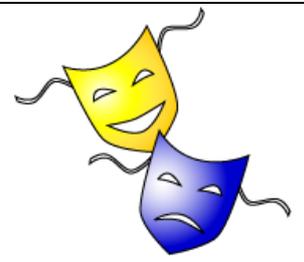


Kilmardinny Players



Newsletter – May 2017

**Monday 24 April at 7.30 pm in Milngavie Lower Lesser
Town Hall Drama workshop “Is there any “Body” there?:**



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Performance Skills Workshop

There was a very good turnout of **Kilmardinny** members for a performance skills workshop in Milngavie's Lower Lesser Hall at the end of April. **Carole Williams** SCDA National Drama Advisor, delivered a workshop on **body language and physicality**. Everyone enjoyed the workshop and learned some important techniques to apply as performers and directors. Following some body and voice warm ups, Carole led the group through a series of exercises. Beginning with the use of gesture and spontaneous response, members then worked in pairs to develop sequences made out of ten separate touches. The main body of the workshop was concerned with 'inner monologues' – how to show character, thoughts, feelings and intentions without the use of words. Individuals were asked to sequence their responses to a number of imagined stimuli (sights, sounds, smells, sudden thoughts/recollections and so on). We were then split into two groups to develop (silent) sketches based round the idea of waiting on a beach for the sun to rise and spending time in a hospital waiting room. At each stage, there was feedback and discussion of the work. Carole finally offered a checklist for actors to use in **exploring character** when preparing a performance. This is worth sharing with the wider membership:

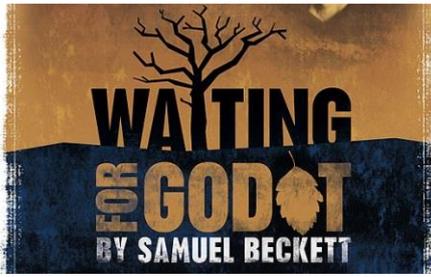
1. What do I want from this scene (or play)? AIMS
2. Why do I want it? (MOTIVATION)
3. Why do I want it now? (STAKES)
4. What obstacles must I overcome? (BARRIERS)
5. How am I going to get what I want? (TACTICS)

The evening was a great success and worth making a regular feature of the club programme.

Paul Cockcroft

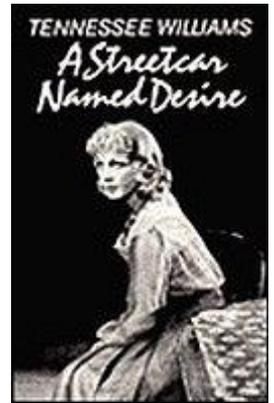
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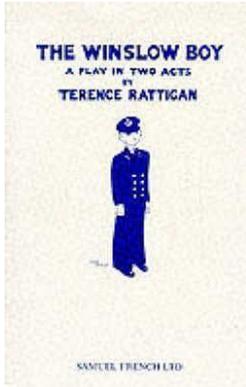


Our first play reading night is this coming Thursday in the Milngavie Lower Lesser town hall at 7.30 pm:

Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett on Thursday 4 May led by Christina Dowers then as

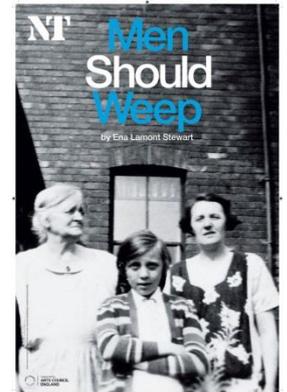


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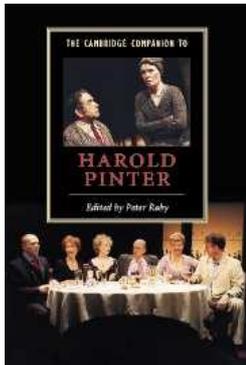


Men Should Weep by Ena Lamont Stewart on Thursday 11 May led by Allan Cowan.

The Winslow Boy by Terence Rattigan on Monday 22 May led by Paul Cockcroft.



Celebration by Harold Pinter on Thursday 1 June will be led by Paul Cockcroft.



A Street Car Named Desire by Tennessee Williams on Monday 5 June will be led by Jenny Ryall.

Annual Subscription fees: The committee agreed to increase our



annual subscription fees to £30 waged or £15 unwaged. We have not had an increase for many years and one of the other East Dunbartonshire drama clubs charges their members £50 per year so we

still feel this is a reasonable amount. It is hoped that all members will be happy to pay their annual subscription fee when due at our forthcoming AGM on 15 May. The updated form is now on our website for you to download.

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Friday 21 April Spring night out: Liz organised another meal out and it was enjoyed by all those attended though two meals were missed off the order meaning two hungry diners had to wait while others were eating. I think we should go elsewhere for next meal out – so suggestions please.

Congratulations to Molly:

Five of us went along to see Molly portray Rachel Corrie and we were impressed with her very powerful portrayal of Rachel – we are very proud of you Molly! I asked Molly to write an article about her experience and here it is:



My Experiences with playing Rachel Corrie by Molly Crighton

In February I found out that I'd be playing the part of Rachel Corrie, the celebrated Pro-Palestinian activist who was famously crushed to death by a bulldozer in Gaza in 2003 as she protested the Palestinian people's right to safety in their own homes. Initially it was a feeling of elation, however, then dread ensued; I realised that I was going to have to portray not only a real person, but one who is an inspiration to many people around the world.

The one woman show 'My Name is Rachel Corrie' was composed in 2005 by Alan Rickman and Katherine Viner from Rachel's diaries and emails. It then opened at the Royal Court that year. The play has since been performed many times both sides of the Atlantic, however, came to prominence in Scotland with Ros Steen's production at the Citizens and Tron in 2012. Activism played a big part in The Govanhill Baths remaining open so it was chosen to celebrate this.

As already mentioned, the biggest challenge for the play as a performer was this feeling of having to do the part justice. She wasn't just a construct on a page, she was a real person and this was reinforced by our conversations with those who had also been out to Gaza to do the

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very same humanitarian work. What they told us was awful and I realised that there was absolutely no point trying to put myself fully in their shoes. I wasn't going to be able to understand how it felt to be shot at. So in the end I just resolved to be as honest as possible and tell her story as best I could using what I knew about being myself. She was of course an incredibly brave activist and political thinker but she was also just a normal girl like me.

If you can get your hands on a copy of the play, or even better, her diaries, I'd really recommend it. She had the most wonderful way of looking at the world and could create entire filmic narratives about the most banal, everyday occurrences. She was a pleasure to portray.

Still time to get tickets to see Aimi in 9 to 5:

Aimi is starring in The Mummers Theatre Group production of Dolly Parton's 9 to 5 in Clydebank Town Hall from 10 to 13 May at 7.30 pm. Go along and support our Aimi!



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AGM is Monday 15 May in the Lower Lesser Town hall at

7.30 pm: The first half of the evening will be AGM business followed by a quiz or some sort of social event as we did last year. It is vital that as many members come to this year's AGM as possible as we will be discussing our future in Kilmardinny Arts Centre and possible fundraising ideas if we have to help equip the Stage Room. So please come along and have your say and give us your ideas.



Latest news about Kilmardinny Arts Centre:

We have heard nothing else from the Trust about the House at the time of writing this newsletter. We have emailed to ask when the House will reopen and when we can get our props back into our storage room there. We have held a committee meeting to discuss fundraising ideas and would also like to invite any members to let us know if you have fundraising ideas so that we can purchase whatever we shall need to ensure we have a viable performance space. However, until we even know if the seating will be successfully reinstated in the House and if any monies will be found in the new Budget for the Trust to at least pay for a stage, we do not know exactly what our "shopping list" will be. The committee is also researching various sources we may be able to submit applications to for funding once we have the "shopping list" and know what the ED Trust will be funding.



I shall, of course, let you know by email as soon as there are any new developments.

Christina

Chair person

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