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If you have any articles you would like included in the next Spotlight, please ensure you send them to me before the 25th of the month.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year! We assume you have sufficiently recovered from the usual overindulgence of food and favourite tipples and are just beginning to break your new year resolutions!

A new year is often a time for reflection, a time to look at what has gone before, to let go of resentment, sadness or negativity. It's a time to find ways to forgive or make amends and be grateful for all the abundance of good things. It is a time to move forward with optimism, kindness, and renewed energy to surpass the achievements of the previous year.

Preparations are under way to provide a plethora of entertaining productions in the coming year, and we look forward to seeing you! Thank you for supporting Stage One in any way you can as we move into its 41st year!

SMW Editor

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

2023 was a busy year for everyone involved with the theatre as we staged an array of productions and looked at ways to improve and grow. First of all, congratulations to *all* involved in the extremely well-received pantomime, Cinderella with special mention to our 'local treasures', Denise Richards demonstrating her ability to still project better than the rest of us and Jackie Matthews not only in charge of the superb costumes but also stepping in to take the role of the Baroness with panache. Goodnight Mr. Tom, A Bunch of Amateurs, Shirley Valentine and Cinderella were all hugely successful and we received excellent feedback from audiences for all the shows. Well done again to everyone involved. We began hiring the theatre out to external groups/individuals for shows and as a rehearsal space, which is proving to be a great way to boost our waning coffers. With our usual Club Night activities including the fabulous Harmony, a halfway to Christmas mini pantomime, discos, quizzes, raffles and members performing skits, songs and poems it was a very full and rewarding year for the theatre's 40th Anniversary. We sadly lost a few good people but have gained some lovely new members, including the return of old faces, so a big welcome to them! Let us know if you have any ideas or suggestions on plays you would like to see or ways in which we can improve the theatre.

SMW

WHAT'S IN STORE

JANUARY CLUB NIGHT

Come along to this month's Club night and enjoy a sophisticated evening of Poetry and Pints. Held on every third Thursday each month, the date for your diary is the 18th of January at 7pm. Anyone wishing to perform, please contact Doug Craig: d.craig754@btinternet.com.

STAGE ONE FUNDRAISER



On Saturday 27th January 2024 at 7.30pm. We proudly present Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Tell me on a Sunday" by arrangement with The Really Useful Group Ltd.

Tickets are €12 each and can be ordered anytime by email on boxoffice@stageonetheatre.com or by calling 99967737 from Monday 8th January 10am till 1pm

The Box Office at the theatre will be open on Monday 22nd and Friday 26th January between 10am and 12 midday to order or collect your tickets. Please make a special effort to help raise funds for the theatre and to support Jezebel Groove who is performing this famous one woman musical, directed by Peter Sandwith.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership for 2024 is now due. It is €25 per person, and this can be paid by cash, cheque or card (with a small fee) or direct into the theatre's Bank Account. Please contact the Treasurer if you wish to use this facility. Some banks may charge you.

The Treasurer will be able to take your subscriptions at the next Club Night on 18th January or at the AGM on 15th February. You must be a paid-up member to vote at the AGM.

The Application Form can be found on the website on the About Us page. You do not need to complete this if your details are the same as the previous year.

40th Anniversary T Shirts/Polo Shirts

The T Shirts and Polo shirts are still available in a variety of sizes and colours. T Shirts are €12 and the Polo Shirts are €15 and can be ordered at the next Club Night in January. There will be samples and colour charts available so you can make your choice.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Stage One Theatre Group's AGM will be held in the theatre at Emba at 7.00 pm on Thursday 15th February 2024. The agenda for the AGM shall be:

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous AGM
3. Chairman's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Appointment of auditors
6. Setting of subscriptions for the coming year
7. Debate and votes on the motions duly notified
8. Election of committee

The minutes of the 2023 AGM are available for viewing in the secure member's area of www.stageonetheatre.com and in the theatre from 21st January 2024.

If you wish to propose a motion for debate or to nominate a member for election to the Committee then please use the forms below. Send the forms to me, preferably by email, to secretary@stageonetheatre.com, by hand or by post, to arrive no later than **26th January 2024** (if emailing, the forms will need to be printed, signed, scanned and sent back.) Please note that nominations or motions for debate will not be accepted after this date. Jane Stephens, Secretary, Stage One Theatre

Please reprint or photocopy this form if more than one motion or nomination is proposed.

MOTION FOR DEBATE

I , a member of Stage One, propose:

_____*

Proposer's signature.....

Seconder's signature.....

Date.....2024

* Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

NOMINATION FORM

I , a member of Stage One, wish to nominate:

_____ (name in capitals), also a member, as a **COMMITTEE MEMBER**

Proposer's signature.....

Seconder's signature.....

I accept this nomination _____ (Nominee's signature) Date.....2024

COMMITTEE MEETING

Every month we hold a committee meeting at the theatre where we discuss all manner of items concerning the smooth running of Stage One Theatre. The next meeting will be on 11th January. If you have any questions or wish to raise any issues with the committee, please approach a committee member at a club night or email our secretary Jane Stephens at janestephensstageone@outlook.com

MARCH PRODUCTION

THE FARNDALE AVENUE HOUSING ESTATE TOWNSWOMEN'S GUILD DRAMATIC SOCIETY MURDER MYSTERY

6th to 9th March 2024 7.30pm Tickets Adult €15 Child €8

Yes, it's a bit of a mouthful – just call it Farndale! Rehearsals are underway for this hilarious 'play that goes wrong' written by David McGillivray and Walter Zerlin Jr. Directed by Geoff Greavey and with a great cast of four women and one man, it promises to be a must watch production. More details in the next issue of spotlight!



NEW CONTACT NUMBER FOR THEATRE ENQUIRIES

We have a new contact number and email address for general enquiries. The number is 97 697962 and our new email address is hello@stageonetheatre.com

IN LOVING MEMORY OF CAROLINE HARMAN SMITH



Most members know the sad news that Caroline passed away on 15th December just two weeks after celebrating her 88th birthday in the company of one of her daughters and several good friends. She had been a part of Stage One for over 25 years and in her time had been an actor, director, producer, chairman, voice coach, prompter, workshop events' organiser, PAFTA arranger, and had written the press releases for the Paphos newspapers for several years. She was given Honorary membership after her period of being Chairman. Her knowledge of theatre was immense, having been introduced to theatre at a very young age by her mother, who also used to live here. Outside the theatre she was on the committee of the Friends of the Paphos

Hospice and also was part of the Paphos Kidney Association. She instigated and wrote the Kamares Newsletter amongst other good causes in the community.

One of the first plays she directed was Blithe Spirit with a cast of Stage One stars. It was apparently a sensation and drew large audiences for the first time ever. I have known Caroline and her family for 20 years, having been auditioned in our car port for A Coat of Varnish in 2002, my first step onto a stage since school days. She then directed Conduct Unbecoming with a huge cast; a drama which many still say was the best production ever seen here. She went on to direct wonderful productions like Pack of Lies and Private Lives both superb plays, with amazing casts and still fondly remembered. Another large cast enjoyed a very successful production of A Christmas Carol. She then mounted an evening of scenes from Shakespeare and a special event to mark an Anniversary of the First World War. She organised several workshops within the theatre and many of us learned a great deal from her wealth of knowledge and experience.

Since announcing her passing I have received many messages of sympathy to pass on to the family including one from David Lewis a past chairman and Honorary member who left Cyprus in 2002.

I believe I was the first person to introduce Caroline to the Stage One stage. I wanted a particular voice for a part, and somebody suggested Caroline. I went to her house, and we had a read together and she agreed to play the part. Anyway, she stayed with the group and the rest, as they say, is history. She made a great contribution to Stage One over many years, long after I departed'.

Her funeral took place just before Christmas and was attended by several Stage One members and afterwards at a gathering at the theatre. We were delighted to see her two daughters, her son and her two grandsons and we all reminisced about Caroline with much affection. She was a force to be reckoned with - quite scary at times - but such a vibrant energy and a wicked sense of humour. She believed that if something needed doing, don't complain, find a solution and do something about it. She will be missed.

We send Amanda and Philippa and Matthew and Charlie and Alex our condolences at this saddest of times.

PRS

SAVE OUR THEATRE!

The cast and crew spend all the hours God sends learning lines, rehearsing, building and painting the set, making costumes, setting light and sound etc, etc. to bring each play to life. Stage One is making a super comeback after COVID, but we desperately need to attract full houses. To put it plainly, we need to get bums on seats to keep the theatre going.

While we are expanding our social media presence and have adverts in the press and on the radio, we need to bring the theatre to people's attention.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Please follow Stage One Theatre on Facebook and share posts about the next play. If you want a copy of the poster to post directly onto your Facebook page this can be arranged.
2. When you are out and about, please notify us about places you think would be good for flyers
3. Tell all your friends and family.
4. Share any ideas you have for better publicity.

POSTER DISTRIBUTORS

Good old posters and flyers are still one of the best ways to get news of our productions out to our potential audiences.

Paphos covers a very large area as you are well aware and getting poster and flyer coverage is a major undertaking. Please ask for some flyers and put them up in your local shops, social or sporting groups and tavernas.

If you can help out by distributing posters and flyers to businesses in your area or at events, we would be very grateful.

Please contact me on 97 697962 if you can help with this vital task.

JUST FOR FUN

As many of you will know putting on plays takes a lot of energy and those involved are sustained by lovely cakes, biscuits and other delicious snacks often homemade.

Here is the recipe for glorious ginger biscuits if anyone would like to try.

Ginger Biscuits

- Mix together: 225g melted butter
1 tbsp golden syrup*
- Mix together: 225g self-raising flour
170g rolled oats
200g dark brown sugar
25g ginger powder
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda

Combine the 2 mixtures. Form into balls (about 30g each) and place on a baking sheet with good space between (they spread while baking). Flatten each ball slightly and put in 170°C oven for about 17 minutes. Remove from oven and let cool slightly before removing from pan.

- *You can use honey instead of golden syrup and it works out fine. You could also use molasses and black treacle to try for a deeper flavour. (Kindly shared by Barbara Boozer)*

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

‘Happiness is a butterfly, which when pursued is always beyond your grasp, but which, if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you.’ Nathaniel Hawthorne

‘From the start it has been the theatre’s business to entertain people. It needs no other passport than fun.’ Bertolt Brecht

HAVE A JUBILANT, JOYFUL & JAZZY JANUARY!