

EDWARD ALDERTON THEATRE

Electronic Newsletter

JUNE 2010

Our next production...

1940s RADIO REVUE

Devised by Wendy Marsh and Ian Long, directed by Wendy Marsh

EXTENDED 10 NIGHT RUN!

8-17 July 2010 at 8pm (Sunday 11 performance at 5pm)

In these days of media overload, with i-phones downloading endless podcasts and massive news-screens streaming constant rolling news to us on railway stations, it's hard to believe there was ever a time when radio played a central role in the lives of the British people; a time when you actually had to make an active commitment: to sit down, to turn the set on (and wait for it to warm up) and to listen — probably in the same room as the rest of your family. For the final show in our current EAT season, it's our aim to take our loyal audience back to these halcyon 'Radio Days'.

Early BBC broadcasts were criticised for being staid and boring — endless light music on gramophone records, Sandy Macpherson at the organ and first aid instructions — so early in 1940 the BBC supplemented their output with special programmes "For The Forces". These proved so popular that they soon began to outnumber the ordinary programmes. It was in this way that we got to hear popular favourites such as **ITMA (It's that Man Again)** with Tommy Handley, **Bandwagon**, Vera Lynn's **Sincerely Yours**, **Workers' Playtime** and **Music While You Work**. Stars of the variety music hall such as Gracie Fields, Tommy Trinder, George Formby and Max Miller made regular appearances (although Miller became less regular when he overstepped the mark on one occasion!)

Also popular was JB Priestley reading from his novels and **Whitehall 1212**, a police drama based on real-life murders. We have devised our evening's entertainment by combining a range of items from across the week's broadcasting. **Monday Night At Seven** was our starting point — a variety show hosted by singer Judy Shirley with the BBC Variety Orchestra: a medley of songs, sketches, jokes and a detective story to solve. We have also included our own version of a typical comedy show of the period and invited some 'special American guests' to make an appearance.

The cast includes Michael Martin (**It Ain't Half Hot Mum**), Ian Long, (**Abigail's Party**), Geraldine Mullins (**The Importance of Being Earnest**), Mark Campbell (**A Tomb With a View**), Desni Hanford (**Spider's Web**), David Hampton (**Classic Ghost Stories for Christmas**) and Eleanor McEnery (**Justifying War**) as well as musical contributions from Charlotte and Hannah Jacobs along with director Wendy Marsh.

Ian Long
Co-devisor

Matt Clowry 1966-2010

It is with the greatest sadness that we have to announce the sudden death of popular theatre member Matt Clowry. He was killed in a collision with a truck on Bronze Age Way in Erith during the early hours of Thursday 24 June. Our thoughts go out to his family and friends at this very difficult time. Matt last appeared in our production of **Oedipus the King** (March 2009) and had just been seen in **Sitting Pretty** at the Bromley Little Theatre. He was due to make his directorial debut at the Alderton next year.

The police have issued the following statement:

Officers are appealing for witnesses following a fatal road traffic collision in Erith on 24 June. Police were called at approx 0400hrs on 24 June to reports of a man injured following a road traffic collision in Bronze Age Way, Erith. Officers and LAS attended and discovered a man, believed aged in his 40s, suffering injuries. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Police believe they know the identity of the deceased and next of kin have been informed. A post mortem will be scheduled for today (25 June) at Princess Royal University Hospital, Orpington.

At this early stage it is believed the man, a pedestrian, was in collision with a lorry in Bronze Age Way, Erith. As the lorry stopped at the scene it was in collision with another lorry. No reports of any other injuries. Officers from the Collision Investigation Unit based at Catford investigate. Anyone with information is asked to contact the witness appeal line on 020 8285 1574. No arrests, enquiries continue.

We will be having a special evening at the theatre on **Wednesday, 30 June**. Please come if you can and share your memories of him. Funeral arrangements will be posted here as soon as they are known

EAT 2010-2011 Season

14-23 October 2010 **MUSICAL**

Seconds Out! by Terry Williams

Directed by Terry Williams

The story of Freddie Mills, light heavyweight champion of the world. Son of a rag-and-bone man, started his working life as a milk boy aged 14. Joined the fairground as a booth boxer. A war hero in the RAF. The highs, the lows, the loves, the helter-skelter lifestyle of Freddie Mills - fighter. The good years from 1938 to 1948...

Cast: Jamie Steen, Natasha Staples, Michael Martin, Don McCorkindale, Claire Kingshott, Nicola Foxfield, Clive Madel, Dave Hampton, Brian John, Ella Banks, Emily Appleby and Loretta White

4-11 December 2010 **COMEDY**

Absurd Person Singular by Alan Ayckbourn

Directed by Sarah O'Hanlon

Three couples. Three kitchens. Three disastrous Christmas parties...

24 February - 5 March 2011 **COMEDY**

Blackadder II by Richard Curtis and Ben Elton, adapted by Rebecca Mason

Directed by Wendy Marsh

Hilarious exploits in Tudor England in a special Comic Relief show...

9-16 April 2011 **DRAMA**

New York Stories

Directed by Stephanie David and Helen Banks

*Two one-act plays — **The Duck Variations** by David Mamet and **Soldiering On** by Pamela Reeves — spanning half a century in the Big Apple...*

4-11 June 2011 **WHODUNIT**

And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie

Directed by Richard Banks

Ten strangers, a remote island, a psychotic killer on the loose...

23-30 July 2011 **DRAMA**

The Revenger's Tragedy by Thomas Middleton

Directed by Ian Long

The famous Jacobean drama of lust, ambition and murder...

Ticket prices are as follows: **Seconds Out!** is £9, **Blackadder II** is £10, and all the rest are £8. Please call our Box Office on 020 8301 5584 or email nicola.clark@yahoo.co.uk to book tickets, which are payable in advance by cheque or — imminently! — by credit or debit card.