

Rustington Players

Summer 2024 Newsletter

Going Green – March 2024

A successful run with the mad comedy based around the idea of taking the phrase of “Go green...or die” literally!



NODA review by **Keith Smithers**:

The writer of this cleverly written and very funny play, David Tristram, is well known to me for his “Little Grimley” works. The combination of this person’s writing and the talents of the actors in Rustington Players made for a most enjoyable evening poking some light-hearted fun at politics and politicians.

During the action of the play, we meet six distinctly different characters. The narrator, Madeline, vet, and eventually Prime Minister’s wife (Carrie Salisbury) is recounting the interesting, unusual and bizarre happenings of the Green Party candidate for the party leadership, John (Jason Evans). All six parts were well cast and these two particular people had much dialogue and coped superbly throughout the whole performance.

Sir Clive (Bernard Doogan) was the well respected gentleman to whom the whole sorry episode was being relayed. He was appropriately suitably suited and booted for the part. Then there was Brian (Richard Tyrrell) who was the Party Chairman for the Green Party and wanted John to stand for leadership until he literally turned green and would then obviously be an embarrassment to all. Eventually, he has to concede and accept John for his beliefs and himself and not his colour. Brian is also a male chauvinist and takes delight in belittling women on many occasions. His wife, Christine (Helen Chewter) just tends to ignore these comments and you can see in her acting and eyes, a look of "I love him, but he is so wrong." Laura (Lena Grinsted) is John's girlfriend as the action of the play begins. She enacted a very self-centred person, who does not listen to anyone's voice except her own and disappears from the plot as soon as John turns green - a real fun part.

Talking about green reminds me to extol the talents of the person in charge of make-up and wigs. That is Greg Evans, who was able to make an excellent job of the act two change of colour. Also, the lighting effect as act one fell was competently achieved.

There were four main scenes and these was cleverly done by dividing the stage into four with upstage right being the vet's house, the upstage left being the interview room, the downstage right being John's lounge and the downstage left being Brian's lounge. They were simply lighted at the appropriate times for the action of the play.

Congratulation to those on stage, backstage and to the entire production team for the having the idea to put such a different, silly but fun, evening for our entertainment.

For more pictures click here <https://bit.ly/3VzJ0Cy> or use the QR code:



A Fete Worse Than Death – June 2024

Our summer production was a murder mystery set at in a village fete that had some real characters who clearly had it in for each other. Drama and comedy combined over the pickles and veg in the country produce tent!



NODA review by **Keith Smithers:**

I always enjoy a good murder/mystery evening and your particular choice of “A Fête Worse than Death” was an excellent decision. You have several actors whom I have seen now quite a few times and they can turn their hand to straight, silly, serious and comedy.

The show I saw had some serious moments but was littered with plenty of comedy to make a thoroughly interesting and enjoyable couple of hours.

First of all turning to the murder victim Malcolm Turner (Gordon Keys) and his wife Bunny (Helen Chewter), he was perhaps the serious part of the plot - even though marrows were one of the most important facets of his life. Wife Bunny was obviously having a rough time because of his obsession and turns to Nigel (Martin Sworn) for love and compassion. Nigel would do anything to be with Bunny forever. Malcolm has two nemeses, they are Trish Burton (Deborah Addicott), who has been usurped from her role as chairman by him and Father Mike (Robbie Tolhurst), who will go to any lengths to beat him in the best marrow competition.

The final two people, who do their best to solve the murder, are Violet Parmenter (Jenny Pickering), a slightly confused spinster who believes that the guest engaged to open the fête, Ray Martin (Jason Evans) a.k.a. Inspector Brady in a popular TV series really can solve murders.

All seven parts were well cast and the dialogue although very wordy and with a lot of cross-talking, coped with extremely confidently and efficiently.

The set was a country crafts tent within a village fête. I particularly liked the effect of the open air public address system.

The author, Richard James, keeps one guessing as to the method, motive and practical details of the crime until the very end. By half way through act two and having watched "Murder on the Orient Express" some years ago, I had an inkling of the final result. I will not say whether I was right or wrong in case anyone has not seen this yet. However, I close with my congratulations to director, actors, backstage and technical crew for a very intriguing and entertaining experience.

For more pictures click here <https://bit.ly/4cgtLWl> or use the QR code:



Stage-Door Production

Our neighbouring am-dram society will soon be putting on the production below. It is directed by David Griffin who has been one of our members for many years and acted with us in a number of productions. We wish them well!

<https://www.stage-door.org.uk/>

IMPROBABLE FICTION by Alan Ayckbourn

Show Dates: Wednesday **24th July 2024** – Saturday **27th July 2024**

Worthing Theatre Trail

This month, our very own **Nadya Henwood** is presenting **Pride & Prejudice** but in 'Potted' form as part of the **Worthing Theatre Trail**!



It is a brand-new fast paced romp through Jane Austen's best loved romantic comedy – all the funny bits and all the beloved characters played by four super-talented actors.

Playwright/Director: Nadya Henwood

Cast: Harry Rippon, Stevie Lambert, Laura Thornett and Louise Winch.

Click here for the details <https://worthingtheatretail.co.uk/event/rustington-players-2/>

The above is a taster for the full-blown version Nadya has adapted and debuts as our November production. Anyone wanting to audition please see the details below.

Audition Notice! **Pride and Prejudice**

Written and Directed by Nadya Henwood

Read Through: Tuesday 9th July 2024

Auditions: Tuesday 16th and Thursday 18th July 2024 at 7.30pm at the John de Bohun Room, Woodlands Centre, Rustington.

Rehearsals are Tuesdays & Thursdays from 3rd September 2024 7.30–10pm at the **John de Bohun Room** plus a **Sunday** rehearsal October 27th 9.30am - 12.30pm on the Woodlands stage.

Performance dates: Wednesday 13th – Saturday 16th November 2024 at 7.30pm

For full details check here <https://www.rustingtonplayers.org.uk/auditions>

Upcoming Socials

Dates for your diaries!

- We have a couple of socials coming up including the **Summer BBQ** on the **12th July** at the Pickering residence as usual. See the poster on the last page for details of how to pay and the email to RSVP to.
- The **AGM** is **13th September** and will be followed by a **quiz**. Start thinking about your teams as this is always a hotly contested event!

Keep your eyes peeled for a bingo evening and other events TBA soon.

Raffle Prizes

Ros Maule does a brilliant job on the raffle and these have been extremely successful on the last couple of productions – thanks Ros!

We are always looking for raffle prizes in advance our productions and would be very grateful for donations of unwanted items including biscuits, chocolates, wine, cuddly toys, novelty items, jigsaws, gift sets, etc, etc!

If anyone has something they are willing to donate (no matter how large or small) please get in touch with Ros at ros.maule@outlook.com or mobile **07933 255845** who will happily arrange to collect from you.

Thank You

New Stage Lights

Rustington Parish Council have purchased new stage lighting to replace the ancient and **HOT** incandescent type we've been using forever. Some must date back to the 70s!

We are now able to use their LED lighting, most of which are full colour changing to give our productions much more scope and creativity without gels. They run cool and are very quiet with no fan noise at all.

They are all controlled with a fabulous new lighting desk to give us the best setup possible.

Light and Sound Technicians

Do we have any budding techies who would be interested in joining us to run the sound and lights at our productions? You'll be able to use new technology with the lights mentioned above. Please contact the committee if you're interested or know someone who might be. For further information email us on info@rustingtonplayers.org.uk

First Aiders

About a dozen of us attended a first aid course so that if in the event of an emergency at any of the shows or gatherings, we'll be able to give prompt treatment to anyone requiring it. You'll be in safe hands.

Please see the Summer BBQ poster on the next page.

Rustington Players

SUMMER BBQ

For Members, their partners & children

**FRIDAY
JULY 12TH**

6:30PM - END

AT JENNY & ROB'S

21 St Mary's Close
Littlehampton, BN17 5PZ

£5 per person - Bring your own bottle to share

RSVP in advance: jenny@thepickerings.info or

01903 713737 and pay in advance by BACS

Rustington Players, 20-20-62, 50768669

Please advise any food allergies or if you are a vegetarian

