



Dramatic News Dramatic News

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In Our 62nd Year

Short note from the Editor



Thanks to all our members over the last year. We have seen the club grow in membership and in audience attendances.

It is with your support that we have been able to put on the two very successful productions of "Silhouette" and "Move Over Mrs Markham" and we look forward to even bigger and better things in the new year.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and hope you and all your family keep well (and don't forget to mention how great the club is at all your Christmas and New Year's parties).



"MOVE OVER MRS MARKHAM" – WHAT A SUCCESS!

Thanks to all who came to see our performances (and also brought your many friends). We had very large audiences for each night and received great feedback from those who attended.

For those of you who missed out ... boy, did you miss a great show (but we promise our next one will be just as good, if not better).

A particular thank you needs to be made to those people off-stage and behind-the-scenes who helped make this production another successful one for the club. Rather than not mention them ... I thought I would because they all made a big contribution, out of their own free time, to help.

In no particular order, many thanks to:

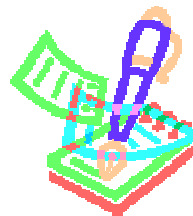
Ann Monk, Bob and Anwen Pugh, Alison Gray, Chris Doyle, Chris and Christine Hunnam, Richard Lee, Pete Welsh, John Morgan, Richard Meredith, Jan Sheppard (fantastic makeup, Jan), Kat Sexton and Kevin Webb.

On page 2 I've provided a few photos of the performances as a reminder of what a good time was had by all.

CONTACT DETAILS

<mailto:theeditor@huntingdondramaclub.org.uk>

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Pictures from Move Over Mrs Markham



Caroline, James and Chris



James and Kat



Kevin (assist. dir. & prompt)



Carol and James



Caroline, Jeanette and James



Jeanette, Mark, Chris and James



Curtain call

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SO WHAT'S IT LIKE TO RUN SOUND AND LIGHTING FOR A PRODUCTION?



John Morgan –
Mr Sound & Lighting

John Morgan is familiar to everyone in the drama club as our trusty sound and lighting man, and he is running a Sound and Lighting Workshop in the New Year to give us all an insight into how it all works. But who is the man behind the console? *Caroline Harbord* decided to find out more.

I started off by asking John how many plays he'd worked on sound and lighting for. "I started at school when I was about fourteen" he told me, "so I've lost count. But I think it must be over fifty." Certainly not a beginner then! I asked what he liked so much about it. Is it the power of granting or denying the spotlight to actors who are showing diva-like tendencies? He laughs. "I suppose it brings together two things I love: technology and the performing arts. It's all about the challenge of using my technological skills to make the production work. I love finding the right sound effects for example. It sometimes takes a bit of experimenting but it's very satisfying finding the right one and then seeing the audience react to it the way you want them to."

And what about the downsides? "Well, for me the bit I hate is climbing ladders or anything that takes me off terra firma. And it can be frustrating if I need to spend money that isn't available, as occasionally happens. But no, there are no real downsides – and after all I always get to see the performances from the best seat in the house, and that can't be bad!"

So, if someone is interested in getting involved, what should they do? "Express an interest – and especially come along to the workshop on the 31st January. Help is always appreciated at the back of the hall and another pair of hands always makes a huge difference." I ask John what skills someone would ideally need to have. "Well there are probably four key skills. Firstly, having patience and trying not to suck your teeth and say 'It can't be done'; secondly, lateral thinking; thirdly, concentration (I have to make sure I don't miss my cues, which can be hard if you're laughing as much as I was during *Move Over Mrs Markham!*) And finally - not getting flustered if the cast skips or loops pages." Oh, John, surely you don't mean us!

I go for the killer question. So, John, are you totally dedicated to the sound and lighting console or will we be able to tempt you back onto the stage again sometime soon? "Oh, I'd love to act again! Acting is the new bit of me. My first real part was that of Freddie the barman in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* in 2001 and I loved it." Great news, and it means that it's even more important for people to come to the workshop, so you can leave the technical work in someone else's capable hands while you tread the boards!

Lastly, is there any way the cast can help you or would you rather we just left you to get on with it? "Basically it's help with fetching and carrying, making suggestions and especially feedback on how it is for the cast on stage. But there is one practical way you can help – if you feel you are in a shadow on stage (especially your face) – MOVE!"

Good advice John, although I'm sure with all the drama queens we have in the club, most of us are busy trying to get into the spotlight, not lurk in the shadows!

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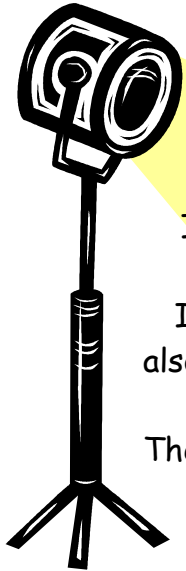
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Social And Other Events still to come



Join Me in the Lime Light

Lighting Workshop 31st January 2007.

This will be an opportunity to discover the way in which our productions are supported technically.

It will not turn you into a West End lighting guru, but it will give you enough of an insight into what needs to be done.

It will be a specific look at the Commemoration Hall systems and will also include a bit of theory. However it will not be full of gobbly-de-gook and will be fun.

The main topics will be

- Communications & organisation and legal stuff concerning a production.
- Lighting - aims, effects, problems with the hall. Including 'playing with The lighting board - all those knobs to play with!!
- Sound - Importance of, obtaining effects, editing effects. Pitfalls of the task!
- Demonstration of up-to-date lights and what they can do for us (should we ever be able to afford them! By and with thanks, to Stage Electrics, Cambridge).

Please contact me for further information at john.morgan@c-c-z.co.uk.
Note handouts will be prepared so you will not have to try and remember it all!!



Ayckbourn on DVD

With our next production being an Ayckbourn comedy, come and see how professionals approach the playwright - the Club is showing a DVD of his 'Absurd Person Singular' in the new year.

The film, made in 1985, stars Prunella Scales, Geoffrey Palmer and Maureen Lipman. and like most of Ayckbourn's plays, it's simultaneously very funny and very sad. The Club performed it - with considerable success - in 1997.

DVD evening: Monday, 8 January, 7.30 for 8 pm, at Ronald's **Michael's**.

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