



# Claremont Chat

Claremont Dramatic Society Newsletter  
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## August 2010 – Number 90

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Wow ... what fun that was! It is always an absolute honour to work with Brenda Gray on one of her beautiful creations – and *Lady Windermere's Fan* was no exception ☺. We're all feeling a little hollow this week after spending almost four months together working on this Oscar Wilde classic.

It's impossible to mention everyone involved, but I have been asked to make a special mention and send thanks to all the people who helped with the set-building on *Lady Windermere's Fan*: Wendy Goddard, Steve and Michele Belknap, Clifford Graham, Bruce Edwards, Vivienne Grey, Sven Yaffe, Alison King, David Campey, Elza-lynn Kruger, Adrian Kettle, Allison Blair, Simon Sutton, Peter Ford, Wesley Wolhuter and Kim Harris-Dalla.

Apart from being terribly grateful to each and every person associated with the play for all their help and teamwork, I want to send a huge thank-you to the audiences. To all our members, their family and their friends who came to watch: We appreciate it immensely – you helped make it the success that it was!

### Member and committee news

We are sad to have lost our Secretary (Simon Dutton) to the mine dumps of the north for a longer period than anyone anticipated (including Simon himself). Due to longer than expected commitments in Johannesburg, Simon has resigned as secretary of the CDS committee, but we hope to see him around whenever we can.

If you are unsure about having paid your membership fee send an e-mail to [cds.members@gmail.com](mailto:cds.members@gmail.com) to find out if you have paid or not.

We wish Allison Blair a speedy return to health – and are very sad that she missed the last week of *Lady Windermere's Fan*.

### Help thee at the Masque!

We've had a request from the Masque Theatre for more volunteers to help once or twice a month with bar duty during the runs of the various shows. We've all enjoyed a drink or two before, during and after a performance – and it would be great to get a few more of us

to spare a couple of hours to help. Please contact Rick Magnin directly:  
richard.magnin@engenoil.com

## Members' evening

**Friday, 10 September 2010 at 19:30 for 20:00.**

This next members' evening has been transformed slightly from a play-reading to a movie about a play – our very own *Lady Windermere's Fan*!

In light of the great interest and positive accolades that the society received from many people (some visiting the Masque Theatre for the first time!) about Brenda's production of *Lady Windermere's Fan* – as a superb production, excellent acting as well as set and costuming – we're planning a movie evening that incorporates the “period” stage-production perspective (Brenda's take on that) versus a “modern” film adaption (2004) directed by Mike Barker.

The movie that we'll be screening is called *A Good Woman* – this is a 2004 film directed by Mike Barker based on the 1892 *Lady Windermere's Fan*. It offers a modern-day movie interpretation compared to the period stage-play approach that was on at the Masque.

Director Brenda Gray will discuss the different production attributes of theatre for the stage vs theatre for film. She will share the different considerations that she as a director took into account when she planned the stage production, i.e. casting; set design; costumes; period setting, etc. She will also discuss taking a period play like Oscar Wilde's and making it relevant for modern audiences without compromising the period and stage-production values. She will also review the movie against this backdrop – how the film's contemporisation to modern-day period works in this context. Kim Harris-Dalla will provide a review (sharing anecdotes) of the production co-ordination for this period play – researching, costumes, hair and set considerations.

There were two other movies based on *Lady Windermere's Fan*:  
1925 Ernst Lubitsch's silent film called *The Fan* and 1949 Otto Preminger's adaption called *The Fan*. – Do come and join us for what is bound to be a wonderful evening. ☺

## Get thee to the Theatre!

\* Masque Theatre productions (unless otherwise stated) are on  
Thu. and Fri. at 20:00, Sat. matinées at 14:30 and Sat. evening at 18:30.

\* Thu. eve and Sat. matinées R50 (Theatre Club members R40),  
other evenings R60 (Theatre Club members R50).

\* BOOKINGS on 021-788 1898: Mon. to Fri. 09:00 to 16:00, Sat. 08:30 to 11:30

**Thu. 02 – Sat. 04 September – Masque Theatre**

*A Woman alone AND The human Voice*

**FOUR shows only!**

Don't miss this **outstanding** one-woman double-bill of classic theatre.

**Blue Sky Productions** presents

**Nina Lucy WYLDE** in a *tour de force* performance directed by **Ingrid WYLDE**

**Dario Fo's** *A Woman alone* and  
**Jean Cocteau's** *The human Voice*

All shows R50 (R60 non-members)

**Masque Theatre BOOKINGS** 021-788 1898 (o/h) or tickets at the box office 15 mins before starting times

"It's her big bold eyes that pierce through the invisible walls of the stage to one's heart ... a stunning success." *Star Tonight*

"... an emotionally rich performance ... powerfully evocative and deeply moving" *Cue* (2009)

Fresh from the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown, an evening of two very different women, two very different plays. Prolific Italian playwright **Dario Fo's** dark comedy *A Woman alone* (a housewife held prisoner in her own home) and **Jean Cocteau's** "algebra" of verbal codes, *The human Voice*, runs the gamut of female emotions in a riveting drama unfolding through a woman's performance.

*Please support our visiting production – come in your droves. ☺*

### 01 – 09 October

Joe Orten's fast-moving 1960's farce *What the Butler saw* is being presented by MVDS at the Masque Theatre. Visiting British director Ralph Yarrow is giving this cast of six a different take on auditions and rehearsals!

**10, 11, 16, 17 and 18 September** (20:15) plus a matinée **Sat., 18 Sept.** at 14.15 at the **Milnerton Playhouse Theatre**, Pienaar Road, Milnerton (behind the library)

Milnerton Players present

### *The Road to Mecca* by **Athol Fugard**

This beautifully sensitive and emotional play traces the complex life of Helen Martins, the eccentric sculptress who lived and worked in the now famous Owl House in Nieu-Bethesda, and her relationship with two people who were near and dear to her. – Following her award-winning production a couple of years ago of *Sorrows and Rejoicings*, director Mari Mocke has chosen a talented cast to portray the roles in another of Fugard's highly acclaimed works. Helen Martins will be played by Judith Herbig, the young social worker Elsa Barlow, who becomes her close friend and confidante, is Renée Stirling, and Bruce Sanderson plays the empathetic Dominee Marius Byleveld. – A definite not-to-be-missed experience for lovers of good theatre.

Evening performances R60, matinée: R50

Block bookings and special discounts for school groups available

Bookings:

021-557 3206, 082 267 1061 or macdram@afrihost.co.za

Th – Th – That's all, folks. ☺ – See you at the theatre!

*André*

**Claremont Dramatic Society Committee 2010**

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Kim Harris-Dalla (production co-ordination, publicity, archives)	kbjhharris@yahoo.co.uk	021-713 2026
Pamela Burger (members' evenings)	pamb@masterparts.com	021-696 5959
Allison Blair (Masque FoH co-ordinator)		
Sven Yaffe (play-reading co-ordinator)		