



## Chairman's Report

When I wrote my last report in August the Everyman was preparing for its production of *Beatrix Potter and the Tailor of Gloucester*. I know that many of you saw this delightful show and that some of you took part in it. Congratulations to all who were involved!

In August about forty members attended our garden party. In true British fashion everyone took the rather inclement weather in their stride and drank Pimms in the garden. Some of the braver guests remained outside for their afternoon tea, while others, understandably, retreated indoors. We were very pleased to welcome several new members on this occasion and we look forward to seeing them again at our events.

At the end of September we enjoyed a very happy Meet the Cast party after the excellent production of *The Dresser* which has now moved to the West End. We were fortunate that this event took place in the week of the 125th anniversary of the Everyman. Reece Shearsmith (who played Norman, the dresser) presented to Geoffrey Rowe, on the ETA's behalf, a cheque for £8,000. He then cut the anniversary cake and we all enjoyed a celebratory glass of Prosecco. Since then we have enjoyed another Meet the Cast party. Theatre Témoin returned to the Studio in October with their play *The Marked*, which the ETA has sponsored. We were delighted to meet this talented company again, and Ailin Conant, their Director, presented a cheque for £2,500 to the Everyman's Paul Milton on the ETA's behalf. On November 1st we enjoyed Hayley Spicer's talk *The Ins and Outs of Pantomime Costume*. In recent years we have learnt much, from her pantomime wardrobe tours, about what Hayley's work involves. This very well-organised lady makes sure that the costume changes run smoothly! Our most recent event was a fundraising meal at The Mayflower Restaurant. Our thanks to Chun F Kong for inviting us and for providing a varied menu.



In *Dates for your Diary* you will find details of our forthcoming events. Our Christmas events are booking well, so don't leave it too late if you wish to join us! We are pleased that in January Robin Herford, Director of *The Woman in Black*, and a member of the Everyman Theatre Board, will be talking to us about the play before it comes here on January 23rd. At the beginning of February Paul Milton will talk about his forthcoming production of *A Passionate Woman*. We look forward to a Meet the Cast party after the first performance on February 17th. In March we have our AGM and lunch on stage, details of which will be sent to you later. Then, following the performances of *The Crucible* towards the end of March, our President, Roger Nicholls, will give a talk about the production and its writer, Arthur Miller.

We have been very pleased to welcome several new members to recent events. We'd be delighted if other new members would like to come to the brochure launch on Saturday, November 19th, to meet some of our committee and members over a cup of coffee.

I have been asked to mention a JOB OPPORTUNITY. If anyone has a young friend or relative, over 18 years old, looking for part-time work, there are positions in the Everyman café/bars in the evenings, including weekends. Details can be found on the website.

Thank you for your continuing support of the ETA. I look forward to seeing you at our forthcoming events.

**Janet Limb, Chairman**

## A Passionate Woman

Having recently produced a number of period plays, the Everyman will present something rather different in 2017: Kay Mellor's contemporary romantic comedy *A Passionate Woman*. Kay Mellor is well known as the writer of *Coronation Street*, *Brookside*, *Band of Gold*, *In the Club* etc. etc.. *A Passionate Woman* was written in 1992 and played successfully in the West End, with Stephanie Cole as the passionate woman of the title. Kay Mellor, whom I recently met to discuss the Everyman's production, has updated the script; so our version of the play will be set in 2016. It will star Liza Goddard, who has appeared in Cheltenham before and is very much looking forward to coming back.

The play tells the story of middle-aged Betty, who hides herself in the attic on the day of her son's wedding, and the three men in her life: her son, her husband and the ghost of her Polish lover. It's fast-paced and comic with romantic undertones and a number of fantasy sequences - a really theatrical piece. I reckon it's ideal for Cheltenham audiences, so I very much look forward to seeing you there.

**Paul Milton, Director**



Liza Goddard stars



The committee relaxes after Garden Party preparations



Pat Redmond serves the Pimms

## Dates for your Diary

### Saturday, November 19th

10.00 a.m. for 10.30 a.m.

### Brochure Launch

Join us for the new season's brochure launch in Matcham's. Tea and coffee will be served from 10.00 a.m. (N.B. earlier time than usual.) We'll be delighted if any of our new members can come to this event to meet some of our committee and ETA members.

### 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, 1 Verney Close, Cheltenham GL53 7DD (Tel: 01242 581187) by 25th November. Do join us!

### 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).

### Saturday, January 14th

11.00 a.m.

### Talk on *The Woman in Black*

Robin Herford, Director of *The Woman in Black* and a member of the Everyman Theatre Board, will talk in Matcham's about the production which comes to the Everyman on January 23rd. Tea/coffee and cakes will be served. Please send cheques for £10 (payable to ETA) to Margaret Edwards (address above) by 10th January. You are welcome to bring friends.

### Monday, February 6th

2.30 p.m.

### Talk on *A Passionate Woman*

Paul Milton, Director, will talk in Matcham's about the production. Tea/Coffee and cakes will be served. Please send cheques for £10 (payable to ETA) to our Vice Chairman Lesley Whittal, 10 Suffolk House West, Suffolk Square, Cheltenham GL50 2HR by 31st January. You are welcome to bring friends.

### Friday, February 17th

### Meet the Cast Party

Please join us in Matcham's after the first performance of *A Passionate Woman*.

### Sunday, March 12th

11.30 a.m.

### Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held in the main auditorium and will be followed by lunch on stage. Full details will be sent to you later.

### Tuesday, March 28th

2.30 p.m.

### Talk on Arthur Miller & *The Crucible*

Roger Nicholls, our President, will give a talk in Matcham's about Arthur Miller and the recent production of *The Crucible*. Tea/coffee and cakes will be served. Tickets £10. Please send cheques to Margaret Edwards (address above) by 22nd March.

See our e-mails, website, notice board, Facebook page and Twitter for up to date details of our events.  
More photographs can be seen in the Gallery on our website.



Ailin Conant of Theatre Témoins presents a cheque for £2,500 to Paul Milton on our behalf



Theatre Témoins's Bradley Thompson (Jack) with Paul Milton and Lesley Nicholls



What a sport! At Hayley's talk Aidan Rose tries on a costume.

## Your ETA Committee

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