

# AATG Newsletter

October 2010

## Diary:

**27 - 29 October - *Woman in Mind* - Warenar Theatre, Wassenaar (page 7)**

**Panto Chorus call - Sunday 31 October - Warehouse (page 6)**

**Monthly meeting - 1 November - Shillelaigh, Javastraat (page 5)**

**12 November - Musical Soirée - Shillelaigh, Javastraat (page 5)**

If undelivered, please  
return to:

**AATG**  
**Postbus 10239**  
**2501 HE Den Haag**  
**The Netherlands**

## IN THE HOT SEAT

At the monthly social evening, I was asked a question by a new member, "Why did you get into theatre?". The glib remark was for the fame and the applause. This amused the crowd but got me thinking: why do I do this? Why do any of us do this? Giving up our evenings and weekends and in some cases holidays, just to stand in a cold warehouse and rehearse scenes for the next show. Or building and painting sets on a rainy Sunday morning, when most people are still in bed.

I've been doing this now for 21 years, covering everything from directing to panto villager. There must be a reason for it. It is said that the definition of madness is repeating an action and expecting the result to change. Now, I don't think I am crazy so why have I spent 21 years in amateur dramatics? Did I think I would be discovered, you know, really get that fame and fortune? Don't think so: I'm too used to a pay packet. Well, ok, maybe a little, if I admit it. Is it that I want to belong to a group, get away from the TV of an evening? There could be something in that.

Perhaps I need to go back to the beginning. Why did I start? I honestly think to start with it was the pull of the stage, the applause, the cheers and the back slapping in the bar. I certainly soaked that up. But we know that even though they are heartfelt, it will not keep you fed for long. The real point that put theatre centrally into my life was meeting my wonderful wife at the Munsbach summer school. The next was meeting my best (male) friend at the same school and it's theatre that introduced me to so many interesting people, who have become lifelong friends.

I realize now that theatre has given me so many things that I owe it something and the one thing I can give it is my time.

So, why do you do it?

Steve

## Call for spring 2011 productions

Dear directors,

Still waiting! Now is the time to boldly come forward with proposals!

We are looking at a full length production or a One Act - and one which we could send to FEATS next year.

Peter Comley

## Arthur Ford

It was with great sadness that I heard of the death of my old friend and colleague, Arthur Ford on 6 October. His health hadn't been wonderful for some time, but his last illness was very short.

I first met Arthur when we were both cast in the AATG's American Bicentennial production of *Spoon River* (fig 1) way back in 1976. Arthur's in the middle of the picture and you'll see a few other well-known AATG faces in there including (3rd from left) the late Mervyn Briscoe, first Chairman of FEATS. Over the years, Arthur appeared in a number of pantomimes including *Dick Whittington* (fig 2) and more serious productions such as *Breaking the Code* and *Comedy of Errors* (fig 3) - a photo full of current members! After his health began to fail, Arthur continued to support the group as a regular and enthusiastic member of the audience. He was Chairman of the AATG in the 1980s.

Outside the AATG, he was a member of the Choir of the American Protestant Church for a long time, and one of our annual treats was going to hear their carol concert at Christmas. He helped me professionally when changes in Delft meant that I had to make a sudden change of direction in my research.

I'm not sure whether I'll remember him more for his beautiful singing voice, or for the fact that he introduced me to Bourbon whiskey! I suspect that it'll be for his kindness.

Lesley Robertson



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

### **A Musical Soirée**

The AATG Musical Soirée is filling up but we could still do with more singers.

So, if you fancy a go, contact Viv Erwich and she will find you a moment in the spotlight.

A reminder of the place and time:

When: Friday 12 November at 20:00

Where: The Shillelagh (upstairs), Javastraat 9 in Den Haag.

### **The Panto is cast!**

Full details in the next issue. A big thank you to all of you that turned up to audition.

We are still looking for a costume team and a props team so if you want to volunteer please contact Peter Comley or Bill Fisher.

Now all we need is the chorus. See page 4 for details.

Stop press:

Calling all merry men (actually women - this is a panto after all), grizzly guards (real men), boisterous boys and giggling girls who would like to be in the chorus of our panto production of Robin Hood.

Some archery and sword fighting skills may be required, but mainly singing and dancing!

First chorus get together is planned for Sunday 31 October at 14:00.

Please go our website to sign up.

### **MONTHLY AATG SOCIAL EVENING AT THE SHILLELAIGH**

The next date will be Monday 1 November, starting at 8. All are welcome.

Cheers!

Andy

The AATG Presents

## Pantomime 2011

# Robin Hood



Performances:

4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> February 20:00

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> February 14:00

## CHORUS CALL

**Yes, it's Panto time again. Oh no it isn't. Oh yes it is!**

**This years panto is an original script from John Hall with a traditional telling of the Robin Hood story, with traditional killer animals, traditional ballet dancing guards and traditional killing of one member of the band... with the traditional hilarious consequences.**

**But be assured, they all live happily ever after.... well, mostly!**

**This years chorus will: Sing, Dance, Ballet dance, swordfight, party and that's just the men!**

**Male Chorus/Teen Boys Chorus (11+): Guards**

**Female Chorus (16+): Merry Men**

**Teen Girl's Chorus(11+): Marion's Ladies in waiting**

**Junior Chorus: Woodland Animals**

**Featuring: Ballet & Street Dance!**

**Want to be part of the chorus? Sign up by following the link on the website [www.aatg.nl](http://www.aatg.nl).**

**For more info contact the director, Jenny Hall, at [johnjennyhall@hotmail.com](mailto:johnjennyhall@hotmail.com)**

The AATG presents



# Woman In Mind

by

## Alan Ayckbourn

Theater de Warenar, Wassenaar

20:15 hrs

Wednesday 27th, Thursday 28th and Friday 29th October, 2010



**Reservations - 070 330 6205 (Mon-Fri 8am - 7pm)**

**aatg@aa-service.nl; Information: <http://www.aatg.nl>**

**Ticket Prices: €15; reduced to €13 for groups over 10 and student card holders, €10 for children under 16 and 65+**

**2010/2011 Committee**

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**Warehouse: 070 320 52 24**

**Website: [www.aatg.nl](http://www.aatg.nl)**