



MvDS Newsletter February 2010

Hello, hello! Yes, I *know* that February is practically over, but better late than never! Did you know that before Julius Caesar reformed the calendar, February was the only month with an even number of days? Februarius, as the Romans called it, took its name from *februs*, “means of cleansing”. This was the cleansing appropriate to the ushering in of spring and a new year. Further Fab February Facts to follow!

Next Members' Evening

As advised last month, this will take place on Wednesday, 17 March 2010, at 19:30 at the Madhouse. (You *did* have it in your diary, didn't you?) That date is St Patrick's Day so we have decided to “go green” and have a Spud and Pud evening! Coming from Irish stock myself, I grew up with potatoes – mashed, boiled, baked, fried! So our main meal will consist of baked potatoes with a variety of toppings: hot, cold, meat, vegetarian – something for everyone! We will finish with home-made mint ice-cream – yum, Alastair, can't wait! You can do your bit by dragging out your leprechaun outfit or *at least* a green T-shirt! There will be a small prize for best-dressed. The entertainment will be “An Evening with Brendan (Begorrah!)” and *you* are invited to read one of the hilarious extracts which have been chosen! Contact Wendy Morling on 021-715 8970, 083 462 8242 or home@morling.co.za to volunteer and/or to advise that you will be attending – by 10 March please for catering purposes. We will have our normal cash bar, but you are more than welcome to bring your own “tipple”.

Feedback

Hey, I *finally* got a member's contribution to the newsletter! Gary Fargher commented on my “year 2000”-bit in the January newsletter as follows: “Hi Eve, I'm impressed that you're the first one that mentions Y2K computer problems (or lack of) correctly – ‘... after years of preparation for Y2K ...’ pretty much nothing happened, as it was supposed to be. As opposed to the morons that keep saying it was a con! Funnily though, a Y2K programme fix came back to bite us now, 10 years later. When we went from 2009 to 2010, a particular programme crashed as the Y2K fix had a bug, in that it did not handle the single-digit year to double-digit year correctly. Cheers, G”.

Well, Gary, thanks for that titbit, and thanks for taking time to put “pen to paper” – well, finger to computer anyway!

Assistance please!

Your society needs *your* input! We can all be exceptionally grateful to Brenda Commins who has very kindly volunteered of her time to gather together all the MVDness from plays gone by and create a MVDS archive! I cannot think of a better person for the job – especially since she will have the assistance of husband Brian, who has, of course, appeared in so many of our productions. So, any photos, programmes, reviews, etc. you may have skulking in a cupboard at home need to be ferreted out and given to Brenda. You can contact her on bcommins@kingsley.co.za or 021–788 1290. The Masque Theatre can also be utilised as a drop-off/pick-up point.

And *more assistance* ... very much in the same vein ... Cata are trying to piece together the history of the awards, which appears annually in the Cata Awards Programme, and for this they desperately need your help! A full list is attached to this newsletter.

Members' news

We have stacks of new members who have paid their subs for 2010! The majority of these have already appeared in one of our 2009 productions and obviously realised that they just *had* to become part of our “family”! So, welcome to them all – strictly in alphabetical order of course: Belinda Batt (*Appointment with Death*), Heather Gibbons (*Mothers of the criminal Element*), Patrick Jordi (*Improbable Fiction*), James Pape, Lynwen Roman and Marie-Louise Rouget (*Appointment with Death*).

Unfortunately we have had to say goodbye to Jo Darby who has emigrated to Australia – we wish her all the best.

Very, *very* belated congratulations to Tracey Cahill who was married in November last year and is now Tracey Burger-Cahill. Well, when we bumped into her at the volunteers' party she was certainly looking like a happily married lady!

Good luck

... to Kurt Egelhof whose has opened a movie club in the new Muze Theatre in Muizenberg! Kurt will be remembered for his great one-man show entitled *Four Generation* recently performed (twice!) at our very own Masque Theatre. e-mail theatreinthemuze@gmail.com for further details on joining. We wish this venture every success for the future.

Calendar

- 05 to 13.03. *Towards Zero* by Agatha Christie, presented by Fish Hoek Dramatic Society at the Masque Theatre.
Thomas Royale expounds the theory that murders begin long before they are actually perpetrated. The author, with this theory in mind, uses the first act to set the stage for the murder and the second act to solve it. Christie's trademark twists and turns are back!
- 07 March *Rock 'n Rouge* by the burlesque-inspired cabaret group of the same name, at the Masque Theatre for one show only at 19:00. Tickets R60 (R50 club

members). An evening of fun, laughter and entertainment covering a variety of hits from musicals.

- 10 March Have you RSVP'd for our Members' Evening?
- 17 March St Patrick's Day! And, more importantly, MVDS Members' Evening (19:30)
- 22 March Cata Awards Evening at the Masque Theatre. Bookings through Hayley Fargher on 021-788 7699 Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 to 13:00. There is no cost, but space is limited. Please advise if you are a nominée when booking. Start is 19:30 for 20:00, 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.
- 18 to 27.03. *I love You. You're perfect. Now change* presented by Bigleaf Productions at the Masque Theatre. Two extra Wednesday shows at 20:00 (R50/R40), matinées R50/R40, other nights R60/R50. A collection of hilarious scenarios depicting the age-old ritual of the suburban mating game.
- 27 March MVDS' Directors' Forum for 2011 productions, 14:00 at the Madhouse, 57 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, estimated costs (as best you can) 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) 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 contact birga Thomas (by Monday, 01 March) at birgatom@iafrica.com or leave a message at 021-788 5272 You can also discuss delivery or collection of a script with her.
- 10 April Audition for *Gigi*, a collaboration between Pinelands and Claremont, to be staged at the Masque during December. Details to follow.
- 25 April Stern Masque Theatre Association AGM at the theatre.

Please note days, times and prices for Masque Theatre productions (unless otherwise stated) are Thursday and Friday performances at 20:00, Saturday matinée at 14:30, Saturday evening at 18:30. Thu. eve and Sat. matinées R50 (Theatre Club members R40), other nights R60 (Theatre Club members R50).

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

Birthdays

We have a nicely spaced crop of birthdays in March.

- 02.03. Barbara Bassett
- 10.03. Coleen van Staden
- 11.03. Val Stephens
- 15.03. Liz d'Alton
- 16.03. Margot Hattingh
- 22.03. Dawn Scholtz
- 31.03. Grace Brain

Your birthstone is the amethyst which is a violet variety of quartz. The name comes from the Ancient Greek *ἀα-* (“not”) and *μέθυστος methustos* (“intoxicated”), a reference to the belief that the stone protected its owner from drunkenness. The ancient Greeks and Romans wore amethyst and made drinking vessels of it in the belief that it would prevent intoxication.

Your birth flower is the violet, of the viola species. One quirk of some viola is the elusive scent of their flowers; along with terpenes. A major component of the scent is a ketone compound called ionone, which temporarily desensitises the receptors of the nose, thus preventing any further scent being detected from the flower until the nerves recover.

February facts

What is that little disclaimer they use in newspaper articles? Something about “the views expressed are not necessarily the views of this publication”? Well, in calling these “facts” I am definitely invoking that disclaimer! But they *are* February fun anyway!

- February is the only month that can pass without a full moon. This last happened in 1999 and will next happen in 2018.
- *Much ado about Nothing* is the only Shakespeare play that mentions February.
- Anyone born in Sweden on the last day of February in 1812 never had another birthday. Uniquely, as the country dithered between Julian and Gregorian calendars, February had 30 days in that year.

Past production

Improbable Fiction has just finished its very successful run at the Masque – hope everybody saw the rave reviews and made sure to catch it! June and Bruce Edwards were responsible for the majority of the props (and, boy, were they something!). See below for more news on this wonderful production. Firstly here’s a snippet from June.

Our papiermâché walnut space-pod (1,6 m tall, circumference 4,4 m) comes close to an item mentioned in the Guinness World Records 2010, namely: “The largest papier mâché sculpture has a height of 2.1m and a circumference of 6.6m. A model of the globe (earth) was presented at Ma’a lot Meshulam School in Rehovot, Israel, on 5 May 2008.”

So many people saw the pod in progress and asked what it was. As the pod grew, during construction, so did an interesting list of names for it and references to it. When it landed at the Masque it was

recognised for what it is. Aubrey Hindle took one look and asked: "What is the giant walnut for?" My reply was: "Thank you, Aubrey, you made my day!"

It started out as birdcage (when it was just a skeleton clad with garden mesh), then grew into the dome thing, beehive, bird's nest, nest with worms, funny round thing, cupcake, Easter egg, that egg thing, acorn.

To put the cherry on the cupcake, a patron phoned Celia to ask for a booking for "The Alan Acorn show".

Thanks to June for a good laugh! On a more serious note but still with reference to the play: Sue Hallinan knows someone who is in e-mail contact with Sir Alan Ayckbourn and who sent him the following e-mail.

Dear Sir Alan, I'm in Cape Town and today a friend came by and told me how much she'd enjoyed *Improbable Fiction*. She enacted practically the whole play and said the audience adored it and the amateur cast was terrific.

To which he responded:

Dear Geraldine, thanks so much for the message. So glad *Improbable Fiction* is still entertaining people. I hear now and then that amateur societies in particular seem to be having fun with it. Thanks so much for letting me know.

Now isn't that tremendous?

Enjoy what is left of the shortest month of the year, folks!

Eve

Our 2010 committee

| Name | Portfolio | Tel. 021-... | Cellphone | e-mail |
|------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| BLAKE, Andrew | Chairperson | 781 0114 | 082 493 3330 | ablake@mweb.co.za |
| DUFF, Alastair | Vice-chairperson | 788 4984 | 084 531 2457 | aliduf@phs.co.za |
| MORLING, Wendy | Members' evenings | 715 0694 | 083 462 8242 | home@morling.co.za |
| THOMAS, birga | Secretary | 788 5272 | | birgatom@iafrica.com |
| RUDOLPH, Raymond | Treasurer | 794 5229 | 082 312 2737 | raymrud@netactive.co.za |
| CARR, Eve | Newsletter | 797 7286 | 082 789 2281 | everon@absamail.co.za |
| CARR, Ron | Bar | | 072 784 7236 | |
| MUSIKANTH, Celia | President/Masque trustee | 788 7911 | 083 358 8415 | celiamusikanth@mweb.co.za |
| MCCONNELL, John | Vice-president | 782 2743 | | — |

Cata – History of Awards ... Can you help?

- In each category for each year of every award, they need the following.
Name of the person who won,
- Name of the winning production and
- Name of the winning society.

You will see indicated below the information that is missing. Could you please look through the list and forward any “answers” you might have to Lynn Moss at lynn@dramaticsolutions.co.za

Key for societies listed are

1018 = 1018 Players
AK = Akademiespelers
AP = Anchor Players
BATS = Bellville
BDS = Bergvliet D. S.
CDS = Claremont D. S.
CTP = Constantiaberg Theatre Players
FHDS = Fish Hoek D. S.
FP = Festival Productions
G&S = C. T. Gilbert & Sullivan S.

HHDS = Hottentots Hollands D. S.
MVDS = Muizenberg D. S.
MTP = Masque Theatre Players
MP = Milnerton Players
PP = Pinelands Players
PR = Pinelands Reps
PT = Parow Toneelvereniging
RT 30 = Round Table 30 George
SOE = Sons of England D. S.
SP = Sentinel Players
* denotes missing information

The Harry Hargreaves Cup for Best Set

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1990 Jill Cooke for <i>Uncle Vanya</i> – * | 1992 (no record) * |
| 1991 (no record) * | |
| 1994 Barrie Howard for <i>The Importance of being Ernest</i> – * | |
| 1995 * for * – HHDS | 2000 (no record) * |
| 1996 John Farrell for <i>Steel Magnolias</i> – * | 2001 (no record) * |
| 1997 Jack Matthee for <i>Little Foxes</i> – * | 2002 (no record) * |
| ... Barrie Howard for <i>Little Foxes</i> – * | 2003 (no record) * |
| 1998 (no record) * | 2004 (no record) * |
| 1999 Jeremy Blackburn for <i>Sleuth</i> – * | 2005 (no record) * |

Fiona Chisholm Cup for Best Cameo Performance

1998 Barrie Howard in * – PP

Imps Shield for Most Promising Newcomer

| | |
|---|---|
| 1998 Karin Barrish in * – * | 2004 Stacey Rae in * – * |
| 1999 Shaun Holley in * – * | 2006 Thandeka Magona in <i>Vukani</i> – * |
| 2000 Carina Bartram in * – * | 2007 Marlisa Dubell in * – * |
| 2001 Tamzyn Murphy in <i>Nobody's Perfect</i> – * | |

The Award for Best Actress in a Supporting Role in a Play

| | |
|--|---|
| 1990 Veronica Suckling in – * | 1992 (no record) * |
| * Ann Buxton in * – * | 1993 Celia Musikanth in <i>Lettuce and Lovage</i> – * |
| 1991 (no record) * | 1994 Michelle Galloway in <i>My Mother said</i> – * |
| 1995 Julie Summers in <i>The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie</i> – * | |
| 1996 Ruth Allsopp in <i>The Scottish Play</i> – * | 1998 (no record) * |
| 1997 (no record) * | |

The Award for Best Actress in a Supporting Role in a Musical

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1995 Vicki Berg in <i>West Side Story</i> – * | 1998 (no record) * |
|---|--------------------|

The Award for Best Actor in a Supporting Role in a Play

1991 (no record) *
 1992 (no record) *
 1993 Wesley Figaji in *The Foreigner* – *
 1994 Norman Sargeant in *Nuts* – *
 1995 John McConnell in *The good Doctor* – *
 1996 John McConnell in *The Crucible* – *
 1998 (no record) *

The Award for Best Actor in a Supporting Role in a Musical

(no records prior to 1995)*
 1995 Donal Slemon in *West Side Story* – *
 1998 (no record) *
 2000 (no record) *
 2003 Oliver Stevens in *Hell's Belles* – *

Doris Tansley Cup for Best Actress in a Play

1988 Vivian Baard in * – *
 ... Elize Meiring in * – *
 1989 Yvonne Copley in * – *
 ... Linda Denham-Botha in * – *
 1990 Miranda Lewis in * – *
 1992 June Ball in * – CTP
 ... Linda Barrans in * – MP
 1994 Yvonne Copley in *My Mother said* – *
 ... Pam Ross in *Lloyd George knew* – *
 1996 Marion Hind in * – MP
 1998 Coleen van Staden in * – MVDS
 .. Suzi Gehr in * – AP
 2000 Denise Dubber in * – MVDS
 2001 Julie Summers in *Return Engagements* – *

Walter Swanson Trophy for Best Actress in a Musical

(history prior to 1995 lost with cup *)
 1998 (no record) *
 2000 (no record) *

GEOFFREY TANSLEY CUP for BEST ACTOR IN A PLAY

1988 Louie Cowen in * – *
 1989 Rick Rogers in * – *
 1990 Alan Kenyon in * – *
 1993 Graham Boxall in *Pippin* – * ! see Actor in Musical
 1994 Tony Stiglingh in *The Mikado* – G&S ! see Actor in Musical
 1996 Graham Boxall in * – MTP
 ... Simon Sutton in * – MP
 1997 Nigel Sweet in * – MP
 1991 Willie Sass in * – *
 1992 Brian de Kock in * – *
 1998 Bob Connell in * HHDS
 2000 Mark Pile in * – MP
 2002 Mike Tompson in *When we are married* – *

Downey Cup For Best Actor In A Musical

1989 (no record) *
 1990 (no record) *
 1991 (no record) *
 1992 (no record) *
 1993 Graham Boxall in *Pippin* – *
 1994 Tony Stiglingh in *The Mikado* – G&S
 1998 (no record) *
 2000 (no record) *

Cods – Little Theatre Cup for Outstanding Achievement in Service too Amateur Theatre

2003 (No record) *

Joseph Manca Cup for Best Director of a Musical

1991 (no record) *
 1992 (no record) *
 1994 June Wells – * – *
 ... Philip Hoole * – *
 1996 Kyla Thorburn – *Half and Half* – *
 1998 (no record) *

BERTIE STERN CUP for BEST DIRECTOR OF A PLAY

1988 Norman Sargeant – * – *
 1989 Rozelle Edwards – * – *
 1990 Estelle Knott-Craig – * – *
 1992 Brenda Gray – *The Dining Room* – *
 ... Joan Turner – *Once upon a Time* – *
 1993 Terry Best – * – MVDS
 ... Sheila McCormick – * – MP
 1994 Estelle Knott-Craig – * – *
 1995 Sol Rodsell – *Gaslight* – *
 ... Barrie Howard – *The Heiress* – *
 1996 Kyla Thorburn – * – G&S
 1997 Brenda Gray – * – MVDS/MP
 1998 Celia Musikanth – * – MVDS

Marcia Lawton Cup for Best Musical

1986 *Caught Napping* – PR (Runner up!) *
 1987 *Die Fisici* – AK (Runner up!) *