

## BRITISH FINAL FESTIVAL OF ONE ACT PLAYS 2012

### Wonderful, wonderful Milford Haven...

Heading west along the M4 through the driving rain and towards even darker and more foreboding skies, I didn't hold out too much hope for the visitors to Pembrokeshire who were heading for the British Final of One Act Plays. The usually beautiful region was not looking its best and our out-of-towners would surely be leaving with the wrong impression of the county rich with stunning coastal walks and secluded beaches. At least there would be four great plays over the weekend to lose ourselves in - the best that amateur theatre has to offer in the UK.

The rain persisted as the groups unloaded their sets that afternoon for the get in at the Torch Theatre in Milford Haven. As the evening began, our audience was beginning to arrive. A good local support for amateur theatre events and good uptake on our all inclusive package had meant that ticket sales were healthy: always an important element of any festival.

The atmosphere at the Torch certainly didn't reflect the weather. Upbeat, chatty and buoyant seemed to be the themes of the night, both front of house and backstage. Tech runs had also gone

very well that afternoon (thanks to Technical Manager Andrew Sturley and his rather brilliant and tech crew) and despite the usual nerves, the atmosphere among participating groups was also great.

Wales and Northern Ireland were to perform on Friday night. As host nation, Wales opened the festival with their comedy *Biscuits*, penned by group member Graham J Evans and published by DAW. To close the evening Clarence Players from Northern Ireland performed Guy Nick Warburton's comedy *The Droitwich Discovery*.



Sarah Hanley (DAW Chair) and Guy Woodham (Mayor of Milford Haven and General Manager of the Torch Theatre) with Margaret Smith.

Following adjudications from GoDA's Ian Sarginson, festival-goers retired to the various spaces within the Torch Theatre to enjoy the buffet, chat and, in some cases, embark on rather a lot of dancing.

Saturday morning brought the beautiful weather and a very warm welcome was extended to all participating groups, their supporters and audience members at the Civic Reception hosted by Mayor of Milford Haven and General Manager of the Torch Theatre, Guy Woodham. For those of you not familiar with the British Final, the Civic Ceremony provides the opportunity for the local authority to welcome the many visitors to the area and allows the groups to exchange gifts. The festival atmosphere prevailed with the amount of camaraderie and mutual respect which was abound in the room.

Weather wise, our Civic host was blessed for his next engagement in the Milford Haven Carnival that afternoon. The Torch Theatre balcony provided an excellent vantage point to watch the floats, dancers, jugglers and bands parading past while awaiting the get in for Saturday night's groups.

As the tech runs kicked off, the winning play in the 2012 Geoffrey Whitworth Competition was presented in a script-in-hand performance in the studio theatre space.



Barbara Crass receives the Geoffrey Whitworth Trophy for her play *Conkers*

Another healthy audience watched Cardigan Theatre perform Barbara Crass's *Conkers*. Barbara was present for the whole weekend and had also seen the play in the preliminary rounds of the English One Act Festival so the pressure was on for Cardigan Theatre and their director Christine Rees. They certainly didn't disappoint; the performance was very warmly received by an appreciative audience and Barbara was later presented with the Geoffrey Whitworth Trophy as part of the festival's closing ceremony.



Saturday evening's performances of *In the Blinking of an Eye* from Kirkton Players (DAW publication) and Total Arts Community Theatre's *The Tempest* brought the festival to an excellent end and the anticipation was tangible in the auditorium for the closing ceremony and presentation of awards.

On stage the directors from each of the participating groups were presented with commemorative medals. The ceremonial Quaich (a celtic cup of friendship) was passed to next year's British



Alan Marshall (AUDF) accepts the Quaich and the responsibility for hosting the 2013 British Final in Northern Ireland.

Final host Alan Marshall from the Association of Ulster Drama Festivals and he extended an invitation to all to visit Northern Ireland in 2013 when they host the event.

Our adjudicator, Ian Sarginson then summarised the festival before announcing the 2012 winner as..

**Kirkton Players with *In the Blinking of an Eye*.**

Thanks are extended to the following for making the event possible:

Milford Haven Port Authority

The staff and technical crew of the Torch Theatre, Peter Doran, Guy Woodham and Andrew Sturley

Christine Rees and Cardigan Theatre

Tan Y Castell

Pembrokeshire Drama Association

As organisers of the event, we were very pleased with the weekend. There's only so much you can arrange and control in advance of a festival. This year we were blessed with groups which were made up of lovely people, with healthy festival attitudes who were there to have a great time and celebrate theatre. I would like to thank Blackwood Little Theatre, The Clarence Players, Kirkton Players and Total Arts Community Theatre not only for entertaining us with their excellent productions but for being great festival groups and brilliant advocates for amateur theatre.

## TRAINING

DAW will be running two theatre workshops in Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire at the end of July.

**ACTING SKILLS** will take place on **Saturday 28th July** and **ENHANCING FESTIVAL PRODUCTIONS** will be held on **Sunday 29th July**. Both workshops will be led by Ben Humphrey GoDA.

**Acting Skills** will cover many aspects of performing including tips and *tricks of the trade* for performers which can be applied to all forms of acting: stage, screen and radio.

**Enhancing Festival Productions** will advise on the many aspects you will need to get right in order to achieve success in your production - especially under competitive festival conditions.

DAW Individual Members £20 or Non-members £30  
DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR GROUP BOOKINGS

**Full details** and how to book on the DAW website.

## THEATRE SUMMER SCHOOL – LAST CHANCE!

This is your last chance to book one of the last remaining places on this year's Theatre Summer School. Taking place at the **University of Wales, Newport** – Caerleon Campus from **12 – 18 August** we have a choice of two fantastic courses.

**Theatre Meze:** This course will explore a range of theatre skills and techniques throughout the week and is led by Ben Humphrey, professional theatre director and a very busy GoDA adjudicator.

**Approaching Shakespeare with the RSC:** Three practitioners from the RSC will take attendees through the language of Shakespeare, vocal work, physicalisation and bringing all of these elements together successfully.

**Full details** and a booking form are available from the DAW website. If you have any questions, please contact Gary on 029 2045 2200.



**LIBRARY REVIEWS compiled  
by Teresa Hennessy**

FULL LENGTH – SINGLE COPIES – MIXED CAST

**PIECES by Hywel John**

Jack and Beatrice are twins. They have no uncles or aunts and no cousins. And now, they have no mum and dad. The one person who can look after them is their godmother Sophie, who arrives, shocked and unprepared, at their remote rural family home. Sophie has not seen the children since they were tiny: too tiny for them to remember her, and undoubtedly too little to remember what caused her long, enforced absence. But as the three of them return to the isolated home on the edge of a forest, their grief triggers a tragic attempt to remember and recreate the past.

**Psychological Drama. Cast: M1 F2**

**Publisher: Nick Hern Books**

**EAST LYNNE by Lisa Evans, adapted from the novel  
by Mrs Henry Wood**

A classic of Victorian Literature, East Lynne was first published in 1861. It was a sensational success, selling more than 500,000 copies and making its author as famous in her lifetime as famous as Charles Dickens himself. Beautiful, kind and virtuous, Lady Isabel Vane is the perfect wife and mother... until, in a fit of jealousy, she leaves her dull, distracted husband and infant children to elope with her handsome, aristocratic suitor. Her fall from grace is absolute as she suffers the terrible punishment of those who dare to disobey a merciless moral code.

**Play. Cast: M5 F9 + offstage voices.**

**Publisher: Oberon Books**

**JUDGEMENT DAY by Mike Poulton; a new version  
of Ibsen's When We Dead Awaken**

Whilst holidaying with his young wife, the sculptor Rubek encounters his muse: women that he loved and left a lifetime ago. Over a series of heated encounters, the entire scroll of Rubek's life is unrolled in Ibsen's final and most autobiographical – exploration of what it means to love and be loved.

**Drama. Cast: M4 F3**

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**Publisher: Nick Hern Books**

**THE WICKED LADY by Bryony Lavery, adapted  
from the original novel The Life and Death of the  
Wicked Lady Skelton by Magdalen King-Hall**

Lady Barbara Skelton is beautiful, wild and truly wicked. Forced into a respectable marriage with a man she can't love, she soon becomes bored and embarks on a secret life of gambling, highway robbery and murder. But she's playing a dangerous game. Shadowed by betrayal, threatened by revenge, can Barbara escape her wicked life? Or will she be abandoned to a terrible fate?

**Historical Thriller. Cast: M10 F8 + various other  
roles played by cast or extras**

**Publisher: Oberon Books**

**OUR NEW GIRL by Nancy Harris**

Behind the shiny door of Hazel Robinson's immaculate London home, things aren't as good as they look. Her plastic surgeon husband, Richard, has embarked on his latest charitable mission to Haiti, leaving the heavily pregnant Hazel to cope with a failing business and a problem son. When a professional nanny arrives on her doorstep, Hazel finds her home under the shadow of a seemingly perfect stranger, and one who has an agenda of her own.

**Psychological Drama. Cast: M3 F2**

**Publisher: Nick Hern Books**

**ONE ACT – SETS – MIXED CASTS**

**BISCUITS by Graham J Evans**

It is 1361 and William, failed builder and Clerk of Works to Henry of Grosmont is in trouble: the building work on the new courthouse is behind schedule and Henry is not happy. With a frustrated daughter, a rebellious son and a bad tempered witch adding to his problems, the offer of help from Gerald, scribe, legal advisor to Henry of Grosmont and fully paid-up lecherous monk, is accepted with tragic and hilarious results. Winner of the Wales Final and a Comedy.

**Cast: M5 F2**

**Publisher: Drama Association of Wales**



### ONE ACT COLLECTION

**DUETS** by David Tristram - Four one-act comedies, each for two people

#### THE EXTRAORDINARY REVELATIONS OF ORCA THE GOLDFISH

For Henry Smith – actor comedian, raconteur, sporting hero, leading socialite, business tycoon, secret agent, Casanova and acting President of the United States – life was rarely dull. For Alice Smith – housewife – life was rarely anything else. Fantasy blurs into reality and two worlds which seemed a million miles apart are suddenly on a collision course.

**Cast: M1 F1**

#### LATE ENTRY

Superb spoof one-handed play, followed by a cruel and entirely justified lampoon of an adjudicator.

**Cast: M1 F1**

#### PEAS

Gerry and Daisy are the first to test out a new dating agency. They soon discover just how much they have common.

**Cast: M1 F1**

#### CARROT

The Managing Director of an ailing roofing bolt manufacturer has an unusual proposition for his union representative. Can he accept without compromising his principles?

**Cast: M1 F1**

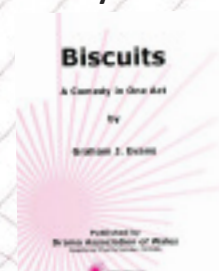
**Publisher: Flying Ducks Publications**

### WHAT'S ON

DAW Group members: if you would like your latest productions and events promoted on the **DAW website**, just submit the details on the Event Sheet and send it into [teresa@dramawales.org.uk](mailto:teresa@dramawales.org.uk)

### FROM DAW PUBLICATIONS

#### BISCUITS by Graham J Evans



It is 1361 and William, failed builder and Clerk of Works to Henry of Grosmont, is in trouble: the building work on the new courthouse is behind schedule and Henry is not happy. With a frustrated daughter, a rebellious son and a bad tempered witch adding to his problems, the offer of help from Gerald, scribe, legal adviser to Henry of Grosmont and fully paid-up lecherous monk, is accepted with tragic and hilarious results.

**Comedy. Cast: M5 F2 £4.50**

**Performance Fee: £38.00**

Available for purchase and performance from  
21 August 2012

#### IN THE BLINKING OF AN EYE by Jeremy Hylton Davies



Joyce and Madge share a picnic and reminisce about their younger years. Their lives are linked by their love of the same man. His singular character has made an indelible mark on both their lives; find out how in this fast-paced, moving yet witty dialogue. A play offering quality writing and comi-tragic opportunities for two older actresses.

**Black Comedy. Cast: F2 £5.00**

**Performance Fee: £38.00**

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More partners coming soon, any suggestions please email [Harriet@dramawales.org.uk](mailto:Harriet@dramawales.org.uk)

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