

# BRASS NECK

t h e a t r e

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 15

## BrassNeck bags The Addams family

After negotiations with the American rights holders, we are extremely excited and proud to announce we have secured the rights to produce the Broadway smash hit family musical The Addams Family in November 2015. Based on the 1960's hit TV series and with popular characters such as Uncle Fester, Gomez, Morticia and Lurch, this is a superb show for BrassNeck to produce and is sure to be fun for all the family. We are one of the final groups to be granted a licence as there is a professional tour planned for the UK starting in January 2016. Look out for details of auditions and be sure to grab your tickets as soon as the box office opens for what is sure to be another extremely popular BrassNeck show.

Here's a link to the trailer for the Australian production take a look!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-VpBc6RatM>



## The Wedding Singer

13 - 17 May 2014 - Yeadon Town Hall



Rehearsals are underway for our next production **The Wedding Singer**

so to ensure you get the seats of your choice, book now! Please don't hesitate to contact the box office by email or phone, or follow the link below to book online:

Email: [boxoffice@brassnecktheatre.com](mailto:boxoffice@brassnecktheatre.com) Members Online: <http://brassneck.amateurboxoffice.co.uk/cast>

Phone: 0113 250 5011

## Little Women Auditions

Sunday 2nd March 2014

LA Fitness Function Room

Yeadon

11:30—18:00

Production Dates 11—15 November 2014

All auditionees welcome at 11:30 for warm up. Followed by company auditions for all. This is not expected to take too long and we are looking for a company of between 8-12 people to be guests at a Concord party, guests at Meg's wedding, pushy New Yorkers on the street and guests at a Paris party.

12:30—18:00 Principal auditions for the following:-

JO, MEG, BETH and AMY are sisters who all grow up about 15 years during the play

JO: Age 16 at opening. Passionate and funny – a tomboy with great energy, ambition and imagination.

MEG: Age 17 at opening: A bit of a Cinderella, sweet and dreamy.

BETH: Age 15 at opening: Demure, but possessed of a gentle sense of fun and a devotion to her family that makes her Jo's dearest sister.

AMY: Age 12 at opening: A comically needy and self-centered brat who grows into a smart, elegant and flirtatious young lady.

JOHN BROOKE: Early 20s at opening: A bookish, slightly nerdy tutor, with an inner strength.

LAURIE: Age 17 at opening: Young, passionate, charming, full of energy and enthusiasm.

MARMEE: A mature woman with intelligence, humour and warmth.

AUNT MARCH: A comically patrician battleaxe.

FATHER: A gentle but stolid clergyman with a twinkle in his eye.

PROFESSOR FRITZ BHAER: A proper, passionate scholar with self-deprecating charm.

MR. LAURENCE: A gruff and haughty mature gentleman of business, with a surprisingly soft heart.

MRS. KIRK: A harried and overwhelmed landlady. Not a singing role (but can double in ensemble.)

To register your interest in auditioning for **Little Women**, please contact Anne Weston by email on [anneweston@outlook.com](mailto:anneweston@outlook.com) or by phone on 0776 966 5449. Audition pieces and any further information will then be distributed in due course.

### Do you have Marketing/Advertising experience?

BrassNeck Theatre is looking for somebody to lead a small team of people in Marketing and Advertising. If you have the expertise and would like to help your Theatre Company we would love to hear from you.

Please contact any member of the committee, email [barbara.catton@brassnecktheatre.com](mailto:barbara.catton@brassnecktheatre.com) or ring Barbara on 0113 250 1460

### 115 Not Out

At our recent AGM, Long Service Awards were presented by our President Leslie Appleyard.

**Congratulations and grateful thanks for all your hard work**

Ann Garnett 45 Years

Irene Cluderay 45 Years

Ian Clarke 25 Years

BrassNeck Theatre recently said goodbye to three committee members, Loretta Marklew, Ian Clarke and James Clarke. Ian served on committees for Rawdon, The Grove and Rawdon and BrassNeck Theatre for over twenty years and worked tirelessly with all three companies; he has now decided to take a well-earned rest. At the AGM in December we thanked all these friends for their valuable contribution.

We also gave a huge vote of thanks to our President, Leslie, who will be retiring as regional NODA representative in April this year. Leslie and Stella are not only true ambassadors for BrassNeck Theatre but Leslie has written more show reports for NODA than he cares to remember! We all wish Leslie a well-earned retirement from his NODA position.

We are happy to welcome three new members, John Elstub, Anne Reynolds and Andrea Benson. You will have seen Andrea on stage in many productions but what you may not know is that she 'headed up' wardrobe for Avenue Q and has volunteered to do the same for The Wedding Singer, as well as appearing in the cast – no mean feat! John is a valued member of our back stage team helping with the smooth running of all our productions and Anne organises 'props', spending many hours of her own time sourcing what can sometimes be quite obscure items. None of these jobs 'just happen' and we are always on the look-out for new people to come along and help behind the scenes or with Front of House. Maybe you have appeared in past productions and would like to give a few hours helping your theatre company?

If you can help in some way with Wedding Singer, we would love to hear from you. Just give me a call on  
0113 250 1460, email me at:

[barbara.catton@brassnecktheatre.com](mailto:barbara.catton@brassnecktheatre.com) or contact any member of the committee.

I look forward to your support.

Barbara Catton

### Strictly Social

This year, we are hoping for the return of the hugely popular 'Strictly Come Dancing'. This will be held in December with a final date to be confirmed but as always is reliant on dancers. If you enjoy a challenge and would like the fun experience of showing off in front of your friends in Yeadon Town Hall, just contact any of our committee. You don't have to be an expert – it's all just for fun (and the excuse to buy a posh frock, ladies) when you can share a great evening with your friends.

We would love to hear what sort of things you would like to do for a social event. As it is usually the same people coming to each event with others never attending, maybe we are getting it wrong – if so, please let us know how we can change things to get everyone involved. It doesn't have to be an elaborate extravaganza, just getting together and having a good time.

Another suggestion so far to add to 'Strictly' has been the possibility of a Murder Mystery Evening which the Social Committee will be discussing at their next meeting. Meanwhile, what do **you** think? Please get involved and let us know what you would like to do.

We look forward to seeing you and hearing your comments and ideas.

Contact Jamie on 0777 999 8125

or

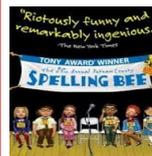
[jamie.wilkinson@brassnecktheatre.com](mailto:jamie.wilkinson@brassnecktheatre.com)

### Forthcoming Productions



13—17 May 2014

11 - 15 November 2014



May 2015

November 2015



The Addams Family

### Reminder

Could all Members and Patrons remember that subscriptions are due by the 1st February 2014.

Please return your subscription forms with remittance to Barbara Matthews. 8 Football, Yeadon. LS19 7QF. 0113 250 5011.

Payment by bank transfer is available, contact Barbara for details.

## Meet the committee

BrassNeck Committee consists of ordinary folk, most of whom have busy jobs outside the theatre company with the odd small child thrown into the mix. To give you a bit of background, we thought you may be interested in knowing who and what we are all about. As always, this is your company so let us know what you think of the idea.

### Barbara Catton

After leaving school at aged sixteen with my two 'O' levels, I became a civil servant until the birth of my older son, Graham followed nearly eighteen months later by his brother Richard, now Chairman of BrassNeck Theatre. Most of my jobs were on switchboards; how I loved the prestige of being 'GPO trained'. I spent time as a nursing auxiliary and did many part-time jobs to fit in with caring for two lively boys. After ten years as a switchboard operator/receptionist, I eventually persuaded my last employer that I was capable of doing something else. I ended my working life as a product safety assistant at Sandoz, later to become Clariant.

Obviously a late developer (some might say bone idle) it took me until my twenties to crave an education. Since then, whilst looking after a young family, I gained three more GCE 'O' levels and one 'A' level at night- school and I have been working towards an Open University degree for the past four years. My enthusiasm fluctuates with assignment deadlines as all students will appreciate. In the last twelve months I have spent time as an exam invigilator at Horsforth School totally empathising with the young students – unknown to them.

I joined Yeadon Amateurs in 1980 and appeared in many shows and the odd play. At the inception of Stampede Theatre Company, I joined the committee and at the moment I am Secretary for BrassNeck Theatre which keeps me out of mischief.

Since retirement I have been privileged to have shares in my gorgeous grandson, William with whom I have deep and meaningful conversations – usually when I'm driving and completely off -guard!

Away from theatre, I became a member of Alwoodley Motor Club when I got together with my partner of twenty five years, Peter, and I have made several good friends some of whom now give their time and support at all BrassNeck's productions.

That's me in a nut-shell.

Barbara Catton



Also presented at the AGM was the coveted Stella Award. The Stella Award is presented each year by our President & Lady President, Lesley & Stella Appleyard, to a member of the company who they feel has either contributed over & above, or developed significantly as a performer, in the last 12 months. Previous winners of this award include Tom Kyle, Richard Lloyd, Georgina Midgley and Ben Tomlinson. This year the winner of the Stella Award was Emily Taylor, pictured here receiving the award from Lesley & Stella.

**Well done Emily!**

## BrassNeck Theatre's £4,000 boost to charity



Angelo Clarke, left, receiving the annual charity donation from BrassNeck Theatre's Peter Cohen

BrassNeck Theatre gave just over £4,000 to Angelo's Angels, in aid of Myeloma UK.

The cheque was presented by committee member Peter Cohen, who is himself a myeloma patient under the care of St James's Hospital. The Aireborough-based company chose Angelo's Angels as its 2012/2013 charity and presented the cheque at its annual meeting in December.

A BrassNeck spokesman said: "This fantastic amount came from audience 'bucket' collections, the sale of hundreds of fabulous calendars depicting our very own Calendar Girls and £1,000 raised by chairman Richard Lloyd on completion of a triathlon in the gym at Beckfoot School.

"Myeloma is cancer of the bone marrow and has no cure at the moment but we are very fortunate to have an excellent hematology department at St James's Hospital in Leeds where extensive treatment and research takes place on a daily basis. All the money raised by Angelo's Angels – over £150,000 to date – goes directly to this unit."

The cheque was presented to Angelo Clarke, of Pudsey, who set up Angelo's Angels after being diagnosed with myeloma eight years ago. Since his diagnosis he has worked tirelessly to raise money to help other sufferers of the disease.

Angelo had two stem cell transplants after his sister, Anna, was found to be a match. He set up fundraising initiative Angelo's Angels in aid of Myeloma UK, a charity funding research into treatments and improving the quality of life for sufferers.

Last year BrassNeck won praise for its productions of Whistle down the Wind in May and Avenue Q in November. It is planning to stage The Wedding Singer in May.

We are delighted to announce that our Production Sponsor for The Wedding Singer is Penny Black, Restaurant and Bar, Yeadon. Situated on the site of the Old Post Office, almost opposite the Town Hall, it is the perfect location for a pre theatre meal. The food is highly recommended and a meal at Penny Black will be the perfect start to an evening at the Wedding Singer.

A menu and full details are being sent out with tickets in case you wish to book. Also if tickets are ordered on or before 28 February 2014, your name will be entered into a draw for a £20.00 voucher to spend at Penny Black



Find us on Facebook! Check out the

BrassNeck Theatre page for all the latest information!



For all productions, you can contact the **BrassNeck Theatre** box office at [boxoffice@brassnecktheatre.com](mailto:boxoffice@brassnecktheatre.com)