

The Stonesfield Players

'You're Not Like the Other Girls, Chrissy'

Last August, I spent four days in Edinburgh, savouring the delights of the Fringe Festival and on my last day saw completely by chance, as is often the way in Edinburgh, a moving, dramatic and funny solo performance, entitled 'You're not like the other girls, Chrissy', created and performed by Caroline Horton, who was winner of Best Solo Performer, The Stage Awards in 2010.

You're not like the other girls, Chrissy, is the extraordinary true story of an eccentric young French woman's affair with a tongue-tied English teacher, set against the backdrop of the Second World War. Waiting at the Gare du Nord for the train that will reunite her with her fiancé, this irrepressible Mademoiselle shares their love story: from a chance encounter at Cheadle tennis club to cosmopolitan 1930s Paris, before their inevitable separation by war.

The play stayed with me for days afterwards and I felt compelled to write to Caroline, as I'm sure many other people did, to tell her of its impact. In the course of our exchange of emails, I asked whether she might be interested in repeating her performance in Stonesfield, where I assured her, she would be guaranteed an enthusiastic audience.



January Newsletter 2011

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Feb 3 Players Committee Meeting (tel. 891318 for venue)

Feb 11 *You're not like the other girls, Chrissy*, 7pm Village Hall

www.stonesfieldplayers.org.uk

Email: info@stonesfieldplayers.org.uk

The result is that Stonesfield Players are planning to host this play on Friday 11 February 2011, at the Village Hall, and to make a great French occasion of it with music and one of Ros Mengech's splendid suppers. Please put this date in your diary and encourage friends and family to come and see it. Tickets (including supper which follows the hour-long performance) are £15 per head and can be obtained from the Box Office (Jenny Lines on 898454) and Amlu's Stores, Stonesfield. Doors open at 7.00 pm and the performance begins at 7.45 pm. If I haven't convinced you, read the recent reviews below which might do the trick!

Jay Miller 891208

STAGE MUST SEE: Horton's enchanting script ensures that this ordinary tale of ordinary people in extraordinary times touches each one of us – and the gentle twist at the end leaves hardly a dry eye in the house. Nick Awde

THE GUARDIAN: 'this simple and heartfelt show feels like a real labour of love... a really tremendous and rounded performance. *Lyn Gardner*

METRO: **** Caroline Horton's extraordinary one woman show is full of delightful surprises... Horton's comic timing and facial expressions move us effortlessly from thunderous belly laughs to tears of heartbreak. *Denise Bailey*

TIMEOUT LONDON: **** It's a tale she tells with plenty of charm, but a gratifying lack of sentiment... As somebody whose grandparents went through similar, I'm not ashamed to say I found myself welling up at the dénouement. *Andrzej Lukowski*

FT: **** ...gathers in both charm and emotional engagement until even a hardened hack may be on the brink of tears. Winsome in all the best ways, this Horton may not be hearing a "Who?" for very long.. *Ian Shuttleworth*

Meal – Help needed!

We will be serving a two course meal for the production of *You're not like the other girls, Chrissy* – are there any brave souls who would be willing to help with the food?! I will need help with cooking in advance and also some people on the evening itself. If you are able to one or the other or even both I will be most grateful.

Also we would love to have our excellent team of young players to act as waiters. If you are around on that evening and want to be involved please let me know. Many thanks, **Ros 898276**

An Inspector Calls

A truly memorable evening! The innovative production by the Stonesfield Players of J.B. Priestley's play *An Inspector Calls* in December was superb.

After an excellent supper we, the audience, made ourselves comfortable in winged back armchairs or on cushions in front of a large old radio, in a pre-Great War drawing room. Then, with the actors hidden from view, the play began (with static and a crackle!) and seemed delightfully to emanate from the radio. With only our sense of hearing to appeal to, the scene and each of the characters had to be skilfully built by the actors and this they did marvellously. As the play unfolded, anyone who'd looked in on us, the audience, would have chuckled - we were transfixed! I won't attempt to summarise the plot but given that it is a pretty complex one, the play was kept very sharp and it leapt along at a rattling tempo. Each new revelation or turn of events ramped up the intrigue but we were given no time to guess the final outcome. The addition of some good, often witty sound effects (creaking doors, footsteps etc.) added to the fun. The quality of the acting really was remarkable, all the more so because in hindsight, every word, even every intonation was relevant and important to the plot. Towards the end, I was not the only person who sat open-mouthed, as each of the strands of the play were brought together with aplomb!

I hadn't previously come across the idea of presenting a 'mock' radio play but it worked brilliantly. It was great entertainment and hugely enjoyable. Thank you to The Stonesfield Players - that was my first experience of one of your productions, and I hope there will be many more.

Jenny Chambers, Charlbury

Our Town' by Thornton Wilder

This project has been postponed, but there will be a bulletin with more news in a future edition of the newsletter.

Caroline Friend

Players Christmas 'Do'

The Committee decided to take a new approach to the Players' Christmas get together and the result was a great night out at the White Horse, a chance to catch up with Players new and old. Everyone had fun and I'm sure you'll join me in thanking everyone involved. David Lines compiled and hosted a Christmas quiz that had us scratching our heads. *The Village Idiots* young and old(er) entertained and enthralled us with their constantly changing line-up and musical surprises. Who knew there was so much local talent? Above all, thanks to Brigitte Rak for making it all happen. I'm looking forward to next year's 'do' already ...

Nicky Holland

Welcome to Stoneywood

Time to try something new for the Players, new and exciting! Let's make a film. This is not as daft an idea as it might sound these days given the ready availability of digital technology and equipment. Okay, we're not looking to make something of Oscar winning

standard, but it is perfectly possible in this day and age to make a good amateur film.

The Film: It will be around 30minutes in length and will be shot over the summer period with a Nov/Dec premier screening event in the village and subsequent DVD release for local purchase. The script will be written for us (see below) and will include all ages.

Acting in it: This is open to actors from age 8 upwards and I want to know who wants to be in it in advance, as the script will be written to fit who we have available. I am asking all members to contact me either by phone, text or email (details below) to either say yes you do, or no you don't want to act in it, so that I am very clear about who we have. This is a different kind of commitment to stage plays. There will be no regular rehearsals etc. Filming is more flexible than live performance as schedules can be adapted to fit those involved (within reason), you are only likely to be called for a day or two at a time, you only have to learn the few lines for the scene you are about to shoot at a time and you get to do it again until it's right. As acting for the camera is different from acting on stage I am aiming to arrange a workshop to learn how to do this.

The Material: Yes, we are going to write it ourselves. It's the easiest way to get something that fits who and what we have available in terms of resources. I already have some ideas, but am proposing to have script brainstorming evening (with liquid refreshments of course) for everyone who wants to contribute ideas to the script. I, and a couple of others, will then take those ideas away and weave them into a screenplay. Date for this meeting will be circulated by email as soon as I've fixed it.

The Technical Team: With film the technical team is much more active and involved than in a play and often plays a bigger role than the actors. For the duration of the actual shoot you become a tight-knit team, unlike theatre where you really only come together at the end of things. So if you've always wanted to be involved in some way and don't want to act this is your chance. Adults and teenagers are both eligible. We will be looking for producers, assistants, designers, camera operators, editors, costumes, make-up, lighting and sound technicians and even a composer. It will be a small team so roles will probably double up.

How to become involved: Please email me by the end of the February latest with an indication of whether you want to act or be involved technically, on rebeccasj@bopenworld.com, phone me on 01993 891318 or text (please give your name) on 07771707818.

Becki Sherlaw-Johnson.

Please send contributions for the next newsletter to nicky.holland@btinternet.com