

Network Theatre, 264A Lower Road, Waterloo, London SE1 8SF
www.networktheatre.org

July 2009

Featuring a Review of A Midsummer Night's Dream



Titania (Claire Garrigan) and her fairies cosy up to Bottom (Julian Farrance)

Dear Networkers,

Welcome to the Summer edition of Networking, which flaunts our new logo created by Gaelle Comte (thanks Gaelle!) as part of its recent makeover. Have you visited www.networktheatre.org recently?

Many thanks also to Keith Wait for organising a great night out at Tamesa for Network Theatre's special 70th anniversary in June.

... and a BIG congratulations to Andy Bradshaw, cast and crew for a triumphant run of A Midsummer Night's Dream: an extremely popular sell-out success. It was great to see a full house every night and see a mix of new faces and seasoned Networkers in action.

We've got lots to keep you busy over the next few months. Check out the dates for your diary section!

Enjoy!

Kirsty, The Editor

All submissions are welcome.

Please send to the editor at newsletter@networktheatre.org.

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New Look Logo: a note from Rosie De Vekey

As it is our 70th Anniversary this year, we thought it was time for a new look to our logo, website and branding. After much discussion, it was decided that the little man on our logo should go (gone but not forgotten!), and a new one should be designed that reflects where Network is now.

The new logo still uses the striking red associated with Network but is a simple, modern design. The typewriter style script used illustrates our commitment to new writing here at Network, and the spotlight highlights the harmony of the actors on the stage, and the Technicians working behind the scenes.

Check out the new flyers and posters - we hope you like them! More changes to the website and beyond will follow so keep an eye out. All of this has been made possible by the hard work of Gaelle Comte and her helpers - so a huge thanks to Gaelle.

Victoria Waddington has had a very interesting year since her appearance in **THE SUBURBAN SPACEMAN**. In September she began a year-long Acting Diploma and graduated last month with a distinction in Acting and Grade 6 Musical Theatre. Having completed her training, Victoria is delighted to offer Audition Coaching:

Are you lacking confidence at auditions? Want to improve your skills?

Individual tuition. Competitive rates. I can offer confidence building, audition speeches, presentation skills and help you to realise your potential. Contact Victoria: 0798 600 5063 or vwacting@yahoo.co.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Reading of <i>Blackadder, the Whole Damn Dynasty 1485 - 1917</i>	6.30pm for 7.00pm, Wednesday 19 th August
Working Day – clearing out the arch etc	Saturday 22 nd August from around 10am- please contact a committee member if you can help out!
Social Evening: meet new Members!	7pm, Wednesday 26 th August
Reading of <i>Happy Chuffing Christmas</i>	6.30pm for 7.00pm, Wednesday 2 nd September
Auditions for <i>Happy Chuffing Christmas</i>	6.30pm, Thursday 10 th & Friday 11 th September
Performances of <i>Remember Me</i>	7.30pm, Wednesday 23 rd – Saturday 26 th September
Network Theatre’s Platinum Gala	7.30pm, Saturday 17 th October
Performances of <i>Happy Chuffing Christmas</i>	7.30pm, Tuesday 1st – Saturday 5 th December

Network Theatre introduces the first of a series of Readings just for the fun of it... this one is brought to you by Judith & Kirsty

We provide the script, cheese & biscuits and open up the bar and you provide the voices of:

***Blackadder,
the Whole Damn Dynasty 1485-1917***

7pm, Wednesday 19th August

**£3.00 for Members
£5.00 for Non Members**

NETWORK’S PLATINUM GALA

Evening of Saturday 17th October

In commemoration of 70 years in play, Network Theatre will be transformed into a cafe- theatre style venue for an evening of cabaret & comedy.

Tickets are £10

(on sale from September from our Box Office)

This includes a gourmet finger buffet, a journey through history looking at Network’s previous shows, a string of entertaining acts followed by a big party in the Green Room. The bar will of course be open!

If you would like to get involved in organisation or on stage entertainment, contact keithwait@blueyonder.co.uk



A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

A Review by Eileen Heaney

This is a play that I never get tired of, no matter how many times I see it (or act in it) something fresh and new can always be found to bring to its staging. When I looked at the programme I was relieved to see that the Director, Andy Bradshaw, had chosen not to double up the parts of Hippolyta and Titania, Theseus and Oberon, as happens in many productions to the detriment of the distinction between mortals and fairies. Andy had mentioned that he intended to ensure that his actors spoke the lines properly and he certainly succeeded. This was a production where the words flowed and it was apparent that they were spoken with understanding and not just by rote, it was such a pleasure to hear.

Andy had warned the audience in his programme notes that he would be focussing on the darker side of the play and this was certainly the case. This was no airy fairy glittery pretty production but something much more grounded. Instead of a forest glade bathed in light and sprinkled with flowers, the opening scene was of an old wood with tall trunks threaded with a low mist suggestive of decomposing leaves and thriving toadstools. The set was simple but effective with lots of greenery, a backdrop of tree trunks with one magnificent gnarled trunk standing proud in the centre (well done Jo Bunnell and team). The lighting again was simple, with brightness for the mortals and darker tones for the fairies which was further emphasised by the hard rock music for the latter. The choreography by Zoe Bradshaw of her Uncle's music (what a talented family the Bradshaws are!) was excellent – I particularly liked the contrast between the two almost traditional tutu'd fairies dancing on pointe and the punkier clothing and routines of the rest of the fairy retinues. Puck's costume and makeup added to the sense of darkness whilst Sacha Walker brought out the more Hobgoblin than Robin Goodfellow side of Puck.



Sacha Walker as Puck and Andy Bradshaw as Oberon

Over the years directors have chosen to set in this play in practically every century from Ancient Greece onwards, Andy chose to use modern dress for the mortals in this production, the only difficulty being the description of “Athenian dress” for Puck’s seeking of Demetrius.

Hermia (Suzy de Lezameta), Helena (Sophie Darley), Lysander (Richard Webb) and Demetrius (Nik Lysiuk) were a well matched foursome with a good sense of comedy. The “fight” scenes between Lysander and Demetrius and Hermia and Helena drew gales of laughter from the audience. Sophie’s facial expressions and body language, particularly when the tables were turned and both the men were chasing her, were exquisite.



Hermia (Suzy de Lezameta), Lysander (Richard Webb), Helena (Sophie Darley) and Demetrius (Nik Lysiuk) watch the Mechanicals perform their play.

Shakespeare loves his slapstick routines and the Mechanicals in this play have one of the best. I always envy the acting team who perform this as it is such fun and the audience always adores it. James McKendrick as Peter Quince gave a delightful performance as a camp Scots troupe leader whilst the object of his affection, Nick Bottom (Julian Farrance) bounced around the stage like an eager puppy. This was an impressive debut by Julian at the Network and I hope to see him in more of our productions.

With such a large and excellent cast it is difficult not to want to mention them all but I will restrict myself to one further honourable mention, Claire Garrigan as Titania had an ethereal quality and her speech describing how she came to adopt the Indian boy was mesmerising. She made you see the beach and hear the waves.

All credit to Andy Bradshaw, the cast and back stage crew for a stellar performance that left the audience thrilled and delighted. I hope everyone contributing to this production enjoyed it as much as the audience and I look forward to seeing all our newcomers in future Network productions.

Right: Emily Godowski, Assistant Director stands before Jo Bunnell’s piece of art- the tree.



COMING SOON in our next edition of Networking: an interview with Lisa Wallace, Director of Remember Me... PLUS more on getting involved in Network’s Platinum Gala.