

# Canterbury Players Newsletter

December 2011

[www.davyhulme.net/canterburyplayers](http://www.davyhulme.net/canterburyplayers)

page 1 of 2

## A Word From The Chairman

Hello everyone,

I do hope that I find you all well and starting the wind-down for the Christmas holiday? Don't know about you, but this year seems to have flown again? They do say that once you are passed 40 this happens!

Well we can not complain about the weather this winter, but I do believe that we are promised a very bad January and February. This means that the good weather will be back in time for our next production.

Once again we have had a very good calendar year for Canterbury. The two productions were excellently received by everyone that attended. We managed to produce two different types of plays, one a great comedy and the other a serious thriller, something that we have not done for a good while. I know that the cast takes all the plaudits during the week of the play (Quite rightly), but they are the first to admit that they would not be able to perform without everyone doing their bit off stage, so on behalf of everyone on the committee I thank you for everything that you did or gave to each of the productions, it is very much appreciated.

The numbers that attended our last play proves that we have now got a good loyal following, and they have accepted our new home. It was great to see people of all ages coming through the door, thus proving even in this great technical age, there is room in peoples lives for good quality dramatic societies like ours.

Laura has cast the next play, it is a "wordy comedy" which captures the "middle aged" man beautifully, and I assure you that it will be every bit as good as this year's productions, if not better. The rehearsals start first week January. So book your seats, as there may be a chance we will sell out Ha Ha.

I will finish by thanking the committee on yours and mine behalf for all their hard work and dedication, Brook Road community for allowing us the privilege of carrying on using their lovely church, David for all the time he dedicates to producing all our newsletters, and wishing you and your families the happiest of Christmases and a healthy, peaceful, prosperous new year, and I look forward to seeing as many of you as I can in 2012.

Roger

## Messenger Review Of "Strictly Murder"

by Julia Taylor

*THE Canterbury Players, at Davyhulme (Wesley) Methodist Church, have come up with one of the best productions I have seen in a long history of reviewing their plays.*

*It is Brian Clemens' thriller, Strictly Murder and, boy, does the creator of The Avengers and The Professionals, get you thinking. Red herrings galore assure that you sit on the edge of your seat trying to work out what will happen next.*

*Not only is the play well written, it is brilliantly directed by Roger Finn, and performed impressively by all involved. I also*

*like the intricate French farmhouse set and the perfectly timed sound effects. However does Bill Palmer get that wireless to work so well?*

*The play is set in Provence in the late thirties where a young unmarried English couple live. Suzy Hinchcliffe cannot understand why partner, artist Peter Meredith won't marry her even though she is pregnant.*

*From the start, Damian McHugh who plays Peter, keeps his dark secrets close to his chest whilst Jennifer Coupe does well in the emotionally draining role of Suzy.*

*The plot thickens when a stranger arrives at their door. Impeccably dressed and apparently charming he indicates that Peter has almost certainly killed his former wife and unborn baby.*

*Soon you learn to trust nobody. Most of the characters are not who they appear to be. The exception is Brad Wigglesworth's childish, mentally impaired Josef. Although he has few words, Brad develops his character through body language. Even a scratch of the head can be meaningful.*

*I don't want to spoil the ending. Suffice to say, a character called Ross (Jonathan Coupe) manages to die twice and another character Miriam Miller (Laura Finn) has a lot to answer for.*

*Apart from old hand Jonathan Coupe, the players have given their younger members a chance to shine and shine they do encouraged by a packed youthful audience who clap loudly at the end.*

*Well done, Canterbury Players, you deserve a full house every night for this intriguing production • At Davyhulme (Wesley) Methodist Church, Brook Road, Flixton, M41 5RQ until Saturday, 12th November 2011. Tickets from 0161 748 8403. Star rating: \* \* \* \* \**

## Diary Dates

16<sup>th</sup> Dec to 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2012

**"Sinbad The Sailor"**  
Altrincham Garrick

28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012

**"The Reunion"** by Peter Gordon  
Canterbury Players

14<sup>th</sup> November 2012

**"Look Who's Talking"** by Derek Benfield  
Canterbury Players

## From The Stretford And Urmston Advertiser

In case anyone missed it when it appeared recently in the "Stretford And Urmston Advertiser", we're printing this piece which was written by April Johnson to commemorate the appointment of our new president.

**New President sees Amateur Dramatic Society go from strength to strength**

*This year Canterbury Players Amateur Dramatic Society elected a new President, Gordon Wells. It's a remarkable tribute for Gordon who has been with the Society for 55 years. Gordon commented how very proud and honoured he is to be part of Canterbury Players and to be walking in the footsteps of June Lucas, who was President and a very active member of the Society.*



*He has seen so many changes in the Society over those years. The society was originated by the Parents and Teachers of Canterbury Road School in Davyhulme in 1949. Rumour has it that the idea was born during a conversation on Urmston Market! Initially the Society was open only to members who had a*

*direct relationship with the school. However in recent years the Society has opened its doors and welcomes members with an interest in Amateur Dramatics, both on stage or behind the scenes. With change at the forefront, the Society has also found a new home and now presents its performances on stage at Davyhulme (Wesley) Methodist Church on Brook Road, Flixton.*

*Gordon was asked to 'help out' by his friend Ron Sclater back in December 1956 when the Society was in danger of closing down. They had almost run out of money and were preparing to present *Beside the Seaside*; everything rested on the success of the production. During the following year the productions were a great success and the Society was revived. Such was its popularity that the Society presented 3 plays a year, filling the theatre for a week each time. Following Ron's National Service call, Gordon found himself thrust into the role of Stage Manager. His wife, Elaine, joined him and undertook the role of Props Manager for 27 years.*

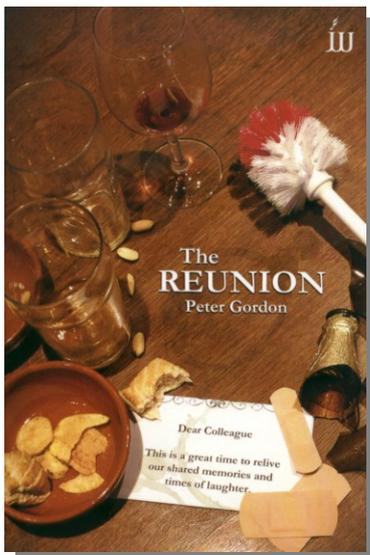
*Since celebrating its 60 year Anniversary in 2009 Canterbury Players have experienced a further revival thanks to continued local support, a new home and an influx of new members who tread the boards and also provide support in behind the scenes roles.*

## The Cast

Jenny	:	Lindsey Andrews
Nigel	:	Aiden KIELTY
Kay	:	Diane Cornes
Thomo	:	Chris Corry
Malcolm	:	Peter Mungovan
Lorraine	:	Kate Morris
Mugsy	:	Jonathan Coupe
Shirley	:	Chris Perry

Posters will be prepared early again so we can get them up for at least 6 weeks before curtain up. We can print them in various sizes; A4, A3 and A2 (two sheets of A3). Please let me know how many, what size etc.

## Our Next Production



28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012

Hard to believe isn't it, but yes, preparations are already under way for our Spring production. The play has now been fully cast and the first read-through is on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December.

This newsletter is compiled by David Holstein and approved by the committee prior to publication, which is usually every few months or as required. It is distributed to the entire membership by email or post as necessary. If you have an article or snippet of news which you would like to be considered for inclusion in a future newsletter, please send it to me, preferably by email. There's an archive of recent newsletters on our website: [www.davyhulme.net/canterburyplayers](http://www.davyhulme.net/canterburyplayers)

email: [david@davyhulme.net](mailto:david@davyhulme.net) phone: 0161 747 9948