



# Claremont Chat

Claremont Dramatic Society Newsletter  
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**January 2010 – Number 86**

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Happy New Year to you all!

Now that 2009 and the Naughtyies are over, it's a great time to reflect on the highs and the lows of the last 12 months and the last decade. It's quite interesting to see how we've all grown. ☺

So here's wishing each and every one of you that 2010 brings you lots of memories, growth and experiences!

## **Member news**

We do however start with sad news. One of our life members, Sally Stonehouse, passed away on 06 January. Sally joined CDS in 1976 and was involved in all aspects of the theatre. Her last stage appearance was as Mavis Partridge in *Day of Reckoning* in 2005. We will miss her wicked sense of humour and willingness to help. Those of us who were at her memorial service were touched by the depth and the breadth of her life, and she shall be sorely missed. Our thoughts are with her family and friends.

On a more positive note, we are happy to welcome several new members to the Claremont Dramatic Society.

Ufabia Abrahams  
Joshua Knott  
Angela Scholto-Douglas

Leslie Hendricks  
Mathley Meintjies  
Morag Tison

Samantha Jeftha  
Ashwin Scott

A hearty welcome to you all. We hope to see you at many functions, shows and, and, and ...!

## **CDS Christmas Bash 2009**

Our get-together on 06 December was a happy affair: Brenda Gray directed *Dinner for One* with Pam Ross as Miss Sophie and Robin Rattle as James. The table setting was opulently grand; Jack Matthee's Tiger looked menacingly lethal as James continued to navigate around, over and, occasionally, passed it by, despite an almost palpable feeling of increasing distress as the multiple toasts made serious inroads on his ability to function at all. All the while Miss Sophie sat in regal splendour, while James grew more and more

desperate. His "Same as last year, Miss Sophie?" as he escorted her upstairs, had the cry of genuine desperation! Thank you, director and cast, for a refreshing take on a classic. – We also had a very entertaining contribution from Brian de Kock with his hilarious "Riddle me this, riddle me that" having us all in stitches. Thanks, Brian! – And as an added bonus we had a very enthusiastic dance contribution from our own Red Perils – thanks a million!

We had a grand spread; André's barrel braai worked beautifully. Good food and great company made the day memorable. Thanks to all who worked behind the scenes.

### Membership perks

One of the perks of being a member of our esteemed society, is that you have the opportunity to help out in many different ways with the productions we put on each year.

One of these, if you are not on stage or part of the extensive behind-the-scenes crew for that production, is to be the face of the production for our patrons when they come and see the shows.

We are always happy to train members on how to run the box office, how to run the bar or how front-of-house works – all essential parts of running a show. So, if you would like to give one of these a try and have the opportunity to interact with our audiences, give us a shout and sign up for a session once or twice per show – of which we have three a year. These really are a lot more fun than you might think!

Just to whet your appetite even more, we have also received this invitation from the Masque Theatre.



Dear friend of the Masque Theatre,

you are invited to a **THANK-YOU PARTY** for all our **volunteers** on  
**Monday, 08 February 2010, at 19:00 in the foyer of the Masque Theatre**

You have contributed so much to the running of our theatre during the last year. We feel you deserve a very special "thank you". If you usually come with a friend who helps too (e.g. for the refreshment counter or bar) please bring her/him along too.

Please note that as yet "uninvolved" members of our societies, who would like to become volunteers in the near future, are also very welcome. – And since there seems to be a bit of confusion about the role and duties of the *foyer managers (or hosts)*, the evening will include a *short orientation* about this. No, we are not going to spoil the fun! I'm sure you will feel much more comfortable afterwards ... it's just easier if one knows *who* is in control of *what*.

Please **RSVP** to birga by **Sunday, 31 January 2010** on [birgatom@iafrica.com](mailto:birgatom@iafrica.com) or leave a message on 021-788 5272 [the answering machine kicks in after seven rings].

With kind regards

*birga* Thomas

(Hon. Secr.: Stern Masque Theatre Association Management Committee)

## Claremont AGM

Our AGM takes place on **Tuesday, 09 February 2010**, at Kelvin Grove in the Palmyra Room at **19:00 for 19:30**. Tickets cost R85 which includes a dinner at one of the most exclusive venues in Cape Town. Please note that nominees do not receive complimentary tickets, as the evening is already being partly subsidised by the society. Please bring the R85 with you on the evening, preferably in the correct change. ☺

Please see the attached agenda for more details. It is vital that as many members as possible attend. **RSVP to Wendy by 01 February 2010** to confirm your attendance (021-671 2888 or wendygoddard@xsinet.co.za) not only for catering purposes but also to ensure that we have a quorum. If you are unable to join us, please send us your apologies.

After the business end of the meeting has been dealt with, we switch to award mode and our honoured CDS awards panel will present the Claremont Dramatic Society Awards for 2009.

Exciting stuff!

## CDS Members' Award

The annual Members' Choice Awards are, of course, going to be decided on again at the AGM. Upon arrival at the AGM, paid-up members will be given a ballot paper and will be asked to vote for their favourite actor, actress and production of the year. Non-members are also eligible for an award. Completed forms will be handed in, and the results will be announced after the main awards have been presented. *You*, the members, decide on the criteria. Which has been the most memorable, funny, noteworthy, etc. performance or play of the year? It's *your* choice.

And just to jog your memory, here is a list of the 2007 plays and performers, so that you can start thinking about it now ...

### ***Breath of Life***

Su Cunningham, Yvonne Copley

### ***Isn't it romantic***

Michele Belknap, Lesley Gill, Philip Gordon, Gary Green, Clifford Graham, Barbara Mayers, Darren Telford, Faeron Wheeler

### ***Return from Oz***

Ufabia Abrahams, Allison Blair, Matthew Browne, Janice Budd, Shane Budd, Angela Burgess, Cailynn Burgess, David Campey, Su Cunningham, Daylene Damons, Benjamin Goble, Bronwen Harris, Victoria Harris, Liesle Hendricks, Anthony James, Samantha Jefta, Christopher King, Joshua Knott, Mathley Meintjies, Bruce Sanderson, Ashwin Scott, Frances Sholto-Douglas, Faeron Wheeler, Matthew Wilkinson, Gizelle Willows

Remember – only paid-up members may vote. The treasurer will be present to confirm your status, and will relieve you of your subs on the night, should it be necessary.

## **Cata Awards Evening**

It is almost time again for the Cata Awards! This evening of awards will take place on **Monday, 22 March 2010**, at the Masque Theatre.

Bookings will open on Monday, 18 January 2010. There is no cost to attend, but due to limited space you must book in advance. Please mention if you are a nominee. Please contact Hayley Fargher to make your bookings on 021-788 6999. She is available for booking on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 till 13:00. – We encourage all nominees and members to book early to ensure you don't miss out!

Some notes: We will assemble at 19:30 for a 20:0 start

Dress is smart, not formal

Champagne will be served upon arrival

Finger supper will follow proceedings

Prizes will be presented by Paul Griffiths, well known professional actor and director

Our heartiest congratulations to this year's nominees!

### **CATA NOMINATIONS 2009**

#### **Best Play, Best Musical, Most Adventurous Production, Best Director of a Play, Best Director of a Musical**

birga Thomas – Hello and Goodbye (MVDS)

Marlisa Doubell – Private Lives (Milnerton)

Barrie Howard – Time of my Life (Constantiaberg)

Sue Bolton – Breath of Life (Claremont)

Graham Boxall – Isn't it romantic (Claremont)

Teddy Davies – HMS Pinafore (G & S)

Kyla Thorburn – A Christmas Carol (Pinelands)

#### **Best Choreographer of a Musical**

Kyla Thorburn – HMS Pinafore (G & S)

Kim Harris-Dalla – A Christmas Carol (Pinelands)

#### **Best Actor in a Play or Musical**

Wesley Figaji – Hello and Goodbye (MVDS)

Trevor Joubert – Private Lives (Milnerton)

Dennis Benneyworth – Time of my Life (Constantia)

Riaan Hunter – HMS Pinafore (G & S)

Shaun Browne – A Christmas Carol (Pinelands)

#### **Best Actress in a Play or Musical**

Yvonne Copley – Breath of Life (Claremont)

Suzi Gehr – Hello and Goodbye (MVDS)

Tamryn Spiers – Private Lives (Milnerton)

Jane Cohen – Time of my Life (Constantiaberg)

Carey Wallace – Haunting of Hill House (FHDS)

Jo Darby – Abigail's Party (Constantiaberg)

Sian Atterbury-le Roux – HMS Pinafore (G & S)

Julie Harris – HMS Pinafore (G & S)

#### **Best Supporting Actor in a Play or Musical**

Theo Swartz – A lesson from Aloes (HHDS)

Alastair Duff – No Sex please, we're British (FHDS)

Gordon Molloy – Trap for a lonely Man (Milnerton)

Scott Cooper – Appointment with Death (MVDS)  
David Bolton – HMS Pinafore (G & S)  
John Carne – HMS Pinafore (G & S)  
Michael Harris – A Christmas Carol (Pinelands)

### **Best Supporting Actress in a Play or Musical**

Denise Dubber – Time of my Life (Constantiaberg)  
Trish Sutton – Time of my Life (Constantiaberg)  
Michelle Belknap – Isn't it romantic (CDS)  
Victoria Harris – Return from Oz (CDS)  
Laura Bosman – A Christmas Carol (Pinelands)  
Jennifer Moss – A Christmas Carol (Pinelands)

### **Best Cameo Performance**

Lynn Moss – HMS Pinafore (G & S)  
Jane Philbrick – Haunting of Hill House (Fish Hoek)

### **Most Promising Newcomer**

Kevin Smith – Play Misty for Me (HHDS)  
Angela Lee-Wright – Haunting of Hill House (FHDS)  
Thomas Agates – Spring and Port Wine (HHDS)  
Curtis Dunn – Abigail's Party (Constantiaberg)

### **Best Set**

Jane Philbrick and Margi Blewett – No Sex please, we're British (Fish Hoek)  
Anne Coetzee – Play Misty for Me (HHDS)  
Debbie Bentley-Buckle and Barrie Howard – Time of my Life (Constantiaberg)  
Finn McCormick – Trap for a lonely Man (Milnerton)  
Debbie Bentley-Buckle and Barrie Howard – Abigail's Party (Constantiaberg)  
Richard Whittaker – A Christmas Carol (Pinelands)

### **Technical Excellence**

Roland Sweet – Special Occasions (Milnerton)  
John Blewett – Time of my Life (Constantiaberg)  
Gary Fargher – Isn't it romantic (Claremont)  
Andrew Ward-Cox – Trap for a lonely Man (Milnerton)  
Gary Fargher – Haunting of Hill House (Fish Hoek)  
Dylan Ford – Haunting of Hill House (Fish Hoek)  
Grant Faiers – A Christmas Carol (Pinelands)  
Kyla Thorburn – A Christmas Carol (Pinelands)

### **Artistic Contribution**

Margaret Mortelmans – Private Lives (Milnerton)  
Heather Earp-Jones – HMS Pinafore (G & S)  
Gary Kok – HMS Pinafore (G & S)  
Riaan Hunter – HMS Pinafore (G & S)  
Sian Atterbury-le Roux and Fredi Oosterhuizen – HMS Pinafore (G & S)  
Kim Harris-Dalla, Victoria Harris, Jennifer Moss, Christine Thonissen – HMS Pinafore (G&S)  
Phoebe Snayer – Rodgers and Hart: A celebration (Milnerton)  
Glenda Carmichael – A Christmas Carol (Pinelands)  
Jennifer Moss – A Christmas Carol (Pinelands)  
Laura Bosman and Graham Stabler – A Christmas Carol (Pinelands)

## Audition notices

We have two productions that you can audition for in the next little while (see notices elsewhere on this website).

- ◆ Neil Simon's *Rumours*, directed by Sue Bolton, is Claremont's first production for 2010.
- ◆ Bernard Slade's *Romantic Comedy*, directed by Wendy Goddard for Constantiaberg Players.

## MVDS invitation to directors

**Directors' Forum**  
**for Mvds' 2011 productions**  
 will take place on  
**Saturday, 27 March 2010, 14:00**  
 at the Madhouse, 57 a Promenade Road, Lakeside

If you would like to apply for one of our 2011 slots, please prepare a short presentation of the production you have in mind (it would be ideal if the committee could get a copy of the script in advance in order to have read it by the time of the forum), including pros and cons as well as a preliminary "sort-of" budget (i.e. an indication whether you think it will be expensive, very expensive or really "cheap") and any information you might think useful for the committee.

Non-members and members of other societies are also welcome to make a presentation.

Newcomers (i.e. people who have not yet directed for the Masque Theatre) will be very much appreciated. Why not make a presentation for a one-act play to be presented at one of the 2011 (or even 2010) members' evenings?

Please **let birga know by Monday, 01 March**, if you will participate. You can also discuss delivery or collection of a script with birga: [birgatom@iafrica.com](mailto:birgatom@iafrica.com) or leave a message on 021-788 5272

## Get Thee to the Masque!

*A Night at the Theatre*, presented by the Wynberg Girls' High School at the Masque Theatre from 21 to 23 January 2010. A variety show directed by Shelley Robertson and Sarah Thackwray, including popular numbers from Broadway shows such as "All that Jazz", "Chicago", "Mama Mia" and "Porgy and Bess". The cast of over 20 will also be showing their skills in a variety of dance mediums. A show for the whole family. Thu. and Fri. shows at 19:30, Sat. at 14:30 and 18:30. All evening shows R60 (R50 Theatre Club members), matinée R50 (R40).

Fish Hoek Dramatic Society is producing an Agatha Christie play this year, directed by Jane Philbrick. It is the unusual *Towards Zero*. Val Mulligan, Ralph Thornley and Aubrey Hindle appearing after an absence of some time. There is also an extremely strong group of young people, some of whom will be familiar from *Appointment with Death*, and some who are new to both the Masque Theatre and FHDS. The show runs from 05 to 13 March.

Please note days, times and prices for Masque Theatre productions (unless otherwise stated) are Thu. and Fri. at 20:00, Sat. matinée at 14:30, evening at 18:30.

Thu. eve. and Sat matinée R50 (Theatre Club members R40), other nights R60 (R50).

Masque Theatre Bookings on 021-788 1898

See you in a few weeks time at Kelvin Grove!

## Claremont Dramatic Society

Notice is hereby given  
of the **57th Annual General Meeting** of the **Claremont Dramatic Society**  
to be held at Kelvin Grove, Campground Road, Newlands,  
on Tuesday, 09 February 2010 at 19:h00 for 19:30

### A G E N D A

Notice convening the Meeting  
Apologies  
Minutes of the 56th Annual General Meeting  
Matters arising  
Chairman's report for the year ended 31 December 2009  
Treasurer's report for the year ended 31 December 2009  
Adoption of audited financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2009  
To consider any motion from any member of which due notice has been lodged  
with the secretary at least 7 (seven) days prior to this meeting  
To elect the committee for the year ending 31 December 2010  
To elect an honorary auditor for the year ending 31 December 2010  
Any other business

*Simon Dutton* (Secretary)  
January 2010

Audited accounts and copies of the minutes of the last annual general meeting will be distributed before the start of the meeting.

All persons attending the meeting are requested to be present and registered by 19:15 to enable a prompt start at 19:30.

#### 2009/10 Claremont Dramatic Society Committee

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