



Members' Newsletter

April 2013

I was going to call this a Spring newsletter, but...!

Our page 1 story is about the summer production, 'Glengarry Glen Ross'. Read-through 24 April.

We have chosen the autumn production 'Picasso at the Lapin Agile', a comedy/fantasy by Steve Martin, to be performed 21-23 November, directed by Valerie Gerrard.

Club [dinner](#) 26 April in St. Ives.

New: Play-Reading Group! More information [here](#).

Drama club year subs are [due](#).

Spring production: what the director [thought](#).

Dean is performing in a supper theatre 'God of Carnage' 24 & 25 May more information [here](#).

Summer production 2013 **Glengarry Glen Ross** director Scott Hutchison 18-20 July at the Commemoration Hall, Huntingdon

A 1983 play by the Chicago playwright David Mamet. The play shows scenes from two days in the lives of four desperate real estate agents who are prepared to engage in any number of unethical and illegal acts, from lies and flattery to bribery, threats, intimidation, and burglary, in order to sell undesirable real estate, Glengarry Highlands and Glen Ross Farms, to naive prospective buyers.

On the surface, the play is about people trying to sell a commodity, but it is really about much more than this. It deals with the lies some businesses are founded on and the lies that are told to keep them going. Lies which layer and layer upon each other until any sense of a moral compass is lost.

The play is as relevant today as it was when it was first produced, showing that the desire for profit and success can strangle our natural instinct to do the right thing.

The play premiered in London, at the National Theatre's Cottesloe theatre and has won numerous awards from its first production through the many revivals there have been. The play recently played to packed houses on Broadway.

Characters -

Richard "Ricky" Roma

The most successful salesman in the office. Although Roma seems to think of himself as a latter day cowboy and regards his ability to make a sale as a sign of his virility, he admits only to himself that it is all luck. He is ruthless, dishonest and immoral, but succeeds because he has a talent for figuring out a client's weaknesses and crafting a pitch that will exploit those weaknesses.

He is a smooth talker and often speaks in grand, poetic soliloquies.

Shelly "The Machine" Levene

An older, once-successful salesman, who has fallen on hard times and has not closed a big deal in a long time. In Mamet's original 1983 stage version, Levene mentions his daughter as a final ploy to gain Williamson's sympathy in order to get better leads. However, in the 1992 film version, Levene's discussion of his daughter also includes comments about her poor health in order to gain additional sympathy from Williamson.

James Lingk

A timid, middle-aged man who becomes Roma's latest client. Lingk is easily manipulated and finds Roma highly charismatic.

John Williamson

The office manager and main antagonist. The salesmen despise Williamson and look down on him, but need him desperately because he's the one who hands out the sales leads.

George Aaronow

An aging salesman with low self-esteem who lacks confidence and hope. A follower who lacks the ability to stand on his own.

Dave Moss

A big-mouthed salesman with big dreams and schemes. Moss resents Williamson, Mitch and Murray for putting such pressure on him and plans to strike back at them by stealing all their best sales leads and selling them to a competitor. Moss sees Aaronow as a potential accomplice.

Baylen

A police detective. He appears in the final act to investigate the office break-in and interrogate each cast member behind closed doors.

Mitch and Murray

These unseen characters are the owners of the real estate agency. They have set up a cruel sales "contest" that has put enormous pressure on the salesmen to produce or to lose their jobs.

Scripts are available in advance of the read-through from Michael or John 01480 454486 or email john.ccz@btinternet.com, priced £10, refundable.

Scott is also very keen to hear from women as well.

Read-throughs will be on 24 April 7.30 - 10pm in the Minerva Room, The Commemoration Hall
For more information contact Scott by email at scott.b.hutchison@gmail.com.

Club Dinner 26 April Molise, St Ives



Come and have a fun evening out with other Club members, partners and friends!

Starters and mains to be selected in advance by Tuesday, 23 April, dessert selected on the day:

Starter choices:

- Insalata di Mozzarella e

Pomodoro (Mozzarella & Tomato Salad)

- Gamberoni al Vino (King prawns in a white wine, butter & chilli sauce)
- Funghi alla crema (Mushrooms in garlic & cream sauce)
- Crema di zuppa di pomodoro (Cream of Tomato Soup)

Mains:

- Filetto Molisana (Fillet steak with gorgonzola cheese, brandy & cream sauce)
- Pollo Picante (Chicken breast with mushrooms, onions, peppers & chilli)
- Risotto alla Marinara (Prawns & scampi in cream sauce & rice)
- Fusilli al Pesto (Pasta in a crushed basil, garlic, pine nuts & olive oil sauce)

Dessert:

- Offered on the day

Restaurant Molise is the genuine article - a fine Italian restaurant run along traditional Mediterranean lines: family run, with excellent food and drink. Popular and friendly, this superb establishment enjoys an enviable reputation for quality and service.

More information and pre-order [here](#)

Subs And Free Ticket

A subscription to Huntingdon Drama Club is still only £12 – just over 3p a day. To make it easy, you can now pay online through TicketSource – [click here](#). And as an incentive, every paid-up member is entitled to one free ticket for any of this year's productions – so in fact you'll only be paying £3 as your annual subscription!



Free tickets can only be booked in advance, by ringing the treasurer, Michael Black, on 01480-454486. He'll book your free ticket, along with any tickets that you want to pay for (and of course all your seats will be together).

Remember that subscriptions are an essential source of income, so to keep Huntingdon Drama Club in existence, please pay your sub!

Occupational Hazards

How the director thought it went

Our last production was Clive Lawrence's 'Occupational Hazards', a satirical look at news management. There was plenty of praise for the high standard of the performances and the wittiness of the script. Clive, who wrote the play specially for us, came to watch on Saturday, and was very pleased with what he saw.



This was a very co-operative production, with the cast members doing a lot to provide props and costumes, and solve problems. I'm particularly grateful to Kelly Mason and Guy Makey, who joined the cast midway through rehearsals. My thanks to the many people who contributed to the success of the production, whether on-stage, backstage or front of house.

Michael Black

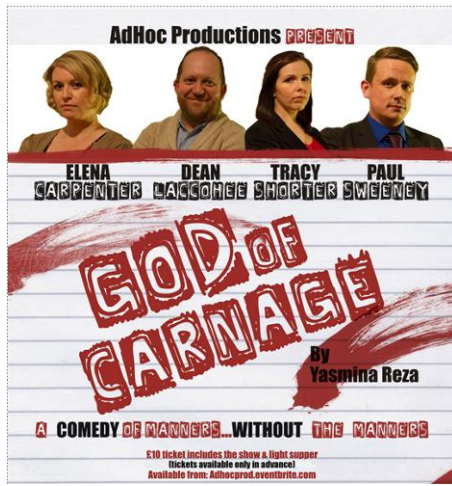
Play-Reading Group

A few of us have decided to launch a group for those members who enjoy drama, but perhaps do not want to act, or are just not acting in the current production. If you love to read and have an interest in drama, then this might be for you. The Huntingdon Drama Club Reading group is open to all club members and will meet about monthly. Our first meeting will be Thursday 8 May, venue to be confirmed. We'll look at scripts and have read-throughs in a very informal atmosphere. We'll be able to discuss the characters and the play itself and we might even be able to suggest plays that we think would be suitable for the club to perform in the future.



A rather animated play reading of Bedroom Farce in December 2007. More info [here](#) (page 5).

Interested? Please email huntingdondramaclub@gmail.com and we'll make sure you know the venue and time. Of course it will also be on the web, Facebook and Twitter too.



Ad Hoc Productions Presents the fantastic comedy

God of Carnage

by Yasmina Reza

Presented in cafe style seating with a relaxed light supper served before the show!

£10 ticket includes the show & meal. (Drinks sold separately from the bar) 7.15pm - Guest arrivals.

More information and tickets [here](#).

Best regards

John Morgan

Chair, Huntingdon Drama Club

www.huntingdondramaclub.org.uk, www.facebook.com/HuntingdonDramaClub