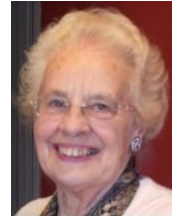




Chairman's Report

As I write this in early August there is growing excitement at the Everyman as the first performance of *Beatrix Potter and the Tailor of Gloucester* approaches. Rehearsals are in full swing, and on July 21st ETA members were privileged to attend an open rehearsal at the invitation of the Director, Paul Milton. In June we had enjoyed a talk by Paul about the production, and he had brought along Roger Hendry and Charmaine James to talk about their work on the costumes and set. We are very lucky to have such talented people at the Everyman, and at the rehearsal we were pleased and amused to see one of the beautiful animal costumes, Simpkin the cat, come to life! The attention to detail and the hard work which go into preparing for a show of this kind have been impressive and I hope that you and your families will have been able to see the production by the time this Newsletter reaches you.



In May Theatre Témoin returned to the Studio with their production of *Nobody's Home*, a play about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. ETA members enjoyed meeting this lively company again for an informal post-show drink, and we were impressed by the work on PTSD which Theatre Témoin has been doing. We look forward to the company's return visit in October with *The Marked*, their play sponsored by the ETA, which they have been continuing to develop since their visit in February. More recently our visit to Bath theatre to see Terence Rattigan's *While the Sun Shines* was much enjoyed by our members.

Overleaf you will find our programme of events for the months leading up to Christmas. We look forward to Hayley Spicer's talk on pantomime costume, to Geoffrey Rowe's talk about Cheltenham's Theatre Royal which was destroyed by fire in the 1840s, and to the ETA Christmas Studio event. Book your places early for our events at Christmas as they are always popular!

In May Gail Jones, who worked in the Box Office for many years and looked after our ETA membership, retired. On behalf of the ETA we presented this popular lady with plants for the garden she now hopes to have more time to enjoy. Caro Day has taken over from Gail and will be pleased to deal with any membership matters on Fridays and Saturdays. Caro also works at Salisbury Playhouse.

Your committee is keen to provide a varied programme of events for you to enjoy. We would welcome your ideas, and if there is anything which would be of particular interest to you, please get in touch with our Social Secretary, Margaret Edwards (contact details overleaf).

May I again urge members to give the Box Office their e-mail addresses and to keep them updated. Our Newsletters are mailed out with the theatre brochures. We try hard to plan ahead, but there are occasions when these mail-outs do not reach you in time with details of some of our events, and we rely increasingly on e-mail, as well as on our website, Facebook, Twitter and notice board to keep you informed.

I hope you will enjoy the new season's productions. The next season's programme will include *Shirley Valentine* and *Hobson's Choice*. Your continuing support is much appreciated, and I look forward to seeing you at some of our events.

Janet Limb, Chairman

The Dresser

The highlight of the autumn season is a production of Ronald Harwood's *The Dresser*. Both hilarious and poignant, the play concerns a Shakespearean company touring around the country during the last war. There is the interesting relationship between the actor manager (clearly based on Donald Wolfit) and his dresser. "Sir" is the last of a dying breed of actor managers but can Norman, his dresser, draw another great performance as King Lear from him, keep the show on the road and its star from falling apart? You may have seen the film with Albert Finney or the recent TV version with Anthony Hopkins.

Ken Stott, who plays "Sir", is a marvellous stage actor and will be recognisable from TV's *The Vice* and as the detective Rebus. Reece Shearsmith was one of TV's *League of Gentlemen* and starred in London in *Hangmen* recently and in *Betty Blue Eyes*.

The play has the added interest of being bound for the West End. After Cheltenham it opens at the Duke of York's Theatre in St Martin's Lane, so you will get the chance to see it here first, and to meet the cast in Matcham's on the first night.

Geoffrey Rowe



Paul Milton talks about *Beatrix Potter*



Simpkin, the cat, at the Open Rehearsal



Meeting the cast of Theatre Témoin

Dates for your Diary

Sunday, August 21st

3.00 p.m.

Garden Party

Janet and Mike Limb invite you for Pimms at 3 p.m. followed by Afternoon Tea at 3.45 p.m. Full details on our website and notice board.

Saturday, September 3rd

11.30 a.m.

Brochure Launch

Join us for the new season's brochure launch in the Langtry Room. Tea and coffee will be served from 11.00 a.m.

Tuesday, September 27th

Meet the Cast Party

Please join us after the first performance of *The Dresser* (before it goes to the West End).

Monday, October 10th

7.00 p.m.

Wine Tasting in Matcham's/Circle Bar

Glass of wine on arrival. Talk and tasting, with cheese. Tickets £10. Please send cheques (payable to ETA) to Margaret Edwards, 1 Verney Close, Cheltenham GL53 7DD Tel: 01242 581187 by September 26th. You are welcome to bring friends.

Thursday, October 27th

Meet the Cast Party

After Theatre Témoin's performance of *The Marked* in the Studio. Meet members of this talented company whose play the ETA has sponsored.

Tuesday, November 1st

11.00 a.m.

Talk by Hayley Spicer

A talk in Matcham's by Hayley - *The Ins and Outs of Pantomime Costume*. Tea/coffee and cakes will be served. Tickets £10. Please send cheques (payable to ETA) to Margaret Edwards (address above) by October 25th.

Tuesday, November 8th

7.00 p.m.

Dinner at The Mayflower Restaurant

We have negotiated a special price with the proprietor, Chun F Kong, a member of the Everyman Theatre Board, for a two course meal (main course and dessert). Please send cheques for £15 to Margaret Edwards by Oct. 24th. Contact Margaret for menu choices. You are welcome to bring friends.

Friday, December 2nd

7.00 for 7.30 p.m.

Christmas Dinner with Guest Speaker

A traditional turkey meal in Matcham's, with vegetarian option, plus dessert. A glass of wine and coffee included. Sally Hadfield, the Catering Manager, will carve the turkey in the restaurant. Our own Chief Executive, Geoffrey Rowe, will speak on "The Other Cheltenham Theatre". Please send cheques for £24.50 (payable to ETA) to Margaret Edwards (address above) by 25th November. Do join us for this festive occasion!

Thursday, December 8th

Exclusive ETA Studio event

Members are invited to a performance in the Studio of *A Christmas Carol*, followed by festive refreshments and an opportunity to meet Paul Milton, Corin Hayes and the cast. Tickets £15 from the Box Office (limited to two per member).

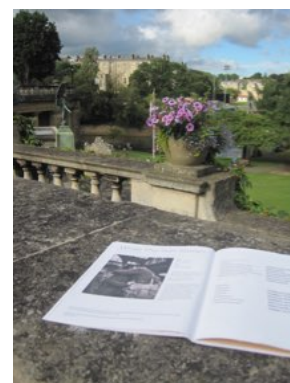
See our e-mails, website, notice board, Facebook page and Twitter for up to date details.



Costumes for *The Tailor of Gloucester*



Tea and cakes at Paul's talk



In Bath for *While the Sun Shines*

Your ETA Committee

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The Everyman Theatre Association is a registered charity (number 240273)