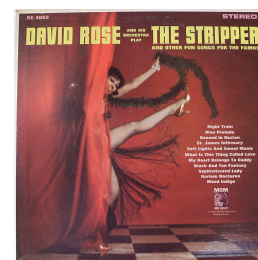
Many thanks again to Jane and Carl—and, of course, Jane's team of elves—for all their hard work. It would be nice to see even greater numbers at next year's do if, of course, the Hodsons are still up for it.

*"The 'cute as a button' award was won as usual by Nigel and Carol's children."*

## Did You Know?

The David Rose instrumental piece 'The Stripper' has become so synonymous with striptease that it has become almost a cliché. Certainly whenever a producer or director wants to indicate to an audience that a striptease is about to take place, it is almost inevitable that this is the piece of music that they will turn to as the audience will immediately recognize it. And so it was that when the writers of 'Allo Allo' needed to alert the audience that Helga

was about to disrobe for her lover, it was 'The Stripper' that Herr Flick played. David Rose, however, did not write the tune until 1958, for a TV programme called 'Burlesque', and it was not released as a record until 1962. So, unless Flick possessed remarkable prescience, it seems unlikely he'd have played that tune during the war years. Had he had this gift of foresight he'd have known his g-string would schnap under the schtrain!



**I may be wrong but isn't that cover girl Serena?**

## Things 'What I Wrote'

### REFLECTIONS ON THE SWINE FLU PANIC

The lion said, "When I roar, the whole jungle shakes!"

The bear said, "When I growl, the whole forest quivers!"

The little pig said, "That's nothing. When I sneeze, the whole world s\*\*\*s itself!"

### REFLECTIONS ON THE EVOLUTION/ CREATION DEBATE

Can 40 million years of evolution really have brought us to 'Celebrity Big Brother' and Jeremy Clarkson? Surely, it has to be

evolution because it sure as hell isn't intelligent design!

### REFLECTIONS ON BINGE DRINKING

When I become very, very drunk I become the world's greatest conversationalist, constantly being congratulated on my wit and erudition. Oh, hang on, no. Come to think of it—I pull my jumper over my face and make duck noises!

Well, that's my take on the day's news stories but I'm sure you can do better. Please send me your efforts. Poems, jokes, anecdotes, drawings. I'm sure there's a lot of

undiscovered talent out there, so share with us the 'things what you write.'



Your editor after one of the aforementioned drinking sessions.

## More Social Events

Over the past year or so, our social calendar has thrown up some interesting outings. Apart from the regulars, such as the Christmas meal and the summer barbecue, we've had a 10 pin bowling evening at Strikers in North Walsham (who knew that Joyce Harvey was such a natural?), June Cooper's birthday bash at The Cottage in Cromer and some film nights also at The Cottage which weren't as well attended as we'd hoped. Derek had chosen some Alan

Ayckbourn plays thinking that these would have a general appeal but the turn out was disappointing. More film nights are planned for November. Details can be found on page 6. Please support them.

We still have our Theatre Royal trip to look forward to. We hope to arrange a trip to see the award winning 'The Pitmen Painters' on tour, transferring from the National Theatre, on Sat 14th Nov. Please contact

*"Who knew that Joyce Harvey was such a natural?"*

Greg or myself if you're interested. Let's make it a good turnout and a great night.

## Movie Quiz

See if you can identify the following famous film quotes. 1 point each for the film from which they came and the actor who uttered them.

1 "A man's gotta do what a man's gotta do."

2 "You want the truth? You can't handle the truth!"

3 "This could be the start of a beautiful friendship."

4 "Failure is not an option!"

5 "In Italy for 30 years under the Borgias they had warfare, terror, murder, bloodshed. They produced Michaelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci and the Renaissance. In Switzerland they had brotherly love, 500 years of peace and democracy and what did they produce? The cuckoo clock."

Answers on next page.



**David's Film Quote Quiz. If you score over 7 out of 10, you can pat yourself on the back and shout "Hooray!"**

## The magazine for the Sheringham Players

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welcome—Letters, stories, jokes, anything.



### Keeping amateur theatre alive in Sheringham!



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#### Theatrical Quotes:

“A theatre director is the person who is engaged by the management to conceal the fact that the players cannot act.” James Agate, drama critic.

“My only regret in the theatre is that I couldn't sit out front and watch me.” John Barrymore, actor.

“An actor is a guy who, if you ain't talking about him, he ain't listening.” Marlon Brando, actor.

“Acting is all about honesty. If you can fake that, you've got it made.” George Burns, actor.

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## Congratulations



**Nigel and Carol caught by the paparazzi while on holiday.**

Many congratulations are due to Nigel Manson and Carol Squire who have announced their engagement. I'm sure all members of Sheringham Players would like to join me in offering all best wishes to them. They have just the seven children between them so, who knows, with

a little encouragement and a tail wind they might yet make double figures!

On a more serious note, all at Sheringham Players extend their best wishes to Paul Hurn, Tom Cain, and Daniel Vincent all of whom have had more than their fair share of ill health just lately. Best wishes to them all, and also to Bernice and Serena who have coped remarkably well given that both were also involved in *Allo Allo* and performed brilliantly despite the fact that they had all these unwanted distractions. At least Serena didn't have any embarrassing scenes to worry about as well!

#### Quiz answers:-

- 1 Alan Ladd in "Shane"
- 2 Jack Nicholson in "A Few Good Men"
- 3 Humphrey Bogart in "Casablanca"
- 4 Ed Harris in "Apollo 13"
- 5 Orson Welles in "The Third Man"