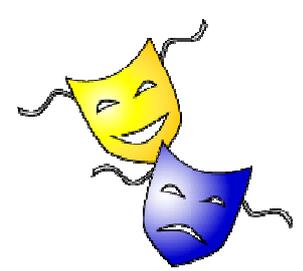


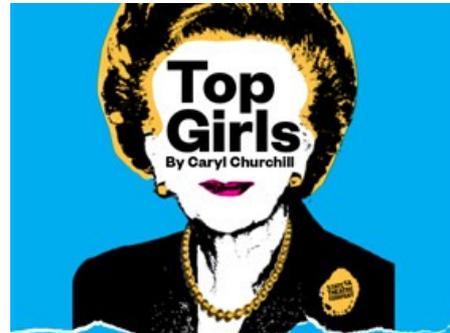
Kilmardinny Players



Members Newsletter - August 2015

"Top Girls" - Rehearsal Notes

Rehearsals are now underway for our November Production, Caryl Churchill's "Top Girls". We began with the whole cast of fifteen female actors, reading and discussing the play. This has given everyone a feel for what the play is about and how each role fits into the complete picture. We'd like to lift the play out of its immediate context (the 80's, Thatcherism etc) and



bring out the universal themes – the issues which all "successful" women have always faced and always will. The play can also be seen as an almost "Greek" tragedy with the central figure of Marlene making difficult, if controversial, choices which have been forced upon her by forces beyond her control.

We're just now beginning to get on the stage to try and realise our ideas. We've been joined by a strong and growing team of Colin (Stage Manager), Linda (Props), Craig (Lighting and Sound), David H (Prompt) and newcomer Moira who has offered to help with costumes. We will still need more help backstage and front of house, so don't hesitate to get in touch. Paul Cockcroft (email: paulcckcrt@aol.co.uk)

"Top Girls" by Caryl Churchill Cast List (November 26th – 28th 2015)

Marlene
Isabella Bird
Lady Nijo
Pope Joan
Dull Gret
Patient Griselda
Jeanine
Angie
Kit
Joyce
Win
Nell
Louise
Shona
Mrs Kidd
Waitress

Emma Reid
Liz Good
Suzi Bagley
Noelle Ryan
Christina Dowers
Lisa Colquhoun

Tiia Stevenson
Abbi Stevenson
Fiona Birch
Jane MacConnacher
Nicola Mortimer
Deirdre Campbell
Molly Crighton
Susan Moir
Kirsty Black

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Chloe Innes

Chloe was due to play the part of Angie in this production. Unfortunately she has been forced to withdraw as she recovers from injuries sustained when falling off her horse. I'm sure all members will want to join with me in wishing her a speedy recovery. We hope to see her back at Kilmardinny soon.

Emma on Marlene:



Getting to know Marlene

At first encounter, a hard, driven, cold "ball breaker", but as you come to know Marlene there is something quite endearing – her past has certainly made her what she is today but beneath is still a young woman, lonely, hoping for acceptance, be that from a lover, or from her distanced sister. At the same time, she is not to be pitied. She will knock you down without a backward glance in order to "make it". Without anything else in her life, Marlene has become cold to her emotions in an effort to put her past behind her. Although little glimmers come through at times, at the forefront is a tough, no nonsense business woman, making it big in a man's world.

I am absolutely delighted to have the terrifying and daunting task of portraying this, at first unseemingly, complex character of Marlene in this year's Kilmardinny Players production of Top Girls! A big 'thank you' to Paul for entrusting this role to me. Paul's help with 'getting to know Marlene' has been invaluable. I am eager to get started with the rehearsals and look forward to the fun times ahead with the rest of the cast and crew! There's a lot of fresh blood which I'm sure will provide an exciting energy for rehearsals – so let's get this show on the road!!

Emma Reid

Proposed theatre trip:

There is a proposal for a KP theatre trip to the

Citizens to see "Dragon" from Vox Motus on Tuesday

6th October. Tickets are £12:50. Contact secretary as soon as possible if you wish a ticket booked for this. For more details:



http://citz.co.uk/whatson/info/dragon_2015/?_ga=1.133192206.1653805041.1344418254

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The next committee meeting will take place on Wednesday 9 September in the court room of Milngavie Town Hall at 7.30 pm. All members are welcome to come to these meetings. Here is a word from Christina, the secretary about committee work:

I have been secretary a few times now for Kilmardinny Players. The main job is taking minutes at meetings and being a contact person for mail and enquiries for new members. I've also decided to keep producing the newsletters as it is a good way of keeping members informed of what's happening each month. I have worked on many committees for voluntary organisations over the years and always enjoyed the work. I am very driven to see the Players continue to thrive and put on excellent plays and a good way of ensuring this is being part of the committee. I would encourage members to come along to a committee meeting and see if you would like to join us. It is always good to have fresh blood on committee.



Wanted : Storage Space !!!!! As you know, we have always stored our props and flats at Kilmardinny House. However, as the House closes for refurbishment and other work at the end of the year - we have been told to make alternative arrangements. The biggest requirement is storage for flats up to 3m x 1.75m. To date we have had no offers of storage space from our readers and so will have to pay for suitable

storage facilities unless anyone out there has other suggestions?

A gentle reminder that annual membership fees were due in June - please contact David, our treasurer to arrange payment. Next year may turn out to be more costly with our need to pay for storage of our props and flats and paying for alternative rehearsal space and performance space - so every little payment will help!



[Kilmardinny Players](#)

[Find us on facebook](#) to join and see pictures of shows and rehearsals.

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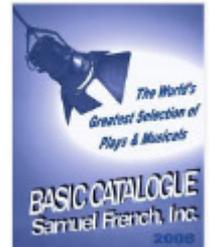
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2016 Plans:



We have already made rehearsal bookings for the first half of 2016 in the Milngavie Town Hall Lesser Hall. We are still trying to find alternative performance space and hope to have news soon about this.

Meanwhile, we would love to hear suggested plays potential directors wish to put forward so that we can get our 2016 calendar ready. Remember it should be plays easily staged as a studio performance. Please contact the committee with your suggestions.



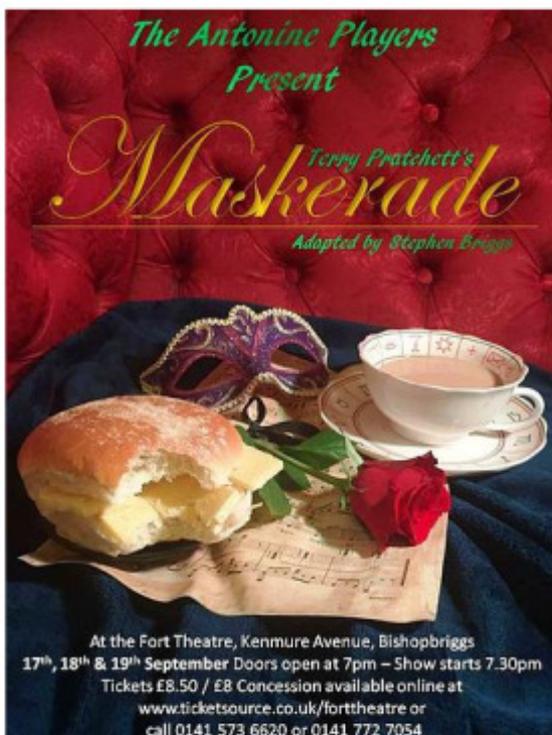
Supporting Other local theatre groups

Jane has news about what the Antonine Theatre Group is doing at the Fort Theatre in Bishopbriggs and her time with Kilmardinny Players:

I have been a member of Kilmardinny for 4 years and love being on the stage. It has taught me to respect myself and has been a massive benefit to me over these years.

A year ago I joined the Antonine players who perform at the fort theatre in Bishopbriggs and continue to share my time with both clubs. As I begin to rehearse at Kilmardinny house I am also rehearsing for the Antonine players upcoming performance of Terry Pratchett's "Maskerade" which is keeping me busy! If you would like to see the performance please come along from Thursday 17th to 18th September it would be great to have some support in my other ventures! Failing that, please book in to see us perform in top girls!

www.forttheatre.org/ for more details



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And Kirkintilloch Players are putting on one of our favourites "Blithe Spirit" at the turret theatre.

www.kirkintillochplayers.co.uk



**28th September
to
3rd October**

The Turret Theatre

Adults £9 Concessions £7

Tickets On Sale 9th September

Paul's Glasgow Theatre Highlights - September 2015

Following the **Edinburgh Festival** in August, this month's theatre is dominated by several productions which debuted there.

Plays of the Month

"Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour" by Lee Hall

Standing ovations were the order of the day at the **Traverse** this August. Miss Featherstone's "gurls" (sic), chosen from hundreds of hopefuls, certainly proved the "crème de la crème". When did you last see six actors on the same stage who could actually sing rather than just "belt it out", musical theatre style? There are moments of sublime musical beauty. And when they're not singing, they're turning the air blue. To say they have "potty mouths" doesn't begin to cover it. The rudest dialogue I have ever heard on stage.

A choir of six Catholic schoolgirls on a day trip to Edinburgh. They are determined to escape the supervision of Sister Condom (sic) and "go mental", which they certainly do, to hilarious effect. This new play by **Lee Hall** ("Billy Elliot", "Pitman Painters", "Cooking with Elvis" etc) is a joint production of the **National Theatre of Scotland** and Newcastle's **Live Theatre**. **Vicky Featherstone** (Ex Artistic Director of NTS, now of the Royal Court) returns to Scotland to direct. This now comes to Glasgow's **Tron Theatre** as part of a UK tour from 8th to 12th.

Details here: <http://tinyurl.com/our-ladies>.

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Finally the bad news: By the time you read this it will be too late to get tickets. They disappeared quicker than these girls' virginity. But it will be back I'm sure (the new "Black Watch" at last?). Keep an eye out for it. This superb piece of popular theatre is set to run and run.

"Lanark" by David Greig

Scotland's best living playwright (certainly the most prolific) has adapted Alasdair Gray's classic novel for the stage. It's directed by **Graham Eatough**, making it a bit of a **Suspect Culture** reunion. After a successful run at the Edinburgh Festival, Glasgow gets the chance to see this **Citizen's Theatre** production. Set in the city of Unthank (a thinly disguised Glasgow), a young man arrives with seashells in his pockets. He doesn't know who he is, or how he got here. He goes by the only name he can think of: Lanark. It runs from 3rd to 19th.

Details here: <http://tinyurl.com/Lanark15>

There also are a number of other Edinburgh transfers, notably:

At the Tron is "**Going Viral**", 1st September only <http://tinyurl.com/oqpg6d3>
and "**My Name is...**" from 3rd to 5th <http://tinyurl.com/nc8jwvk>

Leaving Edinburgh behind, we have:

Arthur Miller's "All My Sons" is at the Theatre Royal from 1st to 5th. It's produced by Scotland's own **Rapture Theatre**. Details here: <http://tinyurl.com/nngnkkk>

NLive's offering this month is **George Farquhar's** Restoration Comedy, "**The Beaux' Stratagem**". It's on at the **GFT** on 3rd September (which is a rehearsal night for some of us!!). Details here: <http://tinyurl.com/BStratagem>

Further Afield

In **Edinburgh** there's the musical, "**The Bodyguard**" at the **Playhouse** from 29th September to 10th October. Details here: <http://tinyurl.com/pz2cwqu>

And an adaptation of **Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World"** at the **Kings** from 29th September to 3rd October. Details here: <http://tinyurl.com/ncddmak>

Dundee Rep has a revival of one of the 1970's seminal works, "**The Cheviot, The Stag and The Black, Black Oil**" from 9th to 26th.

Details here: <http://tinyurl.com/pmqrkpa>

Happy Theatre going.

Paul ☺