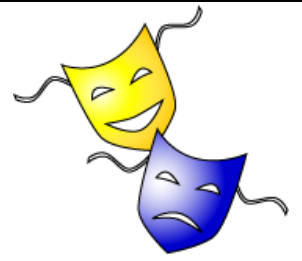


Kilmardinny Players



Newsletter – June 2017

Our committee for our new season 2017-2018: Chair person, Christina Dowers, Treasurer, Craig Dowers, Secretary, Lisa Colquhoun and David Hutchinson; Jane MacConnacher, David MacLean, Liz Good, Deirdre Campbell and Jenny Ryall.

Many thanks to those who were able to attend our recent AGM and above you have a list of your committee for this new season and a special welcome to Jenny who is joining committee for the first time. This is going to be an exciting new season with Kilmardinny Arts Centre reopening and we hope to eventually have a fully refurbished Stage Room available to us and our storage room next to it. We also have two plays proposed for the new season, one for Autumn and one for Spring and we are holding play reading nights to enable us to fully read through the two proposals and then auditions the end of June. I hope to see you all soon. *Christina*

Annual Subscription fees: Thanks also to those members present at the AGM who paid their annual subscription fees for the new season and to those who have already downloaded the form from our website and paid into our account. I would ask all members to pay your subscriptions as soon as you can. If you wish to pay it in instalments then just send us an email. If you are reading this and no longer wish to remain a member of the Players, could you please let us know. We can add you to our supporters mailing list so that you can still receive information about our events and our website always gives up to date information about our activities.

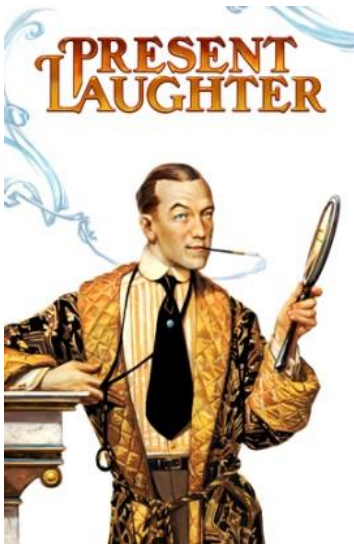


Play reading events in June: These will take place in Room 3 at Kilmardinny Arts Centre and please note on Thursday 1 June that we are advised to park on the road outside the House grounds as the car park is being resurfaced:

On **Thursday 1 June** we will be reading “Separate Tables” by Terence Rattigan led by Paul in Room 3 upstairs in Kilmardinny Arts Centre at 7.30 pm.



On **Monday 5 June** we will be reading “Present Laughter” by Noel Coward led by Colin in Room 3 in Kilmardinny Arts Centre at 7.30 pm.



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“Separate Tables” by Terence Rattigan

“It’s surprising how cheerful one can be when one gives up hope.”

A large cast is needed to this subtle masterpiece which premiered in 1954. It features eleven characters (13 without doubling), so there are lots of parts to play for. Eight (or 9) roles are female and three (or 4) are male.



This is actually two plays linked by place (Beauregard Private Hotel), ensemble characters (nine in both plays) and theme (loneliness, emotional inarticulacy and the inequality of passion). The title symbolises the characters’ isolation. Each sits alone, craving intimacy yet incapable of it. They are joined by John Malcolm, disgraced politician, living under an assumed name and his ex-wife, Anne, who share a traumatic past. Major Pollock has invented a fictional past which unravels when he is arrested for sexual offences. Sybil, inhibited daughter of the stuffy Mrs Railton-Bell, is drawn to the Major as a kindred spirit. Miss Cooper, the manageress, is the moral centre of this optimistic play. She believes, despite all evidence to the contrary, in the possibility of life beyond the separate tables.

It’s one of the great ironies of theatrical history that Rattigan was producing work of such genius on the eve of the ‘Royal Court Revolution’ which was to eclipse his reputation for many years. But who remembers the ‘angry young men’ now? The plays of the greatest British playwright of the twentieth century will endure as long as the human frailty he so meticulously maps. The only writer whose work I habitually watch through tears. *Paul Cockcroft*

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“Present Laughter” by Noel Coward

Currently being revived on Broadway, 'Present Laughter' is a wonderful Noel Coward comedy in which the playwright's wit and delicious use of



language is turned on himself in this, his most autobiographical play. Garry Essendine, is an aging but still seductive matinee idol who simultaneously loves being adored but finds the attention difficult. He is visited in his home by his current lover, his manager, his producer, his ex-wife and a young playwright desperate to impress. With elements of farce secrets are revealed and love is declared. Never too serious we are encouraged to live for the moment for '*Present mirth hath present laughter. What's to come is still unsure.*' (Twelfth Night) *Colin Price*

Auditions for Autumn 2017 production w/b Monday 30 October:

On Monday 26 June and Thursday 29 June we will be holding auditions for our Autumn production which will take place week beginning Monday 30 October 2017 with rehearsals beginning mid August.



These auditions will take place in Room 3 in Kilmardinny Arts Centre at 7.30 pm.

Our March 2018 production will take place week beginning Monday 19 March 2018 with auditions mid November 2017 and rehearsals beginning early January 2018.

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Big Quiz Night proposal:



We are also looking into holding a Big Quiz Night on Friday 11 August this year to raise funds to help get equipment for the new Stage Room and we will be checking availability to hire the House for

this event and it would be good to know if you would be able to attend on that date.

Please let me know if you are able to attend any of the above.

Latest news about Kilmardinny Arts Centre:

Below is a copy of the reply to my email from Frances MacArthur on Friday 12 May (bullet points were our questions):

*Hello Christina, thanks for getting in touch.
I was speaking to Craig earlier, and I must apologise that you were not included in the invite of regular lets to tour the building.*



It should be open from next week, so please do arrange a visit. We have already got a list of queries, and we will forward answers as available to all interested in taking up a regular let in the building. Also worth noting that feedback was generally positive on the re-furbishment.

In the meantime, I have delayed replying to ensure that the update I can give you is as fresh as possible, and in answer to your points:

- *When the House will reopen and in particular the Stage Room and the storage room*

Kilmardinny has a "soft launch" next week, with work ongoing to upgrade the car park. It is expected to be fully operational as soon as possible thereafter.

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- *What equipment will be in place in the Stage Room and if the Trust now has funds to furnish this room*

Storage - there has been a delay in ordering storage for regular lets, as well as Trust requirements, and that has had a knock on effect on what is currently available. I have yet to see it myself, but I imagine it will be limited, certainly in the short-term.

- *What shopping list you might like to give us should Kilmardinny Players wish to apply for any funding to help ensure we have the best Stage room possible*

Regarding the theatre re-furbishment, there is active consideration of what budgetary provision can be made, as part of a phased process, and this would definitely include a stage. I will keep you informed of any final decision on that, and also likely timescales.

- *Will we be able to stage an Autumn production in the House*

I would really hope that this would mean that an autumn production of some kind is viable, but as to the facilities available to the Players I cannot yet say.

Again, when there is budget approved for a theatre shopping list, we will let you know, and hopefully we can work together to improve on that as part of a phased process.

Further to this email Craig has been in contact with Frances with regards to costs we will incur for hiring the rooms at the House to see if we will be able to have a special arrangement as we negotiated before and we hope to work in partnership with them to ensure the Stage Room is fully equipped.

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9 to 5:

Aimi as Roz in The Mummies Theatre Group production of Dolly Parton's 9 to 5 in Clydebank Town Hall from 10 to 13 May: Hi Kilmardinny players. I was asked to write an article about taking part in 9-5 The Musical, so here it is. Thank you so much for all who made it along to the Clydebank Town Hall 10th-13th May 2017.

For those who don't know me, I've played a number of characters in the Kilmardinny plays, you might remember me as the posh and well dressed Clara Eynsford Hill in 'Pygmalion' or Ma Kirby the 1930s mother in 'The Happy Journey' to Trenton which finished in Ma singing a little song to herself. Well playing Roz for 9-5 was something else!

Roz was the stern, uptight and nosy secretary in the show, enjoyed bossing the office staff around and after a few scenes had a fantasy 5 minute song number. Roz told the audience in her song Heart to Hart what she would do with her boss Hr Hart 'If you only knew'. Roz stripped off (adapted velcro suit was required for this scene, and change of wig) into a red dazzling dress with backing dancers dressed alike. Roz in her long red gloves, danced with a coat stand and the dancers held heart framed pictures of her much beloved boss Franklin Hart in red feather boas. Roz went back to the uptight secretary, spying on the office girls, giving the audience a moment of 'we weren't expecting that' when Roz appeared with pants at her ankles from a toilet cubicle on stage with toilet roll in hand. Roz informed the boss straight away of the other girls' plans and was so happy to be Mr Hart's girl 'I'm his Girl'. Roz in the 2nd Act started with a sad song '5-9' about her lonely life away from the office and the boss. At the end of the show she transformed into a French glamorous outfit, long black curled hair (another wig change) and made a big entrance back into the office - 'Je suis ici' 😊



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I thoroughly enjoyed playing the part of Roz. The character was flexible in the way I could portray her, so I went out researching really annoying people and their mannerisms. I gave her props like her glasses she used when being smart, her red pencil she used as her magic wand trying to control the other office girls and this allowed me to give her quirks and style creating a round character. My brother texted me at the interval - 'Can't stop laughing, how did you go from geek to stalker to Beyonce to fairy tale queen so naturally' and that summed it up for me 😊

The choreography for the fantasy song I wasn't looking forward to. Some of the YouTube clips I'd watched were a bit too saucy/cringy for me to perform alongside my daughter, who was doing the show as chorus. And for my mum to watch! I mentioned this to the choreographer and I managed to tone it down a little but kept the edge. After a few rehearsals I just had to go for it, daughter looked away and I thought well either do it good or don't do it at all. It was a bit shocking so in my mind I said to myself this is what Roz would do, it's not Aimi. My moves had to get changed to fit with the stage set at show week, and were still getting changed up till opening night! Fear again! Then during 2 of the shows a couple of set problems that made me think on my feet, while singing. I do admit, after that song and the numerous quick changes during Act 1, I did take a large sigh of relief it was over each night. The rest of the show was a breeze and truly enjoyable to do, which I think was seen and appreciated by the audience.

The chorus had many dances, not very complicated but very effective, especially with a stage set looking like a Rubik's cube, and costumes hired for some scenes. The chorus had a blast throughout from dancing as cowboys and cowgirls, to acting in the hospital scene. The 14 year old young man playing the dead body was something he'll remember forever. 10 minutes plus, no moving or sneezing, and he now hopes to audition for the London musicals in a few years time. Starting with the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland youth section 😊. Amateur dramatics starts with a hobby and turns into friendships and more. It's life education for me.

This was a show like no other. Lots of colour, great songs, a laugh every minute, smiles and fun throughout. It was commented that the whole audience were laughing and smiling together if you looked along the rows. This is something that live theatre can only produce. A night

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out like no other. 10 times better than a good cinema show but just about the same price. I'd also like to add that the live band were tremendous, big brass, banjo and percussions. The songs in the show were all written by Dolly Parton.

The Mummers theatre group and Stage crew are all amateur, volunteers with the same intention – to have fun putting on a musical stage show. Like the Kilmardinny, with passion there is a way. With enjoyment there is success. Something to remember during rehearsals of plays and group get togethers. People who have fun stay together and work well. Happy members, great shows and happy audiences make a successful group.

I appreciate all the Kilmardinny members who could make it along that week and supported me and another neighbouring amateur group. I believe that amateur can be as good as, and often better than professional touring groups. Kilmardinny's last production of 'Confusions' showed this. Top class entertainment. A good group involves onstage and offstage members, producing great productions, something to be proud of. We all do it through passion, we pay our memberships and weekly fees to be there, we want it to do well sometimes more than those doing it for a wage. We are very privileged to have so many great amateur groups around.

Comments from the Kilmardinny members –
Great Cast great musical.

Utterly brilliant! Show stopping number with the full dance troupe, superb characterisation, movement and singing. Professional quality at low prices. All compliments to cast and crew for a fantastic evening. Congrats to all the cast and crew! Really enjoyed it!
Congratulations to all of the Mummers involved in such a fun production - what energy you all had!

These comments made me feel great from my peers. It took nearly 6 months to rehearse, more than plays because of the singing and dancing involved in the musicals, but it was very rewarding. I hope Kilmardinny put on a Panto at sometime to enjoy a bit of music and movement every so often now that the Kilmardinny Theatre is back in use.

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Thank you for reading. Hope to see you at the play readings or next Kilmardinny production. Feel free to contact me for any questions relating to the 9-5 show or any other acting related matter.

Aimi Phillips
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